

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

**December 6, 2020
The Second Sunday of Advent**

GATHERING

PRESERVICE MUSIC SET

*“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”
“Lord, Make Us More Holy”
“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”
“Comfort, Comfort You My People”
“Prepare the Way of the Lord”
“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”
“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES

PRELUDE

“Horns” (Biggs)

LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

From Psalm 85

Wonderful God, you always forgive the guilt of your people.

You stop your strong anger against us!

Lord, show us your love. Save us!

The Lord has ordered peace for his people.

His people will rest in love, truth, goodness, and peace.

His goodness will shine down on us.

Brothers and sisters, today we light the second candle on the Advent wreath, the candle of peace. Even in the depths of uncertainty and fear, the Lord has ordered peace for us. Today we rest in the Lord's peace. Yes, even now.

***OPENING HYMN #93**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

(Musica Sacra)

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Compassionate God, in this season of hope, forgive us for our inability to grasp and hold it. Forgive us for too quickly giving in to cynicism and doubt. Forgive us for our tepid response to your continuous and bountiful care for us, the sheep of your pasture. Forgive our fear. Forgive our complacency with the way things are. Pour out your Spirit over us again, so that we may see and embrace your ongoing project of redemption in the world. Make our hearts sing as we cry, “Come, Lord Jesus!” Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 40:1-11

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

2 Peter 3:8-15

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

*READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Mark 1:1-8

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“A Voice Crying Out”

*HYMN #87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People (Genevan Psalter)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

MEDITATION ON THE STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Love Came Down at Christmas” (Brown)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Holy God, the grass withers, and the flower fades, but your word stands forever. We know that you will come with might, bringing your justice. You will feed your flock and gather us lambs in your arms. In this Advent season, we cling to these promises, for the world is dark and beset by evil and fear. We give thanks that the victory is already yours.

Strengthen us for our part in your redemptive project, for our role in exhibiting your kingdom to the world. As we wait and watch in this season, set us to doing the ministries to which we are called, individually and collectively, to the glory of the coming Christ, your Anointed One. We pray in his name. Amen.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
holy is 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.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN #124**

“Still, Still, Still” (Austrian Carol)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.

Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.