

Worship Booklet for the Season of Advent
The Second Sunday of Advent: December 6, 2020
=== *Modified Morning Prayer* ===
THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Introduction – Rev. Dr. Lois Williams

Opening Hymn – Hymnal #66, “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus,” v. 1, 3 & 4

Verse 1:

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Verse 3:

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Verse 4:

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Officiant In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway
for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

Advent Kyrie

Officiant Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Officiant You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.

People *Christ, have mercy.*

Officiant You will come in glory with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All *Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Priest Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Officiant Lord, open our lips.
Response And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

Venite *Psalm 95:1-7 Venite, exultemus*

A Reader leads the recitation

Reader and People together

*Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.*

*For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.*

*Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!*

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Liturgy *From Discipleship Ministries, United Methodist Church*

For Advent 2 – Love

Reader 1: Our lists are long, even in this strange mess where we live these days. And we want to do it right, we want to be safe, but we want to be able to enjoy the season. We've got work to do to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend the relationships, and to prepare for the company that will come.

Reader 2: The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open the door into our lives.

Reader 1: So, we light these candles as a sign of our faith that the God we worship is not far from us and that we can clear the way for that God to come and dwell with us. We light these candles in faith that company is coming.

Reader 2: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Psalm *Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13* *Benedixisti, Domine*

A Reader leads the recitation

Reader and People together

*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 he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.*

*Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.*

*Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*

*Truth 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 him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

The Old Testament – Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader:

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 for ever.
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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Response ***Thanks be to God.***

The Epistle – 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Reader:

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 persons 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Response ***Thanks be to God.***

*Gradual -- Celtic Alleluia

After a brief introduction, sing two times through

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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The Gospel – Mark 1:1-8

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Response *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

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.”

Officiant The Gospel of our Savior.

Response *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

This year Bishop Marc and the Diocese of California has expressed its desire to introduce into our worship services some of the gifts given to serving Jesus Christ from people of color including various cultures. This Advent Season we introduce to Christ the Lord Church the poetic gifts of Reverend Doctor Howard Thurman (1899–1981).

"He preached a philosophy of Common Ground, which taught that humans need to seek an inner spiritual happiness that would lead them to share their experience in community with others. In 1944, Thurman co-founded San Francisco's Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, the first integrated interfaith religious congregation in the United States. In 1953, he became the dean of Marsh Chapel, the first black dean at a mostly white American university, mentoring, among many others, Martin Luther King, Jr. (GRS'55, Hon. '59) as he developed his philosophy of nonviolence." From Boston University Today, January 7, 2020

A Meditation by Howard Thurman (from *Meditations of the Heart*) – Rev. Lois
“Look Well to the Growing Edge”

All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born.

The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms, green fruit.

Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor.

This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and men have lost their reason, the source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash.

The birth of the child—life’s most dramatic answer to death—this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!

A Reflection – Rev. Lois

10 The Second Song of Isaiah *Quærite Dominum* *Isaiah 55:6-11*

A Reader leads the canticle recitation

Reader and People together

*Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;**
call upon him when he draws near.

*Let the wicked forsake their ways **
and the evil ones their thoughts;

*And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, **
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, **
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.

*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, **
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

*For as rain and snow fall from the heavens **
and return not again, but water the earth,

*Bringing forth life and giving growth, **
seed for sowing and bread for eating,

*So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; **
it will not return to me empty;

*But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, **
and prosper in that for which I sent it.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

A Reader leads the recitation

Reader and People together

*We believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Response *And also with you.*

Officiant Let us pray.

All *Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.*

Prayers of the People *Adapted from Advent Prayers, Rev. Jim Friedrich, The Religious Imagineer*

The Reader leads and the People respond

Reader: Let us pray to God with our community and our neighbors, responding with:
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every
story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed.

People *O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

Reader: Blessed are You who joins us together in the communion of Christ's body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labors to the work of Providence.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle.

People: ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: O Lover of souls, give to the departed eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illumining all things with your radiance: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare You room.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.***

The Doxology

All ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Reader: God of Peace, we are confronted with so many overwhelming needs in our world. Walk with us as we set aside our own desires and wants and join the call to alleviate human suffering. Transform these financial gifts we have made to Christ the Lord Church and our community into genuine acts of concern and ministry to others. In the name of the One who surpasses all understanding, we pray. ***Amen.***

Add your prayers for yourself and the world, and thanks for God's blessings, out loud or in the chat.

Officiant O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

The Collect of the Day *From Planning for Rites and Rituals 2020-2021*

Officiant Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Unity in Our Nation

Reader: Eternal Father, we pray for your protection as one nation under God. We ask that you surround this country and cover us with your mighty hand. We pray for unity in the United States, that in spite of our differences, we would be willing to stand strong together and live out our days with compassion and grace. Remind us to live aware, to redeem the time, listen to your words, and be willing to make a difference in this land. Give us courage to speak out. Help us not to stay silent but to do all things through your wisdom and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Mission

Reader: O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People together

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.*

*We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.*

*And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom [KRIS-us-tum]

Reader: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

Response **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn – Hymnal #65, “Prepare the Way, O Zion,” v. 1 & 3

Verse 1:

Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God’s most holy name.

Verse 3:

Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
Your Savior’s rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God’s most holy name.

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** 2 Corinthians 13:14

Don’t forget to join us for virtual coffee hour after the service
through Zoom! Check your email from Sandy for details.

Stewardship update: Thanks to all of you who have returned your completed pledge and time and talent forms. If you have not already done so, please return your completed forms to the Church office. God bless all of us as we bring the light and love of Christ into the world.

From the Church Office: Due to the pandemic, we will not be able to collect non-perishable items for the Food Bank this year. So we encourage everyone to please make a money donation to the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. You may donate through our online giving page by going to <https://christthelord.gvtls.com> and clicking on the Food Bank picture.

