



## **Second Sunday of Advent: LOVE**

**December 6, 2020**

**GREETING**

Pastor Craig

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

**PASSING OF PEACE, OUTPOURING OF THE WATER**

**\*please stand**

## PRELUDE

*I Wonder As I Wander*

J.J. Niles/Arr. M. Hayes

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

Pastor Diane

**L:** in this strange season of our lives, we've got work to do, to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend relationships. The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." When God of love comes in, then healing is to be found.

**P: Come down to us again, O Lord. We long to be your people, a people of love.**

Sing *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verse 1)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Reader One:** We light the candle of hope. We light the candle of love. In a world where so many experience hatred, God lights a candle of love in our hearts. We wait together for a Savior, who will be Emmanuel, Christ the Lord.

## OPENING HYMN

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

(vs. 1 and 2) 83

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

## CALL TO PRAYER

Who has measured the waters of the Seas in the palm of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on a scales and the hills on a balance? Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as a counselor? Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten God, and who taught God the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding?

## **THE UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Heavenly Father, we cry out to you in prayer and confession. This pandemic has taken the lives of those whom we love. Leaders around the world have been brought to their knees. Like flowers and grass, health and strength and life have withered. They have drowned in air, their lungs filled with broken glass. LORD, we are so helpless. All we can think to do is to distance ourselves, to cover behind our masks, to pull up our covers and hide in depression. The effects of race are not lost upon us LORD, that the poorest and weakest, the most impoverished in the world suffer the most; those whom we want to hold and comfort are locked away. Dear God, let our longing to love not be lost upon us, or forgotten in future times. We are convinced that life is beyond our control, and we plead that you would rip open the heavens and come down as Savior and Messiah anew. Amen

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Isaiah 40: 21-23

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? The LORD sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. And yet, brothers and sisters, in Jesus Christ: We are forgiven!

## **RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING**     *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

Have Thine own way, Lord, Have Thine own way;  
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me After Thy will,  
While I am waiting, Yielded and still.

## **PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## **ANTHEM**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

arr. H. Willan

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD<sup>1</sup>; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." <sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. <sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Mark 1:1-11

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,] <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" <sup>3</sup> "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" <sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with[e] water, but he will baptize you with] the Holy Spirit." <sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

**SERMON**

"Comfort, Comfort, My People"

Pastor Craig

**HYMN**

*Lo, How a Rose E-er Blooming*

(verses 1 and 3) 129

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fill the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death  
he saves us and lightens every load.

### **CALL FOR OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *O Come, All Ye Faithful w/ "Sheep May Safely Graze" by Bach*

J.F.Wade/Arr. L.McKechnie

Jamie Reed: Piano, Wes Moulton: Organ

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

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

### **THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

#### **HYMN**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

(verses 1 & 5) 108

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see.  
Evermore and Evermore! Amen.

O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praises sing.  
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring.  
Evermore and Evermore! Amen.

### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Now All the Woods Are Sleeping*

J. M. Bach

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**HYMN SINGER**

Mary Ann McElhose

**All taped Worship Services are available for replay on the  
[Special Video Worship Page.](#)**

**The Rose on the Baptismal Font Celebrates these Witnesses to the  
Resurrection in Jesus Christ:**

La Vicie Runkle – November 17

Doris Simmons Cissel – November 26

**Please remember those currently or recently hospitalized: Lorna Kitchak**

**Flowers given by: Jean Hein**

**Thank you to all Volunteers**

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
October-2020		Through Week # 48 (11/29/20)	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 43,270	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	0
Monthly Giving Budget	\$ 42,008	* YTD 2020 Attendance Sanctuary/Carport	5818/185
*YTD Giving Support	\$ 553,238	** Weekly Viewing On-Line	185
*YTD Giving Budget	\$ 567,565	** YTD 2020 Viewing On-Line	8444
		* YTD 2020 Attendance / On-Line/Carport	14544
		* YTD 2019 Attendance	15492
* YTD = Year to Date      ** Number of on-line devices tuned into Sunday service			
D. Brooks - VPC treasurer - dxb38@cox.net - 520-399-3959      2020 Per Capita is \$46.00 per member			

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Advent Taize: Wednesdays in December**

Advent is a time that prepares us for Christmas. To walk the journey of Advent, we are offering Taize' worship services on Wednesdays in the month of December. Taize' is a beautiful worship service in candlelight with scripture, prayer and music. Join us on December 9, 16 and 23. The service can be viewed on our church website by 5 p.m:  
<https://www.valleypresbyterian.net/special-video-worship.html>