

The Falls Village Congregational Church

December 6, 2020 10:00 a.m.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

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Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Church Bell

Prelude - Variations on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* John Carter

## THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

God of the watching ones, the waiting ones, the slow and suffering ones, the angels in heaven, the child in the womb,

**Give us your blessing in this time, your good word for our souls, that we might rest and rise in the kindness of your company.**

In this time of worship, let us come to know the living God in spirit and in truth.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (see insert)

Old Testament scripture: Isaiah 40:1-5

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

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Prepare our hearts, O God, to hear and receive your word.

Silence in us any voice but your own, so that hearing, we may also trust you and learn to obey your will. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of the past: in the wilderness of Jordan you sent a messenger to prepare human hearts for the coming of Christ.

God of the present, even now you are among us. Forgive that we often have failed to discern your presence with us, and have felt deserted and alone.

God of the future, you have promised God's reign in coming.

Teach us to live in expectation that what we are and do today may be anchored in the certainty of your tomorrow. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

## TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading- "The Peaceful Realm" (from Isaiah 11), p. 126

Response: **Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse.,

**And a branch shall grow out of his roots.**

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,

**The spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

**But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;**

He shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

**Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. R**

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

**The calf and the lion and the fatling together and a little child shall lead them.**

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

**They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. R**

Gloria Patri

#35 in hymnal

Offering the Peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you**

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: "The Messenger"

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

## TO RESPOND IN FAITH

**The Offertory**    *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* –  
a southern tune arr. by **Richard Hillert**, words by **Charles Wesley**  
Choir ensemble

**Pastoral Prayer**  
**The Lord's Prayer**

## THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn:** # 122 *Comfort, Comfort You My People*    (vv 1,3)

**Benediction**

**Benediction Response**

*God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent – The Candle of Peace

Introduction and relighting of 1st candle

(light second purple candle)

Listen to God’s promises from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 40

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

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)

Isaiah 40:3; 52:10

## Prepare the Way of the Lord 121

Musical notation for the song "Prepare the Way of the Lord". The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a circled '1' and contains the lyrics "Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord,". The second staff begins with a circled '3' and contains the lyrics "and all peo- ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -". There are also circled '2' and '4' above the notes in the first and second staves respectively.

LIBRARIAN: Isaiah 40:3; 52:10

COMPOSER: Jacques Berthier and the Community of Taizé, 1984

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PREPARE THE WAY  
Irr.

♩=72-80

MARK 1:1-8

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

122 Comfort, Comfort You My People

1. Com - fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, tell of peace, thus says our God;  
2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3. Make you straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;

com - fort those who sit in dark - ness bowed be - neath op - pres - sion's load.  
bid - ding us to make re - pent - ance since the reign of God is here.  
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
For the glo - ry of our God now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver.  
let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.