

December 5th, 2021

Second Sunday in Advent

“Advent Imperatives: Level the Ground!”

Luke 3:1-6

“Look! I’m sending my messenger on ahead to clear the way for me. Suddenly, out of the blue, the Leader you’ve been looking for will enter his Temple—yes, the Messenger of the Covenant, the one you’ve been waiting for. Look! He’s on his way!” A Message from the mouth of God-of-the-Angel-Armies.

But who will be able to stand up to that coming? Who can survive his appearance?

He’ll be like white-hot fire from the smelter’s furnace. He’ll be like the strongest lye soap at the laundry. He’ll take his place as a refiner of silver, as a cleanser of dirty clothes. He’ll scrub the Levite priests clean, refine them like gold and silver, until they’re fit for God, fit to present offerings of righteousness. Then, and only then, will Judah and Jerusalem be fit and pleasing to God, as they used to be in the years long ago. --Malachi 3:1-4 (The Message)

We Gather for Worship

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to worship:

One: O come, O come, Immanuel,

Many: And be light for our darkness.

One: Be comfort in our grief, a friend for our loneliness,

Many: An oasis for our searching.

One: O come, O come, Immanuel,

Many: Restore our joy, heal our wounds, and bring us peace.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Hymn: **“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”** (Trinity Hymnal p. 200)

A Time for Children

We Offer Our Praise and Prayer

Morning Scripture: Philippians 1:3-11

Hymn: **“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”** (Trinity Hymnal, p. 198, vv. 1-4)

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

We Attend to the Word

Sermon: **“Advent Imperatives: Level the Ground!”** Dr. Bill Ireland
Luke 3:1-6

*Hymn: **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”** (Trinity Hymnal, p. 208)

*Benediction

*The Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,

May the wind blow at your back.

May the sun shine warmly on your face,

May the rain fall softly on your field.

And until we meet again,

Til’ we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

*Please stand if you are able

