

# **Durham Mennonite Church**

**December 6, 2020 - Order of Worship**

**Gathering - 10:15 to 10:30**

**Announcements – Marcia Nice**

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn – O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle - Renee**

**Scripture - Isaiah 40:1- 11**

**Litany**

**Hymn - Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**

**Scripture – Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

**Scripture – Mark 1:1-8**

**Message – Jonathan Robie**

**Reflection on the message – Renee**

**Sharing praise and prayer requests**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Benediction**



## **Announcements**

## **Opening Prayer**

God of winter and star light,  
you have promised us your presence:  
to live among us,  
to right all wrongs,  
to bring good things to all who wait  
for your new day.

In these days,  
we look for signs of your coming:  
the sounds of children at play,  
the music that fills our hearts  
with anticipation,  
the company of all who serve  
the last and the least.

Make us at home with righteousness,  
that we may be ready to walk  
in your holy ways. Amen.

## **Hymn - O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

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# **Light the Advent Candle**

## **Second Sunday of Advent: Preparation of Peace**

### **Scripture: Isaiah 40:3-5**

“In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.  
And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will  
see it together.  
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

### **Candle Lighting:**

Today we relight the candle of Hope and Expectation.  
Let this candle remind us of the great hope we have  
in Christ the Messiah and in God’s promises.  
As we light the candle of preparation and peace let it remind us  
to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

### **Prayer:**

Father, guide us in confession of our sins.  
We know that in the greatness of your love, you have promised to  
forgive us.  
Cleanse us as we prepare our lives for the coming of Jesus again.  
This we ask in His name. Amen.

## **Scripture – Isaiah 40:1-11**

**40** Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling:  
“In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the Lord;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, “Cry out.”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All people are like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.  
Surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever.”

<sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.  
See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.

<sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

## **Litany**

**“Motherless Child A Long Way From Home”** by Jonathan Larson

The ancient din of war is with us still, makes valleys to shake, the mountains to hide their faces, clothes the world with the dust of grief and longing.

**Sometimes I feel like a motherless child, a long way from home.**

A season of fear has bolted the door, bruised the conscience, closed up wells of mercy, made justice an orphan, and hung us out to dry.

**Sometimes I feel like a motherless child, a long way from home.**

We trek now ‘cross broken ground, neighbors askance with each other, seeking faith equal to wilderness, a voice worthy of Heaven’s ear.

**Sometimes I feel like a motherless child, a long way from home.**

All: But send us, we plead, the One

whose arm is belonging,

whose voice is buttress,

whose embrace is comfort,

whose reward is peace,

whose nearness is home. Amen.

# Hymn – Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

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## Scripture - Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

<sup>1</sup> You, Lord, showed favor to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> You forgave the iniquity of your people  
and covered all their sins.

<sup>8</sup> I will listen to what God the Lord says;  
he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—  
but let them not turn to folly.

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup> Love and faithfulness meet together;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup> Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,  
and righteousness looks down from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> The Lord will indeed give what is good,  
and our land will yield its harvest.

<sup>13</sup> Righteousness goes before him  
and prepares the way for his steps.

## **Scripture - Mark 1:1-8**

**1** The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way” —  
<sup>3</sup> “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

## **Message – Jonathan Robie**

## **Reflection Time - Renee**

### **Praises and Prayer Concerns – Renee**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be 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.

#### **Benediction**

Go out to a world that hungers for righteousness.  
Prepare the highway for our God:  
make ready the paths of peace. **Amen.**