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### Advent 2

Jeremiah 1:1-12  
Isaiah 62:1, 4-5, 10-12  
Luke 1:46-55  
December 6, 2020

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Returning again to the waters of our baptism, we begin in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Let us confess our sin before God and in the presence of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious and merciful God,

**We confess to you the truth of our broken lives.**

**We have not trusted your promises or walked in your ways. We have hoarded and squandered the gifts of your creation. We have failed to welcome the stranger and the outcast, and to make room at the table for the homeless and the hungry. We have neither worked to release the oppressed nor admitted our own captivities. Forgive our sin, heal our lives, and set us free that we might live with your whole creation in the justice and joy of your promised future.**

God, who is merciful and kind, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, hears the cries of all who plead for mercy and, in these last days, has sent Christ Jesus to announce the good news of forgiveness and release to all who are bound by guilt or broken by shame, that they might praise God and serve the world with glad and generous hearts. For freedom Christ has set you free.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GATHERING HYMN

*"Beneath the Tree of Life"*

### GREETING & KYRIE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### THIS IS THE FEAST

*"Tree of Life"*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING AND PRAYER

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Magnificat"*

## WORD

A reading from Jeremiah.

The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. It came also in the days of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of King Zedekiah son of Josiah of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month. Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant." The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see a branch of an almond tree." Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### SUNG RESPONSE

*"Wait for the Lord"*

A reading from Isaiah.

Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the

peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

#### SUNG RESPONSE

*"Wait for the Lord"*

The gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### SERMON

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Canticle of the Turning"*

#### NICENE CREED

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The response is:*

God of peace,

**Hear our prayer.**

#### PEACE

#### OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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

#### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**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 who 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 and ever. Amen.**

#### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

#### PRAYER FOR THOSE NOT RECEIVING COMMUNION

#### SENDING

#### BLESSING

Receive now this Blessing: *"Visual Liturgy" video*

**Amen.**

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace, share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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#### ***Serving in Worship***

Pr. Jenn Collins

Pr. Justin Smoot

Joel Freiberg - Pianist

Chris Kensmoe - Vocalist

Joy Mitchell - Layreader

#### ***Technical Support***

Travis Puig and Troy Radtke

Bob Wiederhoeft

Joel Freiberg

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#### **Altar Flowers**

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by Gale Wolff.

#### ***Thank you for your offerings and continued support!***

Now more than ever we are grateful for a gift of any amount you might share to further support the ministry of Saint Andrew. What you share makes a difference as we seek to be "open to all". For the many ways you give, thank you.



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DECEMBER 6, 2020  
SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*God has good news for all people.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 1:1-8</b>	<b>The beginning of the good news</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 40:1-11</b>	<b>Comfort my people</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2 Peter 3:8-15a</b>	<b>Promise of the Lord's coming</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Malachi 4:1-6</b>	<b>The great day of the Lord</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Matthew 3:1-10</b>	<b>The preaching of John the Baptist</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Timothy 1:12-17</b>	<b>Gratitude for God's mercy</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13</b>	<b>A prayer for God's peace</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 1:6-8, 19-28</b>	<b>John's witness to the light</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"[T]he voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Mark 1:3 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Eternal God, we thank you that through your Son, Jesus Christ, love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Amen. (Psalm 85:10)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Generous God, may this gift of food strengthen us to walk in your way of comfort, hope, and peace through the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord God feed you like a shepherd and keep you safe. (Isaiah 40:11)



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DECEMBER 6, 2020

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*There's a Voice in the  
Wilderness*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is some good news you have heard recently?
- What events in the news do people consider to be positive news or good news?
- The word gospel means good news. How is the coming of Christ into our world good news for you?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Mark 1:1-8.

The beginning of a book helps set up what the book is about and where the story is going. This is true of the Gospel of Mark as well. Mark 1:1-8 is part of Mark's prologue (vv. 1-13) and was used in ancient writings with this very purpose in mind: to give information that helps people follow the story as it unfolds. Mark's point is that good news ("good tidings" in Isaiah 40:9), the gospel, is beginning to happen through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This good news is linked to John the baptizer who is himself reminiscent of Elijah. When Elijah comes again, God's people will encounter God's promised deliverance (Malachi 4:5). That future time is now present through John and through Jesus. John's message of repentance (v. 4) will be continued by Jesus when he says, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:14). Where do you see the good news of Jesus happening today?

*Pray:* **Merciful God, we thank you for fulfilling your promise of hope and peace through the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### SERVICE



Good news has a positive effect on people. Isaiah 40 gives prophetic comfort to God's people. What word of comfort or encouragement can you give to someone this week?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Set up a Christmas nativity set in your home. Place the wise men further away from the set for now. Wait to place Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve. On your Advent wreath, light the first candle of hope and the second one of peace. Pause for a moment to sit in silence and look upon the nativity set and think about the coming of Jesus.

*Say this Bible verse:* **Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people.** (Psalm 85:8a)

*Pray:* **Lord, help us to prepare the way of the Lord. Give us peace and hope. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)



## WEEK TWO: To Bring PEACE

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### SCRIPTURE

Read Luke 1:46-55

### REFLECTION

When you are afraid, what do you do to know God is with you? One important way the people of God feel peace when they are afraid is to sing songs about God's peace.

As our story begins, Mary has just finished talking with an angel who shared big, amazing news with her. She may have felt afraid or nervous or unsure or excited. Maybe more than one of these big feelings were mixed up inside of her. What happens inside of you when you are feeling a lot of big feelings at the same time?

Suddenly, Mary began to sing a beautiful song about God's amazing love, power, and peace.

My soul glorifies our God!  
My spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.  
God's mercy is forever...  
God fills the hungry...  
God reminds all those God loves of God's promises.

As Mary sang, her song reminded her of the peace God brings. Maybe Mary's song brought peace to Elizabeth as she listened. God's peace isn't just the calm of a still river or the silence of a quiet room. God's peace makes sure everyone has enough and knows they belong.

As we read Mary's song, we are reminded it is important to lift our voices and sing. When we sing with our church, our families, our friends, or alone in our rooms, our songs tell the story of the peace God brings to the whole world. As our songs fill our hearts and float out into the air around us, they also bring peace to our lives. When you sing, whether by yourself in your room or with your whole family, remember God is always bringing peace to our lives, our families, and the whole world.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Can you think of a time you felt several big emotions at once? How did you help bring peace to your body and spirit when you had those big feelings?
- What is your favorite Christmas song as you prepare for celebrating Jesus' birth? Take turns sharing and, if you have time, sing each song together.
- Is there a part of your favorite song that reminds you of the peace God brings?

## ACTIVITY

### Materials:

- This week's Activity Page
- Scissors
- Glue, tape, staples, etc.
- Art supplies (markers, crayons, colored pencils, etc.)

Songs, hymns, and carols bring us peace when we sing together or apart. We hear the words and melody, and our heart rate slows down, we breathe deeply, and we feel connected to others. Music can link us together.

Take some time to color the lyrics from Mary's song on the Activity Page. Talk about what they mean and why they are special. Then cut them into strips. Link the strips together to form a chain by taping, gluing, or stapling the ends together, linking them one by one. That is not a very long chain! To lengthen your chain, make more strips by writing out on your own paper lyrics of your favorite songs, hymns, and carols that bring you peace.

"Peace on earth and mercy mild."

"All is calm, all is bright."

"Peace on earth, goodwill to all."

"Faithful friends who are dear to us, gather near to us."

You can use your paper chain as a decoration on your tree, on your Advent wreath (away from the candles!), or hung over a doorway. Remind each other that when we sing, we bring peace to ourselves and our world.

## PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us the language of music.

Give us peace and remind us we are not alone.

We pray for peace in our home, in our community, and in our world.

Help us to be peacemakers, singing a song of peace to the world.

**Amen.**

SURELY, FROM NON-F A GENERATIONS WILL CALL ME BIASSED!

FOR YOU, have done RIGHTLY, GREATHINGS LOVER, for me,

HOLY, is your KARMER

YOUR REACHES FROM MERRY, for those GOD, WHO FEAR YOU.

