

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024**

**Gathering
*God invites us to enter His presence***

Prelude

Away in a Manger
Fairview Bell Choir: Adrienne Boyance, Greg Maurer,
Robin Miller, Lila Steinginga, Matt Steinginga, Jill Swatton
(Congregation, please sing Hymn 157 with the Bell Choir.)

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)



Call to Worship (*Responsively*)

Jim Fox

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

—Isaiah 2:2-5, NRSV



Invocation

Jim Fox

Covenant God, you heard your people yearning for a Savior. Thank you for sending your Son so long ago. We now rehearse your promise that Christ will come again, that death and suffering will end and every tear will be wiped away. Come, Lord Jesus, come. As you fulfilled Israel's hopes long ago, so we long for all these promises to be fulfilled. **Amen.**



Opening Hymn 132

Angels We Have Heard on High
(Verses 1 & 3)

Advent Candle Lighting

The Fox Family

Week 2

Reader: The first candle reminds us of our hope we have in the coming of our Lord. (Light Candle)

Today's candle represents the Peace that we can only experience in God's presence.

"The Wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the goat. The calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf will be together, and a child will lead them." (Isaiah 11:6)

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ (Light 2nd Candle)

All: Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's Kingdom.

Response: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Verse 4)

***O come, Desire of nations,
Bind All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.***

Confessing

God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Jim Fox

Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

Jim Fox

O promised Christ: We are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Jim Fox

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.
In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.
And this is the name by which it will be called:
"The Lord is our righteousness."
People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord,

whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness.
In Christ, we are made right with God.

—based on Jeremiah 33:14-16, NRSV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You

All: And also with you

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

—2 Corinthians 9:7, NRSV

Offering

Offertory *Joy to the World – Bell Choir*
(Congregation sing Hymn 125, verses 1, 2, 4 with the Bell Choir.)

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

Prayer of Dedication

O Mighty One, you have done and are doing great things for us, and holy is your name. Bless all we offer you—ourselves, our time, and our possessions— that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Proclaiming

God speaks to us through His Word

 **Preparation Hymn 128** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 11:1-10*

11 Then a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
a Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a Spirit of counsel and strength,
a Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.
³ His delight will be in the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge
by what he sees with his eyes,
he will not execute justice
by what he hears with his ears,
⁴ but he will judge the poor righteously
and execute justice for the oppressed of the land.
He will strike the land
with a scepter^[a] from his mouth,
and he will kill the wicked
with a command^[b] from his lips.
⁵ Righteousness will be a belt around his hips;
faithfulness will be a belt around his waist.
⁶ The wolf will dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the goat.
The calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf will be together,
and a child will lead them.
⁷ The cow and the bear will graze,
their young ones will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like cattle.
⁸ An infant will play beside the cobra's pit,
and a toddler will put his hand into a snake's den.
⁹ They will not harm or destroy each other
on my entire holy mountain,
for the land will be as full
of the knowledge of the LORD
as the sea is filled with water.
¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse
will stand as a banner for the peoples.
The nations will look to him for guidance,
and his resting place will be glorious.

Sermon

"Songs of Peace"
Rev. Tim Latham

 **Hymn of Response 160** *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Responding
We respond to God's Word

 **Profession of Faith** *(In Unison)*

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten of the Father before all worlds;
God of God, Light of light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made.**

**Who, for us and our salvation,
came down from heaven,
and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

—from Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People

Eternal God, for whom all people wait and search,
even when they don't realize it, we cry out today for a live and present
Word from you. As our season of discontent approaches the day of your coming, we pray that you would
speak to us in the graceful ways that you know best.

Open our eyes that have been closed by fear and blinded by self-pity,
that we may see you even in the anxieties and uncertainties
that beset our days and threaten to overwhelm us like a cloud of darkness.

Help us to see that amid the hustle and bustle
of this holiday time—the crowded stores and rude shoppers,
the impatient drivers, the frayed generosity—
you have become incarnate, sanctifying the smallest tasks of love, generosity, and kindness that we are
enabled by your grace to perform.

We think of the needs of others at this time, O Lord,
and we are embarrassed by our selfishness.
May the answer to our prayers begin with us to redeem the times.
Bring to all those who are in need the alleviation of their poverty
or comfort for their minds and spirits.
Enable us to do what we can to help them—
to share our own happiness and prosperity,
to provide a listening ear or friendly word,
to do errands or acts of kindness.
But let us not be content so long as conditions exist
that foster human distress from generation to generation
through the repetition of ignorance, filth, and disease.

We pray that the promise of your birth—
that peace shall be on earth—
may soon be fulfilled,
both in our troubled hearts and in our troubled world.
Come to us, Lord, for we need your presence in our own lives.
We pray especially for those dear to us who are sick, or troubled,
or unsure, or near the hour of their death.
Comfort, comfort your people, and fill each heart with your love.

We pray for the world into which you came
and which you still love.
Touch us anew with the hope that is the heritage
of those who love you and trust your promises.

Through Jesus Christ, who is the joy of those who are happy
and the comfort of those who mourn,
as we join the church in the family 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 debts as we forgive our debtors;

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,

And the glory forever, Amen.

Commissioning

God sends us out into the world as His witnesses



Commission Hymn 152

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day



Benediction & Blessing



Postlude