FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Northwood, Iowa

641-324-2984

www.flcnorthwood.org

THAT ALL MAY KNOW THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST



2nd Sunday of Advent December 6th, 2020 9:00am

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Prelude

-Loraine Mix

Welcome - Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God, we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Opening Hymn

By thine own

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

rule in all our

hearts a - lone;



- 1 Come, thou long ex pect-ed Je sus, born to peo-ple free;
- child, and 2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a vet a king:





e - ter - nal Spir-it



Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2,8-13

You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

The gospel of our Lord, Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Becky Sogge

Hymn of the Day

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"



- 1 "Com fort, com-fort now my peo ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry ing in the des ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook ed, and the rough er plac es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load. call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!

Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey!

Now pre - pare for God a way.

For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er. Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor. and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

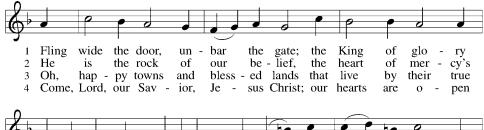
forever and ever. Amen.

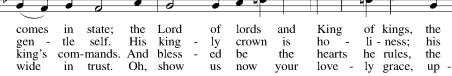
Blessing

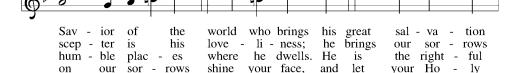
The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

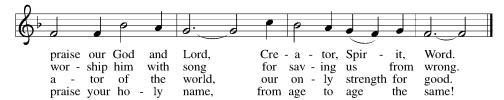
"Fling Wide the Door"











Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

That all may know the love of God in Jesus Christ

Postlude

-Loraine Mix

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Special Music: Lauren Severson **Organist/Pianist:** Loraine Mix

Altar Guild: LYDIA Circle

Sound/Video: Mark Willand

<u>Mission Project for December</u> Heifer International

Advent at Home

Join Pastor Becky for 15 minutes each evening on Facebook Live as we journey together through Advent. Beginning Sunday, November 29th at 6:30pm.

Announcements

''Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.''

(Ephesians 4:2-3)

The Annual Meeting will be held on today at 10:00am. Due to rising COVID-19 rates in the meeting will be held virtually via Zoom, an online video conference platform.

Confirmation for 7th & 8th graders will be on Wednesday, December 9th and 16th at 5:45pm via Zoom.

The FLC Council Meeting for both new and old council members will be on December 13th at 10am.