

The Falls Village Congregational Church

December 13, 2020 10 a.m.

3rd Sunday in Advent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ring of the Bell

Prelude *Winter Peace*

J. Brickman

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

Now is the time of watching and waiting

The time of expectation of new life

Now is the season of hope unfolding.

The season when hope is waiting to be born.

Let us come before God with receptive and will spirits.

May our soul praise God's name and may our spirits rejoice in

God our Savior.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (see insert)

Old Testament scripture: Isaiah 61:1-3

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 3rd Sunday in Advent (Unison):

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Almighty God light of the world, you cause light to shine out of darkness in the advent of Jesus and you continually open to us the ways we are to prepare. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. We ask that the spirit of Christ be born anew within us, that our hearts may be stirred to glorify the nativity with acts of compassion and service. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading- The Coming of God – Isaiah 40, p. 123

Response: **Comfort, comfort you my people,
tell of peace, thus says our God.**

Comfort, o comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to them that they have served their term,

That their penalty is paid,

**That they have received from the Lord's hand double
for all their sins. R**

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.**

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.!" R**

Gloria Patri

#35 in hymnal

Commented [R1]:

Passing the Peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you
And also with you
Let us pass the peace

Scripture John 1:6-8, 19-28

Prayer

Sermon: “The Right Guy for the Job”
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 # 140 *Hail to the Lord’s Anointed* (vv. 1,2)

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

3rd Sunday in Advent – The Candle of Joy

Introduction and relighting of 2 purple candles

(light the pink candle)

Listen to God’s promises from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 61

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

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



Scripture Lesson for December 13, 2020

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed 140



1. Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2. He comes with jus - tice speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth.
 4. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend,



Hail in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong,
 Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.
 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tives free,
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her - ald, go,
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move.



to take a - way trans - gres - sions, and rule in eq - ui - ty,
 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight,
 and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 His name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is Love.

