

Second Sunday of Advent  
WORSHIP FROM HOME  
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC  
December 6, 2020

GATHERING AND WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Scripture: Psalm 85:8-10

“Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.  
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in the land.  
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other”

Leader: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is peace, for Christ is called the “Prince of Peace.” Christ’s name is also Emmanuel, “God with us.” The presence of Christ with us gives us peace day by day.

*The second candle in the wreath is lit.*

HYMN “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (vs.3, 4)

O come, O come, great God of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe

Refrain:

Rejoice!, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them  
that trust your mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain.

Unison Prayer: **Eternal God, we thank you that through all the years you have given peace to your people. Help us to have your peace in our lives. We pray that, in this Advent season, we may, by what we do, show your presence to the sick, to the hungry, and to the lonely, so that they too may have peace. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS    Isaiah 40:1-11  
                                  Mark 1:1-8

### **Isaiah 40:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall 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 grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>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!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>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.

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

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

SERMON                    **The Advent Journey Continues: In the Wilderness**

SHARING

HYMN                    “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (vs.1, 2)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful, His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of Heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry,  
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia, Lord Most High!

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer(debts)

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation and Prayer of Communion

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison): **Merciful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

HYMN        "In God alone"

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,  
In God my peace and joy.  
Only in God my soul can find its rest,  
find its rest and peace.

BENEDICTION

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE