

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 6, 2020



John the Baptist Preaching, (detail) fresco
Domenico Ghirlandaio, (1448-1494) Republic of Florence (Italy)
Tornabuoni Chapel, Florence, Italy

Faith Presbyterian Church Order of Worship

*We will celebrate communion at the conclusion of the service today,
so please have a piece of bread, and juice or wine ready!*

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich

Joys and Concerns

Prelude *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659* -

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Call to Worship

Ron Sperling

One: In this season of waiting, our God comes.

All: Come, Holy God, overturn our expectations and fill us with hope for the future.

One: In this holy season of wonder, our Savior comes.

All: Come, Companion of the poor, and challenge us to share the gospel of welcome for all.

One: In these days of remembering what our lives are to be, our Spirit comes.

All: Come, Waymaking Spirit, to lead us down the path to service.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we are dubious of angels and we disbelieve good news. We doubt what we cannot prove, we ignore what we cannot see. We hope for little and expect even less. Forgive our cynical acceptance of the world as it is! Awaken our imaginations to embrace the wonder and promise of this season, and help us trust good news to be good. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

Kyrie 103 *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

O-SO-SO

verses 1-2

1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, hope of u - ni - ty; make us one bod - y.

Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec-on-cile all peo - ple.

Assurance of Grace

Gloria 583 *Glory to God*

GLORY

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
 Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

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.

A voice cries out:
'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.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

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.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
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!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
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.

Music *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

Gospel Reading Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the word of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Prepare the Way

Rev. Goodrich

Hymn 95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

PREPARE THE WAY

sung 3 times

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Prepare the Way of the Lord'. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B-flat4, and C5. Above the staff, the chords are indicated as G4, E-flat4, A-flat4, E-flat4, and G4. The lyrics 'Pre- pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord,' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B-flat4, and C5. Above the staff, the chords are indicated as G4 and E-flat4. The lyrics 'and all peo- ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.' are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

OFFERING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Of the Father's love Begotten*

Mark Hayes
(b. 1953)

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to The Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

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

The prayer continues, concluding with

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of Communion

When the bread is broken, please break the bread you have at home. When the cup is poured, please pour it at home, or touch the cup if you've already filled it. We give thanks that the Spirit is present wherever we are, knitting us together as the body of Christ in the world.

Prayer after Communion

TO GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE IN CHRIST'S NAME

Hymn 105 *People Look East*, verses 1, 2, 4

BESANÇON

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Charge & Benediction

Postlude *Toccata on "Vom Himmel Hoch"*

Garth Edmundson
(1892-1971)

Passing of the Peace

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Cat Goodrich, *Pastor*

Dr. Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music and Organist*

Ron Sperling, *Liturgist*

Mozella Williams, *Zoom Moderator*

Dawn Shirey, *PowerPoint*

Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo-ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry-ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac-es plain.

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

To my peo - ple now pro-claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, 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 them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

TEXT: Johannes Olearius, 1671; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

GENEVAN 42
 8.7.8.7.7.8.8

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look
 a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.
 Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)