THE LORD'S DAY

November 29, 2020 The First Sunday in Advent



United Reformed Church of Nampa Rev. Nick Smith, Pastor

12693 Orchard Ave. Nampa, ID 83651 • 208-466-4444 www.urcnampa.org • office@urcnampa.org • www.urcnampa.org/sermons Morning Worship Service: 10:15 AM • Evening Catechism Service: 5:00 PM

Member of:

United Reformed Churches in North America (www.urcna.org)
North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (www.naparc.org)
International Council of Reformed Churches (www.icrconline.com)

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 AM

Prelude and Silent Prayer

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

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, so that by his coming we may be enabled to serve and obey you with pure hearts and minds. Lighten the darkness of our hearts even now, by coming to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may readily receive your good and gracious gifts today through your appointed means of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

Welcome and Announcements

God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship

Isaiah 51:3

For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Revelation 1:4-5; Psa. 80 Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

Amen!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
Stir up your might and come to save us!
Then we shall not turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call upon your
name!

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

†"Glory Be to God the Father"

#213*

God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found;

call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake his way.

and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in you there is the fullness of righteousness and abundance of mercy. We are spiritually poor, but you are rich and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor.

Strengthen our faith and our trust in you, and accomplish your sanctifying work in

us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

Assurance of Pardon Isaiah 55:8-13 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the

myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

†Psalm 27A

Pastoral Prayer

The Advent Psalm †Psalm 96

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading Psalm 27
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 460)
Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading John 1:14-18
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 886)
Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination Sermon

PSALM 27
YOUR FACE, LORD, DO I SEEK
VEILED IN FLESH THE GODHEAD SEE, #1
i. The Need
ii. The Promise
iii. The Fulfillment

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 1st: General Fund 2nd: Middle East Reformed Fellowship

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

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

<u>Invitation to the Lord's Supper</u>

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.

EVENING CATECHISM SERVICE 5:00 PM

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 65:1, 5

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed. By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

†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 65C

†Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the onlybegotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic¹ and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

†"All Creatures of Our God and King" #248; 5*
Let all things their Creator bless, and
worship him in humbleness, O praise
him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father,
praise the Son, and praise the Spirit,
three in one, O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

God's Will for Our Lives Matthew 6:16-24

Pastoral Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, who by your holy Apostle has taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks for all people; we humbly beseech you most mercifully to receive these our prayers, which we offer to your Divine Majesty. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We beseech you to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant, that all they who do confess your holy Name may agree in the truth

¹ "Catholic" means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples (Belgic Confession, art. 27; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 54).

of your holy Word, and live in unity, and godly love. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We beseech you also to save and defend all leaders and governors, and especially your servant, our President; that under him we may be godly and quietly governed. And grant to his whole cabinet, and to all that are put in authority under him, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of your true religion, and virtue. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all pastors, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth your true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer your holy Sacraments. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

And to all your people give your heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation, that with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive your holy Word; truly serving you in holiness and righteousness all the days of their lives. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

And we most humbly beseech you, of your goodness, O Lord, to comfort all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

And we also bless your holy Name for all your servants departed this life in your faith and fear; beseeching you to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of your heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who taught us to pray, saying:

Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen!

Hymn of the (next) Month

†"Savior of the Nations, Come"

#316*

Scripture Reading

Proverbs 5

This is the Word of the Lord.

(p. 530)

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination Sermon

PROVERBS 5
BE ATTENTIVE TO MY WISDOM
EXPOSITION OF PROVERBS

†Psalm 119N

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