



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 2020



Our chancel greenery and flowers are given today to the glory of God and in remembrance of Jan Bugg's father, Harry Jordan, and her sister, Cathy Jordan Davis.



PRELUDE

Marcus St. Julien



GATHERING AND GREETING

Marissa Teauseau Horvath

*Wilderness, exile, struggles, and rejoicing:
your way, O Lord,
runs through all of our experiences and emotions.
Inspire us, urge us,
and encourage us to prepare your way anew.
Lead us to a deeper trust in your care,
a more resilient faith in your love.*



CALL TO WORSHIP

Jay Hogewood

Lift up your voice. Lift it up and do not fear.

**Feeding, gathering, caring, convicting and comforting:
this is how God will come.**

The old will pass away. A new world will dawn.

**Love, faithfulness, holiness and peace:
these will make God's new day.**

Love needs a path. Peace needs an avenue.

**Even as we wait, let us make a way for Christ our Savior
in our hearts and in our world.**

Let us worship God, all merciful and almighty.



THE ADVENT CANDLE

Tyler Adams and Jacob Nichols

Our lists are long, even in this strange mess where we live these days.

*And we want to do it right; we want to be safe,
but we want to be able to enjoy the season.*

*We've got work to do to put right what has gone wrong,
to heal what is broken, to mend our relationships,
and to prepare for the company that will come.*

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 comes in, then healing is to be found,
but we need to make the way;
we need to open the door into our lives.*

*So, we light these candles as a sign of our faith
that the God we worship is not far from us
and that we can clear the way for Jesus Christ
to come and dwell with us.*

We light these candles in faith that company is coming.

Together in hope, we give voice to our faith by saying:
Come, thou long-expected Jesus born to set thy people free...

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS # 196

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.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.



PRAYER

The faithfulness of Jesus our Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Together let us pray:

God, we are confident that you are coming.
We trust that you are bringing a world
where all will be made holy and healed.
Calm our anxiety, strengthen our patience,
and keep our hope alive,
as we work towards and wait for your new day.
Amen.



MISSION MOMENT

director, Adam Bradley



THE RED STEPS

A Moment for Children





OFFERING

soloist, Cassie Segal

I Wonder as I Wander

Appalachian Carol Adapted and arranged by John Jacob Niles and Henry Horton

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

You may give your offering this morning by

TEXTING: giverayne TO: 73256 or at www.raynenola.org/contribute

There is also a basket provided on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

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MARK 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

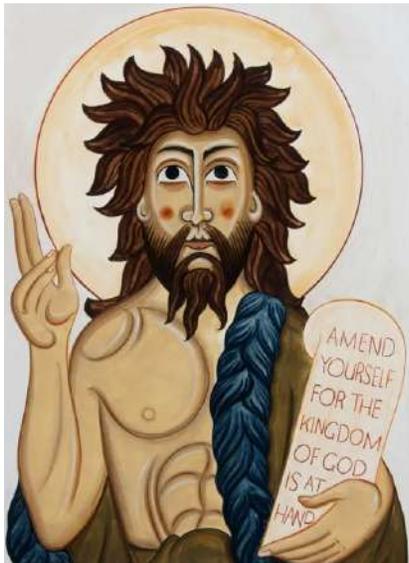
Look, I am sending my messenger before you.
He will prepare your way, a voice shouting in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight."

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



HOMILY

"Hey! Look That Way!"



"Icon of John the Baptist" by The Conestoga Iconographic Studio



RESPONSE

The People That Walked in Darkness

from Messiah G.F. Händel

soloist, C. Leonard Raybon

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light,
and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them hath the light shined.

(Isaiah 9:2)

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THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

CONFESSION

Lord, we come to you to confess that we do not often live into the mercy you promise us. We admit we are not ready or willing for your work to renew us. We hold on to our old ways that are often broken, misguided, and unloving.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience.

Grant us wisdom and courage to increase our trust in your forgiveness and love.

SILENT CONFESSION

PARDON

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

Jesus, our light, promises us life made new.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

THE BREAD AND THE CUP



INVITATION



We joyfully welcome all who wish to become members of

Rayne

and encourage you to call

Pastor Jay at

225-772-3550

or email him at

jay@raynenola.org

to explore joining our community of faith.



PEOPLE, LOOK EAST

#202

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming with the word,
the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

BENEDICTION

Go in Peace,

Stand firm in your faith.

Be Strong.

Be Brave.

Let everything you do

Be done in love.

POSTLUDE

