

# **“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”**

December 6<sup>th</sup> 2020, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

*Prelude: To Us Has Come the Saviour, Anonymous*

## **Call to Worship and Approach to God**

High on the mountains  
someone is shouting,

**In the wilderness prepare the way!**

Justice is marching,  
Peace is following,

**In the wilderness, prepare the way!**

Help is near  
shout for God's glory,

**In the wilderness prepare the way!**

Like a shepherd  
cradling the lambs,

**In the wilderness prepare the way!**

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

2. He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in his sight.

3. He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains,  
shall peace, the herald go,  
and righteousness, in fountains,  
from hill to valley flow.

4. To him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever;  
that name to us is love.

### **❖ Prayers of approach (ending with the Lord's prayer)**

Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## **The Word of God**

### **❖ Lighting of 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent candle and Children's address**

We light the first candle of Advent  
with a plea for God to come down;

**we light the second candle of Advent  
as we hear words of comfort,  
and the command to prepare for God's coming.**

❖ **Holy Scripture:** Isaiah 40:1-11

**40** 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.

❖ **Music:** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*, Michael Praetorius

❖ **Sermon**

*Followed by pause for reflection*

**Response to God's Word**

- ❖ In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
In the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

❖ **Prayers of Intercession**

❖ **Offering & dedication**

- ❖ 1. When out of poverty is born  
a dream that will not die,  
and landless, weary folk find strength  
to stand with heads held high,  
it's then we learn from those who wait  
to greet the promised day:  
'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart.  
Be blest: prepare the way!'
- 2. When people wander far from God,  
forget to share their bread,  
they find their wealth an empty thing,  
their spirits are not fed.  
For only just and tender love  
the hungry soul will stay.  
And so God's prophets echo still,  
'be blest; prepare the way!'
- 3 When God took flesh and came to earth, '  
the world turned upside down,  
and in the strength of woman's faith  
the Word of Life was born.  
She knew that God would raise the low,  
it pleased her to obey.  
Rejoice with Mary in the call,  
'Be blest: prepare the way!'

❖ **Confession of faith:**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,

the communion of the saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

❖ **The Invitation, the story of the Last Supper**

❖ **Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

*The Lord be with you  
Lift up your hearts  
Let us give thanks  
to the Lord our God*

**and also with you  
we lift them up to the Lord  
It is right to give  
our thanks and praise**

... with earth and sea and sky, and all the heavenly host we join in singing...

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

❖ **Prayer of Consecration**

... your body on earth, loving and caring in the world...

**Behold the lamb of God, behold the lamb of God,  
who takes away the sin, the sin of the world.**

❖ **Sharing of bread and wine**

❖ **Prayer**

1. "Thy kingdom come!" on bended knee  
the passing ages pray;  
and faithful souls have yearned to see  
on earth that kingdom's day.
2. But the slow watches of the night  
not less to God belong;  
and for the everlasting right  
the silent stars are strong.
3. And lo, already on the hills  
the flags of dawn appear;  
gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,  
Proclaim the day is near.
4. The day to whose clear shining light  
all wrong shall stand revealed,  
when justice shall be throned in might,  
and every heart be healed.
5. When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,  
shall walk the earth abroad;  
the day of perfect righteousness,  
the promised day of God.

❖ **Sending out with blessing**

*Postlude: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, F.W. Marpurg*

*Scripture reader is Mattia Falcone; Prayers of intercession are led by Elisabeth IJmker.*