

DECEMBER 10, 2017
Second Sunday of Advent

Please respond with words in **bold** print.

*Please stand if comfortably able

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE:

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.
THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO
WORSHIP.

PRELUDE: "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"
Franklin Ritter

*UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: The day of God is coming; lift up your voices,
Cry out with the strength God provides.

Many: We await God's coming day with anticipation.
We seek the peace and patience God provides.

One: Comfort, comfort my people, says our God.
Speak tenderly to my suffering people.

Many: We will prepare the way for One who is coming.
We look forward to baptism in the Spirit.

One: God will feed us like a shepherd.
God will gather us in gentle, caring arms.

Many: God's hand is upon us in blessing;
We are welcomed by God's steadfast love.

*OPENING HYMN:

#107 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Righteous and holy God, your glory is revealed to us day by day as valleys of despair are lifted up and mountainous problems are leveled. In your presence, we see more than our immediate situation. We catch a glimpse of your eternal purposes. So come among us now and speak your word of peace. Feed us with your truth, and equip us to welcome Christ's coming. Amen.

Let us give God our thanks and praise.

*GLORIA: **#759**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,
Three-in-One; As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

FIRST TESTAMENT READING: **Isaiah 40:1-11**
Lay Liturgist (Pages 879-880 in the Pew Bible)

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

*GOSPEL LESSON: **Mark 1:1-8**
Pastor Rosemary (Pages 1214- 1215 in the Pew Bible)

This is the Word of God. It is true and can be trusted.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON: **"Here is your God!"**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE:
#116 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

PASTORAL PRAYER:
Beginning with a time for silent personal prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed it be your 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: **"Away in a Manger" verse 3**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

INVITATION TO SHARE:

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
Rowland Hugh Prichard

*DOXOLOGY: **# 780**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION: **While we are waiting and preparing for Christ to appear, we are seeking, O God. To act as faithful followers. May these gifts offer hope to all whose suffering and loss seem too heavy to bear. May our church be a listening, caring presence for all its members, and through us for all those we meet this week. Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN:

#120 "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

DURING THE HYMN THE LIGHT IS EXTINGUISHED AND CARRIED OUT INTO THE WORLD.

*BENEDICTION:

Announce the good news of Jesus Christ;
Prepare the way for Christ's witness to be heard.
**Christ brings hope for true peace to all people.
God is patiently waiting for us to claim this gift.**
May you be fed and blessed on life's way this week.
The baptism of the Holy Spirit will empower you.
Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: **#125 (third verse)**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing.
Come adore on bended knee,
God, our world now entering.
Glo-ria n excelsis Deo. Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.**

*POSTLUDE: "Praise"

Stephen Otis