

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023
10:00 a.m.



Prelude *I Wonder As I Wander* ~ arr. Sharon Aaronson

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Wreath

John the Baptist said, "Prepare the way."

So, friends, how do we prepare ourselves for worship?

We silence the inner critic. We let go of busy thoughts.

We make space for God to speak.

We take in the scent, sight, and feel of this space.

We breathe in God's mercy. We exhale God's love. One:

We bring our full selves into this space.

We trust that even now, God is here.

What we practice in worship, my friends, we must live out in our daily lives.

So prepare the way.

May we dream of more bridges and less walls.

May we dream of more laughter and less fear.

May we dream of more listening and less tears.

Most of all, may we dream of peace like a river.

Today we light the candle of peace. May it remind us that there is another way.

He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may
have peace; he came down that we may have peace; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er more.

He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light; he
 32
 came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er more.

May this light be an invitation to prepare the way.

May this light be our invitation to be Advent people – people who dream. Amen.

Gathering Hymn *Those Who Dream ~ The Many*

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

And also with you

God of Peace, **We would like to be as focused as John the Baptist—preparing the way, gathering the crowd, spreading the word of your arrival. Yet there are a million other things on our minds. So today, we ask for your help in preparing the way. Could you start with our ears, and then maybe move to our hearts? We’d like to hear you more clearly. Maybe then we’ll know peace. Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God’s people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
 that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
 that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
 the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God

Psalm

Let Me Listen (Psalm 85) ~ Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan (Grace Notes)

Gospel Reading Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Come thou long ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
5 from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
9 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
13 dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.

The holy gospel according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight” ’,
John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *A Story for All People* ~ Collins and Kallman

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that a voice cried out in the wilderness,
saying, “Prepare the way of the Lord.”
And so, we show up in church pews on cold, blustery days.
We march toward justice.
We roll up our sleeves. We plant trees for our children.
We make art. We choose hope.
We gather at the Table. We set an extra plate.
We sing loudly, with joy.
We share stories and wisdom.
We celebrate children.
We fall together. We rise together.
We love together.
We do all these things because we believe that God loves us so much
that God shows up here.
So we prepare and prepare for that next beautiful day.
May it be so. Amen.**

Prayers

*Each portion of the prayers concludes, Merciful God,
and you may respond, **receive our prayer***

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. Some may wish to shake hands, bump elbows, or simply nod to one another with the greeting; please be sensitive to varying preferences as we share the peace of Christ in preparation for Holy Communion.

Musical Offering

We are not passing the offering plate; instead, the plate is sitting near the door to the worship space to receive financial gifts which support our ministry. You can also give using the Vanco App. on your digital device.

Offering Hymn *Come Now, O Prince of Peace ~ ELW 247 (vs. 1-2)*

Offering Prayer

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Holy Communion

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right . . . Join their unending hymn:



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te_a - do - ra.
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to_e-res Se - ñor.
 My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional
 Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

Holy one ...
 We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.
 Holy God, we long for your Spirit...
 Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.
 All praise and glory are yours, O God, now and forever
Amen

Lord's Prayer

**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.
 Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
 for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever.
 Amen.**

Communion Hymns

*We Are Waiting for Jesus ~ ACS 905
 Sanctuary ~ Thompson & Scruggs*

Blessing after Communion

Prayer after Communion

Faithful God, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Benediction

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the inspiration of the Spirit remain upon you
now and forever

Amen

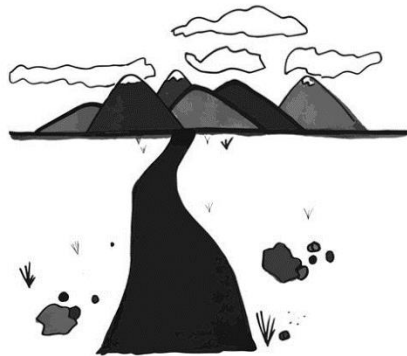
Closing Hymn *Spirit Song* ~ John Wimber

Dismissal

Wait for the Lord in faith and hope

Thanks be to God

Postlude *Skating* ~ Vince Guaraldi, arr. George Winston



MISSION STATEMENT

As God's forgiven people:

- + We welcome all in Christ's love.
- + We grow together in faith and life.
- + We go out to love and serve others.



All Saints is a Reconciling in Christ community, which means we intentionally welcome people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex.



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Church Office Hours
Mon-Fri: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

After Hours
In case of emergency:
Pastor Kristin Schultz 570-1957
Property Emergency: Mel Bentz 818-8588

Deadline for Submitting Articles:
Items for the weekly announcements - 1:00 pm Wednesday
Articles for the monthly Newsletter - 20th of each month.

Please send your articles to the All Saints Church office at office@allsaintsabq.org