



*The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will fulfill the promise I made
to the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.*

*In those days and at that time I will cause
a righteous Branch to spring up for David;
and he shall execute justice and
righteousness in the land.*

Jeremiah 33:14-15

Sunday Schedule

9:00 Christian Formation

10:00 Worship

Nursery for Ages 0-5 and Mother's Room: We have a safe and fun nursery located at the end of the hall in the Veritas Cafe. Please follow the signs. We use a Kid Check program for security.

Video: There is a video feed of the worship live-streamed to the Conference Room at the end of the hallway for anyone who needs to step out of the service.

Isaiah 40:1-11

God provides a comforting promise of hope for the brokenhearted people of God who are in exile in Babylon, and for those in Jesus' day who were part of a spiritual exile, though still residing in Israel.

God commissions the voices of v. 3 and 6 and the heralds of v. 9, repeating himself to emphasize his deep feeling.

God is incomparably powerful over all things and promises strength for endurance to all who will wait for him.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 9, 2018 | Second Sunday of Advent

Call to Worship

Brothers and sisters, let us worship God by remembering Isaiah's prophecy 700 years before the birth of Christ:

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

"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.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Behold your God!"

Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

COMFORT, COMFORT

JOHANNES OLEARIUS, 1671



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



Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness, mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load.
call - ing all to true re - pen - tance, since the king-dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.



Cry out to Je - ru - sa - lem — of the peace that waits for them;
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey, — now pre - pare for God a way!
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



tell her that her sins I cov - er and her war - fare now shall end.
Let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to him.
and all flesh shall see to - ge - ther that the Lord has come to them.

Opening Prayer

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

CHARLES WESLEY, 1744



1. Come, thou long— ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set your
2. Come, Re - deem - er, with new mer - cies, heal - ing lost and
3. Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a Child and



peo - ple free. From our fears and sins re - lease us; let us
wound - ed souls. Kind - ly grace us with your fa - vor, ran - som
yet— a King. Born to reign in us for - ev - er, now your



find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - sol - a - tion,
us from sin's fierce hold. Conqu-'ring death— with your sal - va - tion,
gra - cious king - dom bring. By your own— e - ter - nal Spir - it,



hope of all— the earth— thou art. Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry
of - fer life to all who be - lieve. Un-fail - ing love with ten - der com -
rule in all— our hearts a - lone. By— your all - suf - fic - ient



na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
pass - ion, greets the heart— that will re - ceive.
mer - it, raise us to— your glor - ious throne.

Confession of Sin

“People have always told me to follow my heart. Only here’s what I really, really want someone to explain to me. What if one happens to be possessed of a heart that can’t be trusted? What if the heart, for its own unfathomable reasons, leads one willfully and in a cloud of unspeakable radiance away from health, domesticity, civic responsibility and strong social connections and all the blandly-held common virtues and instead straight toward a beautiful flare of ruin, self-immolation, disaster?...

If your deepest self is singing and coaxing you straight toward the bonfire, is it better to turn away? Stop your ears with wax?”

—Donna Tartt

**Jesus Christ:
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on me.
Draw near to my soul and redeem me;
in your mercy ransom me,
because my heart is filled with many deceptions.**

(You are invited to confess your sins silently.)

Assurance of Pardon

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom God’s favor rests,” yes, you his sons and daughters, whose lives are hidden in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

From Luke 2:14

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS

JAMES MONTGOMERY, 1816



1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,
4. Though an in - fant now we view him, he will share his Fa - ther's throne;



You who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the In - fant Light:
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:
Gath - er all the na - tions to him; ev - 'ry knee shall then bow down:

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship; wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

GLORIOUS IMPOSSIBLE

CARL CARTEE, JOE BECK, WENDY WILLS, 2005



1. See, the vir - gin is de - liv - ered in a cold and crowd-ed
 2. Love has come to walk on wa - ter, turn the wa - ter in - to
 3. He was bruised for our trans-gres-sions, and he bears e - ter - nal



stall; mir - ror of the Fa - ther's glo - ry lies be -
 wine, touch the lep - er, bless the chil - dren, love both
 scars. He was raised for our sal - va - tion, and his



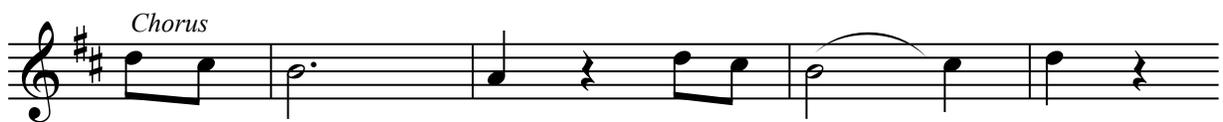
side her in the straw. He is mer - cy's in - car -
 hu - man and di - vine. Praise the wis - dom of the
 right - eous - ness is ours. Praise, O praise him, praise the



na - tion; mar - vel at this mir - a - cle. For the
 Fa - ther who has spo - ken through his Son; speak - ing
 glo - ry of this lav - ished grace so full. Lift your



vir - gin gent - ly holds the Glo - ri - ous Im - pos - si - ble.
 still he calls us to the Glo - ri - ous Im - pos - si - ble. *Chorus*
 souls now and re - ceive the Glo - ri - ous Im - pos - si - ble. *Chorus*



Chorus
 Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - - - jah!



Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ri - ous Im - pos - si - ble. *Choir Ending*

Welcome and Announcements

Offering

The offering is part of our regular worship. Our hope is that all gifts offered will come from an understanding that we give because God first gave to us, and that every penny will be carefully and thoughtfully invested in cultivating faith in Jesus Christ.

Litany for Advent

Root of Jesse,
rising as a sign for all the peoples,
before you earthly rulers will keep silent
and nations give you honor: come quickly to deliver us.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Key of David,
scepter over the house of Israel,
you open and no one can close,
you close and no one can open:
Come to set free the prisoners who live in darkness and the shadow of death.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Dayspring from on high,
splendor of eternal light,
sun of justice:
Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Ruler of the nations,
king for whom the people long,
you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity:
Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Immanuel,
God with us,
desire of the nations and Savior of all:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.
Come, Lord Jesus.

God of grace,
ever faithful to your promises,
the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming
and looks forward with longing
to his return at the end of time.
Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes,
for he is Lord forever and ever.
Amen.

Passing of the Peace

As recipients of God's grace, we gladly receive peace from him. In response to his grace, we also extend that grace to one another with a handshake or a hug. Traditionally, Christians have greeted one another during this time in the service with the phrase, "The peace of Christ be with you."

Sermon

5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. 6 Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. 7 But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

8 Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. 13 But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. 16 He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Luke 1:5-22, 57-80

Sermon Series
*Luke: the Gospel of
Amazement*

18 Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” 19 The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. 20 And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.” 21 Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. 22 When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

57 When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. 59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, 60 but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.” 61 They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

62 Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. 63 He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. 66 Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

67 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

68 “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.
69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David
70 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
71 salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—
72 to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,
73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the dayspring will come to us from heaven
79 to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

“Zechariah’s Song”
Rev. Brad Chaney

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper, also called Communion or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus Christ who acknowledge their sins against God and their neighbors, and confess their need for the grace of Christ to partake of this meal. If you are a Christian and haven't been baptized, please talk with one of our pastors. We would be honored to baptize you.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

With joy we praise you, gracious God,
for you have sent your only begotten Son.

We do not presume to come to this your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in the manifold and great mercies of your Son. We are not worthy so much as to gather the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord; you ever love to show mercy.

You fulfilled your promise to reconcile the world to yourself, coming among us in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word made flesh. He is indeed the long-awaited Savior, fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Spirit of God and born of the virgin Mary.

We long for that day when Jesus will return as triumphant King, when the dead will be raised and all people will stand before his judgment. Then righteousness and justice will be established forever.

Until then, strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit. Keep us faithful in your service. Feed us, renew and strengthen us, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Communion

Wine is available in the inner two circles; grape juice is available in the outer ring. Gluten-free wafers are available in a basket on the back table.

We hold the bread and wine until everyone has been served in order to eat and drink together.

We ask that you dispense with your cups by the back door following the service.

Just as the climax of all history will be the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, we conclude our worship in the presence of God by feasting. The Spirit takes the common elements of bread and wine and feeds us spiritually with the body and blood of Jesus, for our nourishment and growth in grace, and so strengthens us to be sent out into the world as God's agents of his generous hospitality.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH CAROL



1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's lap — is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies he in — such mean es - tate — where ox and ass — are feed - ing?
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, King to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - them sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Christ - ian, fear, for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of Kings, sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this — is Christ, the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
Raise, raise, the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:



Haste, haste to bring him laud, — the Babe, the Son — of Ma - ry.
hail, hail — the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son — of Ma - ry.
joy, joy — for Christ is born, — the Babe, the Son — of Ma - ry.

PRAISE TO GOD WHOSE LOVE WAS SHOWN

AMY GRANT, MICHAEL W. SMITH, 1983



1. Praise to God whose love was shown who sent his Son to earth.
2. Still a high-er call had he, de - liv - 'rance from our sins.
3. Now we stand with strength and pow'r, the sons of _ God on earth.



Je - sus left his right-ful throne, be - came a _ man by birth.
Come to set all peo - ple free from Sa - tan's hold with - in.
Faith - ful to the fi - nal hour, Christ's right - eous - ness our worth.



The vir - gin's ba - by _ Son, _ all cre - a - tion praised him
For by the sin of man we fell; _ by the Son of God he
And now all praise be _ giv-en for the Babe, the Son, the



God in - car - nate, come, come a - dore _ him.
crushed the pow'r of hell, _ death we fear no more!
Sav - ior King is ris-en! Christ is Lord in - deed!

Benediction

Let us go forth and serve the world
as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

And may God our Savior keep you from stumbling and present you before his
glorious presence without fault and with great joy.

Jude 1:24