



Centenary  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**December 6, 2020**

**Second Sunday in Advent**

## The Welcome

## The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: As the voice cried out in the wilderness, God,  
you enter our lives and call to us to be open  
to hearing the cries of people who feel lost and alienated,  
who feel that no one cares or ever will care about them.  
We have been given that opportunity to reach out  
through the ministries and mission of our church  
bringing hope and peace to all.  
Get us ready to become pathways of peace  
and life-transforming love in your name.  
It is in the spirit of Jesus' name that we pray. Amen.**

## The Opening Hymn No. 2085

*He Comes Down*

HE COMES DOWN

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. He comes down that we may have love;<br/>he comes down that we may have love;<br/>he comes down that we may have love;<br/>Hallelujah forevermore.</p> <p>2. He comes down that we may have peace;<br/>he comes down that we may have peace;<br/>he comes down that we may have peace;<br/>Hallelujah forevermore.</p> | <p>3. He comes down that we may have joy;<br/>he comes down that we may have joy;<br/>he comes down that we may have joy;<br/>Hallelujah forevermore.</p> |
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## The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Love.  
May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show  
us the way of salvation.

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

## The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Invitation**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**The Confession and Pardon (in unison)**

**Merciful God,**  
**we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**  
**We have failed to be an obedient church.**  
**We have not done your will,**  
**we have broken your law,**  
**we have rebelled against your love,**  
**we have not loved our neighbors,**  
**and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**  
**Forgive us, we pray.**  
**Free us for joyful obedience,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*All pray in silence.*

Pastor: Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love towards us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**  
All: **Glory to God. Amen.**

**The Offertory Prayer**

**The Offertory Anthem**

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

Claude Goudimel

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,  
calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain;  
let your hearts be true and humble as befits his holy reign.  
For the glory of the lord now on earth is shed abroad;  
and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); trans. by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

*The recording of the offertory anthem was taken from a  
service of Advent Lessons and Carols at Centenary in 1995.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image  
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,  
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,  
made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so,  
with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him  
to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant  
by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,  
he promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

And so,  
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer No. 895**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

Because there is one loaf,  
we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.  
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
The pastor lifts the cup in silence, or while saying:  
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

## **The Receiving of the Bread and Cup**

### **The Prayer after Receiving**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Hymn No. 203**

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

ELLACOMBE

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succor speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth.  
Before him, on the mountains,  
shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains,  
from hill to valley flow.
4. To him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever;  
that name to us is love.

*The recording of this hymn was taken from a service of  
Advent Lessons and Carols in 1995. Anne Baughan was the organist.*

## **The Benediction**

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*We thank these persons who helped us in worship this morning.*

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Matthew D. Bates
Minister to Young Adults:	Rev. Drew Willson
Director of Music:	Stanley M. Baker
Pianist:	Lee Covington
Singers:	Emily Downey, Regan Sprenkle Todd Minnich, Sam Cook

## Scriptures

### Isaiah 40:1-11

#### God's People Are Comforted

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."

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup> 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!”  
<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup> 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.

*New Revised Standard Version Bible*  
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