

ORDER OF SERVICE
6 December 2020
Advent 2

GATHER			
Call to Worship			Rev Allan Smith
Hymn/Song	I hear a sound	SIS 340/P&W 87 CCLI# 14129	Fiona Binney
Advent Candle Lighting			Rev Allan Smith
Praise Time (10min)	Mighty to save (everyone needs compassion) No Other Name (Key D)	CCLI# 4591782 CCLI# 7019979	Fiona Binney
Welcome & Visitors candles, Celebrations, Green Cards			Rev Allan Smith
Prayer: Adoration, Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness			Rev Allan Smith
Passing the Peace			
Children's Story			Selena/Emily
Song	Love Devine, All Loves Excelling	CCLI# 4928685	Fiona Binney
HEAR THE WORD			
Bible Readings	Isaiah 40: 1-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8		Helen Evans
Message	<i>Prepare the way of the Lord - peace</i>		Rev Allan Smith
Song (Optional)	Comfort, Comfort	TIS 647/ATN 25 CCLI# 1271882	Fiona Binney
RESPOND			
Affirmation of Faith	A Creed for Advent		
Offering Dedication	Rev Allan Smith		
Notices & Concerns of the Church	Rev Allan Smith		
Prayers of the People	Rev Allan Smith		
Communion Song	Miracle of Grace	CCLI# 5767814	Fiona Binney
Communion	Rev Allan Smith & Elders		
Song (after Communion)	Our Hope is in Jesus	Sheet Music	Fiona Binney
BLESS			
Mission/Benediction	Rev Allan Smith		
Benediction/Going Out Song	Chorus Our Hope is in Jesus	Sheet Music	Fiona Binney

Preaching	Rev Allan Smith
Worship Introduction	Rev Allan Smith
Notices of the Church & Prayers of the People	Helen Evans
Bible Reader	Jill Rohde
Praise Song Selector	Fiona Binney
Piano	Craig Binney
Backup Singers	
Additional Music	
Sound System	
Data Operator	Ian Anderson
Power Point Producer	Ian Anderson
Offering Collectors	NA
Communion Bread	NA

Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Isaiah 40:1-5)*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

God will make a way through the wilderness.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed

All people shall see it together.

The mouth of the Lord has spoken;

God is preparing to do a new thing.

Come, let us worship our God,

who is coming into our world in a new way. Amen.

Let us worship God.

SONG [I hear a sound](#)

CANDLE LIGHTING ADVENT 2

SONGS [Mighty to save \(everyone needs compassion\)](#)

[No Other Name](#)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

While others are making lists of things we have enough of,

you come: to offer us salvation, that one gift we cannot purchase.

As the world prepares to entice us with more and more,

you come: to fill our hearts with all the hopes you have dreamed about us forever.

When skepticism and fear callous our hearts,

you come: to bathe us in the soothing lotion of compassion.

When stress scoops out potholes for every step we take,

you come: filling the emptiness with serenity as tough as your grace.

As the clock turns faster and faster each day,

you come: to swaddle us in a shawl woven with patience.

When others push past us to get to the front of worry's line,

you come, so we can clasp them so close to our hopes they can hear your heartbeat.

So come to us, come to us,

God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess that we have given in to the ways of the world. The lights are beautiful, the trees are trimmed, the wonder and awe of the season is upon us, and yet we can't enjoy it because there is too much to do. We have forgotten the reason we do all of this: to remember the light that shines in the darkness. We have forgotten the reason we prepare: to welcome Christ into our world and our lives in a new way. We have forgotten the reason we need this: because the world is broken around us, and needs healing and wholeness.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come. Enter our world and our lives in a new way. We need this Advent season to remind us that you are at work in us, right now, and we wait for the fullness of that revelation. In your name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The Lord is patient with us,
not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.
If we will turn back to God,
God has promised to bring us to the promised land,
forgetting our guilt, and forgiving our sins.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
Be at peace for your sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

SONG [Love Devine, All Loves Excelling](#)

BIBLE READINGS

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#)

[2 Peter 3:8-15a](#)

[Mark 1:1-8](#)

SERMON [Prepare the way of the Lord - Peace](#) [Sermon.mp3](#)

SONG [Comfort, comfort all my people](#)

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, bless these gifts and our lives, we pray. May they witness to the way being prepared anew for your glory to be revealed so that every eye shall clearly see it. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Comforting God, we find ourselves in a wilderness of pressure and stress from the world around us. Temptation is everywhere. We often put status and greed first in our lives; they take over YOUR place in our hearts. Turn us back to you. Bring your good tidings into our lives so that your voice shouts in our ears. (Isaiah 40:1-11)

Steadfast God, speak peace to your people. Raise us up to be faithful servants so that all who meet us may know your love through us. Increase our faith and help us to proclaim your message to the people of this and every land. Help us to respond joyfully to your call so that all might live in harmony. (Ps 85:8-13)

God of all the ages, come and do not be slow. Help us to examine our lives so that we might be found ready at your coming. Lead us in your paths of holiness and godliness so that we may live with you in eternity. (2 Peter 3:8-15a)

Creator and Redeemer, send us into the wilderness with willing hearts to proclaim your love. Help us to reach deeply into our own generosity so that your Church might not only survive but become a loud voice in the community. Make us, your servants, strong workers in your name. (Mark 1:1-8)

Great Healer, we ask your presence with all who suffer in mind, body and spirit.

This morning, we pray especially for...

Touch them with your gift of wholeness. Strengthen them in faith and give them peace. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG: COMMUNION [Miracle of Grace](#)

SONG [Our Hope is in Jesus](#)

WORD OF MISSION AND BLESSING

Go now: wait and work for the coming of the day of God.
In the wild places prepare a straight path for the Lord.
Lead lives of holiness and godliness,
strive to be found at peace,
and speak freely of the Lord's comfort and promise.

And may God our shepherd gather you in loving arms;
May Christ Jesus reconcile justice and peace within you;
And may the Holy Spirit baptise you into the life of God.

And may the grace...

A Creed for Advent

We are an Advent people,
a people of hope.
For us, Advent is a time of waiting,
and so we wait.

We wait for the coming of the One
who is the fulfillment of God's promise,
the fulfillment of hope,
the declaration that we have been redeemed.

Even so, we are not a naïve people.
We know that the world in which we live
will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow.
We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist.
We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives.

But because we are an Advent people,
we know that none of these things will win in the end.

The Holy One is coming,
to make holy once again
all that was, is, and ever will be.

And in our waiting and our hoping,
we work and worship,
pray and play,
in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign
in our lives and in our world,
now and forever.

HOLY COMMUNION: Advent 2 Year B

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for in you, salvation is drawing near,
the day when love and fidelity will embrace,
and peace and justice kiss.

The heavens, the earth and all that is in them
came into being, and will pass away, at your say so.
You spoke to your people through the prophets,
calling them to prepare the way for your justice,
and promising to hold them tenderly
like lambs to your breast.

Through the preaching of John the Baptist,
you prepared the way for your coming Messiah,
— your child, Jesus —
who was baptised into death
but who you raised to new life.

Through him you baptise your people
with your Holy Spirit,
and so now, in hope and gratitude,
we wait for the day when you will establish
new heavens and a new earth
where righteousness will be at home.

And so we praise you...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WORD OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

And may the grace...