**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**

**December 8th, 2024**

**10:00 A.M.**

**PRELUDE:**

**Reader:** This morning we light the second candle on our Advent Wreath, the candle of Peace.

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. Isaiah 40:1-2

Let us Pray: Almighty God, you offer comfort for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to offer comfort to those who seek it and help us seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the World. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN***: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People #67*

1. ***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.***
2. ***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.***
3. ***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 o'er earth is shed abroad; and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.***

WELCOME: Pastor Beverly Collinsworth

Priest: Blessed be God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Everyone: And Blessed be his Kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

Priest: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open and all desires known and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Everyone: *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!***

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Priest: Let us Pray:

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.**

**People: Amen**

**LESSONS:** *Please be seated for the readings of the lessons*.

**1st LESSON:** **Malachi 3:1-4**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader: Here ends a reading from the Book of Malachi.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalms:** Canticle 16 Page 92, BCP

### *Let us read it responsively by full verse.*

Reader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free.

**Response: He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.**

Reader: Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.

**Response: He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.**

Reader: This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**Response: Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

Reader: You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

**Response: To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

Reader: In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**Response: To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Reader: 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.

Reader: Here ends the reading of the Canticle.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE:** Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader: Here ends a reading from the Book of Philippians.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL HYMN***: The Lord Will Come And Not Be Slow #462*

***1. The Lord will come and not be slow, his footsteps cannot err; before him righteousness shall go, his royal harbinger.***

***2. Truth from the earth, like to a flower, shall bud and blossom show; and justice, from her heavenly bower, look down on us below.***

***3. Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might, this wicked earth redress; for thou art he who shalt by right the nations all possess.***

Priest: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Priest/Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

**Response: Glory to you Lord Christ.**

**The Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis,

and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Priest: The Gospel of our Lord.

**Everyone: Praise to You Lord Christ.**

**MESSAGE: Pastor Beverly Collinsworth**

**MESSAGE RESPONSE: Carson Weingart**

**NICENE CREED**

Priest: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**Everyone: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

LEM/Deacon: Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

Reader: For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

**Response:** **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

**Response: We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

**Response:** **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

**Response:** **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

**Response**: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

**Response**: **We thank you, Lord.**

​Reader: For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

**Response: We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

**Response:** **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: Let us pray for those who suffer and are in need of care, that they may be comforted, especially those we name together: **Bill, Annette, William, Brian, Theresa, Nancy, Bill, Dotty, Cindy, Bob, Mike M., Diane, Nana Jo, Patricia K. , Fr. John, Alec, David, Michael, Steve, Sue, Linda, Donna, and Catherine.**

**Response:** **Lord in your mercy hear our Prayer.**

Reader: Let us pray for the men and women serving our country in the armed forces, especially: **Mitchell, Michael, Ethan, Emily, Alan, Chris, Chelsey, the 200th Red Horse Squadron, and the 983rd Army Combat Engineer Battalion. Protect, guide, and comfort them and bring them home safely when their work is done.**

**Response:** **Lord in your mercy hear our prayer**.

Reader: Let us pray silently or aloud for those special in our lives.

SILENCE

**Response: Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Reader: Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

**Response: To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

LEM/Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and one another:

**Everyone: 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.

Priest: Let us all pray for peace in our world.

**EVERYONE: Lord, Healer of the Nations, from the noise of war and the drumbeat of vengeance, give us undiminished determination to wage peace. Out of brokenness, violence, and destruction let us plant seeds of hope. Out of chaos, confusion, and hatred, let us build bridges of love.**

**Out of distrust, disunity, and distance, let us walk together in harmony. Heal our divisions, make us whole, and bring us peace. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY: Carson Weingart**

**COMMUNION:**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**People: It is to give him thanks and praise.**

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Priest: Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**People:** **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.**

Priest: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Priest: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Priest: After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Priest: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Everyone: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Priest: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Priest: Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Priest: All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

**Everyone: AMEN, AMEN, AMEN**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Priest: Alleluia, Christ our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us.

**People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Priest: The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving**.**

Priest: Let us pray with those who are unable to receive the Eucharist with us this morning:

**EVERYONE: Dear Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament, but since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, I ask that you come spiritually into my heart.**

**Unite me with you and never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

Priest: St. Thomas practices open communion which means that all baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord’s Table.

**Communion can be received either by drinking from the Chalice or by intinction. Either way is acceptable. The small Chalice is for intinction only.**

**COMMUNION: Carson Weingart**

Priest: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven**.**

LEM/Deacon: The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Priest: Let us Pray:

**Everyone: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us spiritually with the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.**

**Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**People: Amen**

Priest: May the Lord bless you and keep you, May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, May the Lord look upon you with favor and bring you peace.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**: On Jordan’s Bank The Baptist’s Cry #76

***1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.***

***2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.***

***3. For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward; without thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.***

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

**POSTLUDE: Carson Weingart**

LEM/Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

THANKS: Pastor Beverly Collinsworth

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**