

# THE LORD'S DAY

December 1, 2019  
The First Sunday in Advent



**United Reformed Church of Nampa**  
**Rev. Nick Smith, Pastor**

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Morning Worship Service: 10:15 AM • Evening Catechism Service: 6:00 PM

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United Reformed Churches in North America ([www.urna.org](http://www.urna.org))  
North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council ([www.naparc.org](http://www.naparc.org))  
International Council of Reformed Churches ([www.icrconline.com](http://www.icrconline.com))



†Psalm 92B

Profession of Faith

Pastoral Prayer

*The Advent Psalm*

†Psalm 96

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading                      Isaiah 40:1-17  
This is the Word of the Lord.                      (p. 599)  
**Thanks be to God!**

New Testament Reading                      Luke 3:1-6  
This is the Word of the Lord.                      (p. 858)  
**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination  
Sermon

ISAIAH 40:1-17  
COMFORT, COMFORT MY PEOPLE, PART 1  
SONGS OF ADVENT #1  
i. The Need for God's Advent  
ii. The Promise of God's Advent  
iii. The Certainty of God's Advent

*The Advent Hymn*

†“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”                      #298

God Communes with Us  
in the Lord's Supper

Preparation and Prayer of Consecration  
By the promise of God this bread and wine are  
for us the body and blood of Christ. Lift up  
your hearts!  
**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Distribution of the Bread and Wine  
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offering                      1<sup>st</sup>: General Fund  
   2<sup>nd</sup>: Classis Pacific Northwest

God Blesses Us and  
Sends Us to Be a Blessing

†Benediction                      Numbers 6:24-26  
The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD  
make his face to shine upon you and be  
gracious to you; the LORD lift up his  
countenance upon you and give you peace.  
**Amen!**

†Doxology (unannounced, #568)\*  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Postlude

**bold** = congregational response  
† = please stand, if able  
\* = the congregation is invited to lift hands  
(during last stanza); cf. Ps. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

We invite you to participate in the Lord's Supper  
with us if you are a professing member in good  
standing of a Christian church. This means that:

1. you have been baptized;
2. you have made a public profession of  
faith in Jesus Christ;
3. and you desire to live a godly life in  
fellowship with his church.

Do you know your place in Christ? Are you  
known as faithful to Christ by his church? Then  
you too are welcome at his table.

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## EVENING CATECHISM SERVICE

6:00 PM

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### Prelude and Silent Prayer

*(Upon entering the sanctuary, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship)*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at the first coming of your glory humbled yourself because of our sins; grant that at your second coming, since our sins are removed by your mercy, we may be numbered with your saints in glory everlasting; through your merits, O blessed Savior, who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

### †Call to Worship Psalm 96:1-3

Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

### †Opening Prayer

### †Responsive Reading Psa. 124:8; Eph. 1:2

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**Who made heaven and earth.**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen!**

### †Psalm 19A; 1-5

### †The Apostles' Creed #560

### Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 1

1 Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must**

**work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

### The Life of Gratitude

Proverbs 23:1-18

### Pastoral Prayer *(The Worship Sourcebook, based on Heidelberg Catechism Q. & A. 122-129)*

**Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

Help us to truly know you, to honor, glorify, and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth. Help us to direct all our living—what we think, say, and do—so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised.

**Your kingdom come.**

Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you. Preserve and increase your church. Destroy the devil's work; destroy every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your holy Word. Do all this until your kingdom fully comes, when you will be all in all.

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Help us and all people to renounce our own wills and without any back talk to obey your will, for it alone is good. Help everyone carry out his office and calling, as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

Provide for all our physical needs so that we may recognize that you are the only source of everything good, and that neither our care and work nor your gifts can do us any good without your blessing. Therefore may we withdraw our trust from all creatures and place it in you alone.

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

Because of Christ's blood, do not impute to us, poor sinners that we are, any of the

transgressions we do or the evil that constantly clings to us. Forgive us just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, wholeheartedly to forgive our neighbors.

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

We are so weak that we cannot stand on our own for a moment, and our sworn enemies—the devil, the world, and our own flesh—never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not be defeated in this spiritual fight, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.

**For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.**

We have made all these petitions of you because, as our all-powerful king, you are both willing and able to give us all that is good; and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever. For it is much more certain that God has heard my prayer than I feel in my heart that I desire such things from him.

**Amen!**

†Psalm 24A

Scripture Reading                      Hebrews 1  
This is the Word of the Lord.                      (p. 1001)  
**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination  
Sermon

THE DEITY OF CHRIST  
ARTICLE 10  
THE BELGIC CONFESSION

**We believe that Jesus Christ, according to his divine nature, is the only Son of God -- eternally begotten, not made nor created, for then he would be a creature. He is one in essence with the Father; coeternal; the exact image of the person of the Father**

**and the “reflection of his glory,” being in all things like him. He is the Son of God not only from the time he assumed our nature but from all eternity, as the following testimonies teach us when they are taken together. Moses says that God “created the world”; and John says that “all things were created by the Word,” which he calls God. The letter to the Hebrews says that “God made the world by his Son.” Paul says that “God created all things by Jesus Christ.”**

**And so it must follow that he who is called God, the Word, the Son, and Jesus Christ already existed when all things were created by him. Therefore the prophet Micah says that his origin is “from ancient times, from eternity.” And Hebrews says that he has “neither beginning of days nor end of life.” So then, he is the true eternal God, the Almighty, whom we invoke, worship, and serve.**

†“Union with Thee”                      #448

Offering                      General Fund

†Benediction                      1 Thessalonians 5:23-24  
Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

**Amen!**

†“Song of Mary”                      #301

Postlude

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\* = the congregation is invited to lift hands (during last stanza); cf. Ps. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8