



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Second Sunday of Advent
6 December 2020 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary Noël Etranger

Louis-Claude Daquin

***Ringing of the Bell** *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

***Lighting of the
Second Advent Candle**

Christie, Robyn, and Will Hovey

People of God, come, for the light of peace calls us together.
The Lord has spoken through the mouth of the holy prophets of old.

Soloist: O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

We have been given knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins.
By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.
Come, people of God, let us follow this new light.

Soloist: O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Let us listen to the voice crying out preparing the way,
inviting us to travel the journey of this Advent season.
The lights of hope and peace are lit in our midst –
God will use these lights to show us the way.

The second Advent candle is lit.

***Hymn** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, behold the King of Glory waits,
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

Advent God, we wait in hope and we long for the fullness of your peace and
harmony in our midst. Forgive us when the way we live our lives adds to the
hurt, pain, and disharmony of this world. Give us the imagination and vision to
see the signs of your reign breaking into our lives. Hear now our silent prayers
of confession, in the name of the One who came to us as a child.

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

***Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response of Praise Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

Rev. Christian K. Choi

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 30-31

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

² 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.

³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it
together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Solo Comfort Ye, My People

George Frederick Handel

Comfort ye, my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her
that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Make straight the desert a highway for our God. Isaiah 40

Second Scripture Reading Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ 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.

⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist,
and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ 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. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize
you with the Holy Spirit."

Sermon To Wait, To Hope, To Wonder Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: “Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;”
Isaiah 40:4a*

Solo Every Valley Shall be Exalted George Frederick Handel

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low;
the crooked straight and the rough places plain. Isaiah 40

Milestone Membership Recognition

Fifty years:

Nancy and Rich Canady, Linda and Ed Caupert, Sue Cull, James Hajek,
Judy and Dale Huston, Thomas Janeway, Louise and Don Myers,
Jeanne Pittman, Judy and Fred Prillaman, Mary Ray, Dr. Will Wright

Fifty-five years:

John Blythe, Gregory Case, Sheila Jones, Vivian Keithley, Ruth Schmitt,
H. Dale Smith, Jr., Becky and Lionel Stirrett, Bob Wire

Sixty years: Mary Alice Davis and John Thompson

Sixty-five years: Dee Tozer

Seventy years: Margie Dobson and Linda Lee Janus

Additional Milestones: Rance Carpenter for 50th anniversary of confirmation,
Nancy and Lon Scott 50th anniversary of first joining Westminster

***Hymn** Our God, Our Help in Ages Past *St. Anne*

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

The Church at Prayer

Soloist: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

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 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.

Introduction to the Offering

***Offertory Response** Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication** Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ your steadfast love and faithfulness have met and your righteousness and peace have kissed. May the gifts we offer this day lift-up those in need and prepare the way of your salvation. Amen.

***Hymn** Comfort, Comfort Now My People *Genevan 42*

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is near.
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** People, Look East, the Time is Near Kristina Langlois

(*) The congregation is invited to stand

<p>IN MEMORIAM Renee Housel 11/28/202 United with Westminster 12/12/1951</p>

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life
Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
Christie, Robyn and Will Hovey, Lighting of the Advent Candle Wreath
Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts
Adam Miller, Tenor Lyle VanDeventer, Bass
Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers
Marilyn Rigney, Safety Team