

The Falls Village Congregational Church

November 29, 2020 10 a.m.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

---

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude *Aria*

G. Frescobaldi

## THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

Among the poor, among the proud, among the persecuted, among the privileged,

**Christ is coming. He is coming to make all things new.**

In our homes, in the place of business, in the political fray, in the schoolyard

**Christ is coming. He is coming to make all things new.**

That the kingdom might come, that the world might believe, that the powerful might be humbled and the humble be raised

**Christ is coming. He is coming to make all things new.**

Come, let us prepare our hearts and worship the Christ who is coming.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (see insert)

Old Testament scripture: Isaiah 9

Song #121: *Prepare the Way of the Lord* (2x)

Call to Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Collect for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent (Unison):

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come

again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God. There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help. Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

## TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 99, p. 751.

Response: To God all people give thanks:  
sing praises all people to God.

The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble!

**The Lord sits enthroned upon the cherubim;  
let the earth quake!**

The Lord is great in Zion, and is exalted over all the peoples.

**Let them praise your great and awesome name.**

**Holy is the Lord! R**

Mighty Ruler, lover of justice, you have established equity;

**You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

Extol the Lord our God; worship at God's footstool

Holy is the Lord!

**Extol the Lord our God, and worship at God's holy mountain;  
for the Lord our God is holy. R**

Gloria Patri

#35 in hymnal

**Passing the Peace of Christ:**

The Peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you**

Let us pass the peace

**Scripture** Mark 13:24-37

**Prayer**

**Sermon:** “Signs of the Times”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

**TO RESPOND IN FAITH**

**The Offertory** *An Advent Prayer* A. Pote

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE**

**Hymn** # 125 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**Benediction**

**Benediction Response**

*God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

\*\*\*\*\*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent – The Candle of Hope

Introduction

(light first purple candle)

Listen to God’s promises from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 9

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Let us pray together

**God of Promise, come into our darkness.**

**Renew your hope in us,**

**for you alone bring life out of death. Amen**

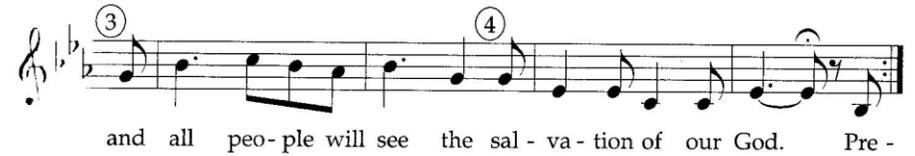
Song: “Prepare the Way of the Lord” J. Berthier (Taizé Community)

***Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord***

***And all the people will see the salvation or our God*** (2x)

## Prepare the Way of the Lord

121



WORDS: Isaiah 40:3; 52:10

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier and the Community of Taizé, 1984

PREPARE THE WAY  
Irr.

## Scripture Lesson for November 29, 2020

### MARK 13:24-37

<sup>24</sup>“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Come, O Long-expected Jesus

1. Come, O long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set your peo-ple free.  
2. Born your peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king,

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.  
born to reign in us for-ev-er, born your grac-ious realm to bring.

You, our strength and con-so-la-tion, come sal-va-tion to im-part;  
By your own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;

dear de-sire of man-y a na-tion, joy of man-y a long-ing heart.  
by your all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to your glo-rious throne.