



SOTC Worship
December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

If life was a home, then we would pray—
may love be the foundation.
May God be the cornerstone.
May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.
And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.
We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.
Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.
Let us worship Holy God.

GATHERING SONG

COMFORT, COMFORT, NOW MY PEOPLE



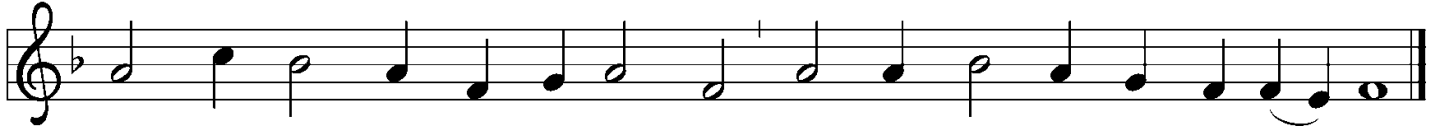
1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
2 For the her-ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God’s ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

WORD

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING/CHILDREN'S SERMON

A: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives,
we gather together around the candle of peace.

B: The home we long for is a home that knows peace—

A: peace that rests between us and our grief,

B: peace around our anxiety,

A: peace between us and our self-criticism,

B: peace amidst our relationships,

A: peace at the core of our being,

B: peace hovering through and in our world.

A: The home we long for is a home that knows peace.

C: So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer. Let it be so. Amen.

B: May this light be a reminder that peace is not a pipe dream, but God's desire for us.

C: We are close to home. May we carry peace with us. Amen.

READING: MALACHI 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is

coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

READING: PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:57-80

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." ⁶¹They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. ⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us

in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness

before him all our days.

⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people

by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

FIRESIDE CHAT AND REFLECTION

HYMN

ZECHARIAH'S LULLABY

When "And We old you lay Zech child a ri - ah will foun - da - tion held be called a for his ba - by pro - phet of what is to

son Christ be He To Not blessed him hope and to yet dreamed of what hearts and to pray - ing for

he would be - come light see As For We ba - by John sent God's rocked in the vis - ions of i - mag - in -

tem - ple that will to morn do build This A From song dream to blue - prints Zech - a - pro - and



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer." If you would like to add a prayer petition, email it to Pastor Aleese at pastor@shepherdofthecross.org

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you!

Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others. Pull out your cell phones and send a text and/or a picture to someone, sharing the peace of Christ with them as well!

MEAL

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

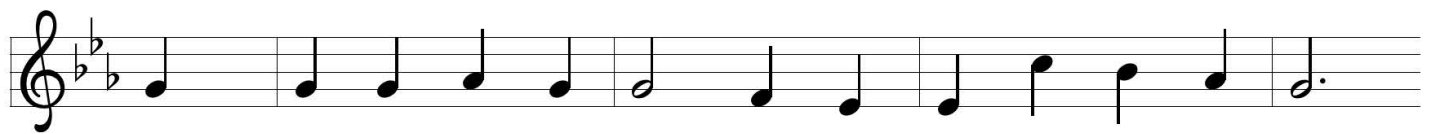
SHARING GOD'S MEAL TOGETHER

Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.

Following the directions of the ushers, the congregation will be invited forward in groups. Each group will stand before the altar to receive the bread and wine/juice. After receiving both bread and wine, remain with your group until Pastor Aleese offers a short blessing, dismissing each group to return to their seats. Those not desiring to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms. . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she presses with ev-'ry grace endowed.
 and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints before us, may see your face to face.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

———— SENDING ————

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

JOY TO THE WORLD



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns in-
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev-'ry heart prepare him
 songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his blessings
 na-tions prove the glories of his righteous-



room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature
 plains repeat the sounding joy, re-peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Copyright acknowledgements:

Music covered under CCLI License #1141706, One License #738128-A. Scripture from New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

Gathering Song: Comfort, Comfort, Now My People. Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551. Public Domain

Hymn of the Day: Zechariah's Lullaby. Text: Anna Strickland (2021) Music: William J. Kirkpatrick (1895) © Anna Strickland, 2021. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC.

Offering Song: Come Now O Prince of Peace. Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947 tr. Marion Pope. Music: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947. Text and Music: © Geonyong Lee. Covered under One License subscription.

Communion Song: The Church's One Foundation. Text: Samuel J. Storme, 1839-1900. Music: AURELIA, Samuel S Wesley, 1810-1876. Public Domain.

Sending Song: Joy to the World. Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748.. Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. Public Domain.

Prayers written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Adapted Rev. A. Kenitzer