

the Second Sunday of
Advent



- ³ A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way
of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a
highway for our God.
⁴ 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.
⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be
revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has
spoken.”



- ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand
forever.

Isaiah 40:3-5, 8

Abington Presbyterian Church

December 6, 2020
10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Second Sunday in Advent December 6, 2020

GATHERING

The people gather wherever they may in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the good news of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

A time for quiet preparation before worship

God of light, God of life, we come to you in prayer on this day, in our season of Advent as we wait for the Savior. Born in a manger, Christ came that we might know your love deeply and intimately. By breaking into our reality, you proclaim the coming of your kingdom and reign on Earth. May we recognize those whom you send to preach that kingdom, and participate in bringing about the freedom of your salvation.

PRELUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (BWV 645)
(Setting of Hymn 349, v.2)

Johann Sebastian Bach

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

*** CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

(Waite & Hostetter Families)

Come, for God's faithful sons and daughters are called out of the wilderness and onto the path of righteousness.

We look for the light of the world to show us the way.

Prepare for the birth of the Christ child in this season of Advent.

We light candles to illuminate the coming of the Savior.

Sing beautiful songs, play lovely music, rejoice in prayer, for now is the time that silence gives way to the gospel.

We join with the choirs of angels: Hark! The glory of the King will descend upon the earth.

SUNG PRAYER

Christ, Be Our Light

Hymn 314, Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

*** HYMN 106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God, even in our anticipation of Christmas morning our hearts and minds wander from your grace. We fall into bad habits, let our tongues lash out at others, and entertain terrible thoughts. Even when we realize these things, we respond by groping in the darkness instead of remembering your Light. Forgive us, O Lord, and help us to forgive each other and ourselves. And in the light of your forgiveness, help us recommit to lives worthy of our calling.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, God demonstrates God's love for us in this: while we were still tangled in sin, Christ died for us.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

* HYMN OF PRAISE

Blest Be the God of Israel

Hymn 109 v.1

**Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace.**

WORD

God's Word is read and its message is proclaimed in scripture, music and interpretation.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION(sung)

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Hymn 95

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Prelude (Cello Suite No. 2)

J. S. Bach

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-8

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Good News!: the end is near

The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying "Come, Lord Jesus!"

THANKSGIVING & SENDING

*After the proclamation of God's Word, we respond with gratitude prepared to go
into the world where we are called to live according to God's will.*

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF 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 our thanks and praise.

We praise you for saints and martyrs...we lift our songs of praise to you:

HOLY, HOLY (sung)

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Sing Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n and earth your glory show Hosanna in the highest.
Bless-ed is the one who comes In the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the heights! Hosanna in the heights!**

You are holy, O God of majesty...that our words and actions may
acknowledge the One crucified and risen:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit ...praying now as our Lord
Jesus has taught us saying:

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine
is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING OF ELEMENTS

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY

Christmas Meditation

Adolphus Hailstork

(Inspired by Hymn 495 Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior)

*O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see,
May what we thirst for soon our portion be,
To gaze on thee unveiled, and see the face,
The vision of thy glory and thy grace.*

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

* HYMN 105

People, Look East

BESANÇON

* BENEDICTION

* THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Greet one another with the sign of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

* POSTLUDE

“Omnes gentes” (from *L’Orgue Mystique*)

Charles Tournemire

“All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship thee, O Lord, and shall glorify thy Name: for thou art great and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone, alleluia. (Psalm 86:9-10)”

[service hymns and some announcements follow]

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

Liturgist: The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

Children’s Message: Ruth Sall

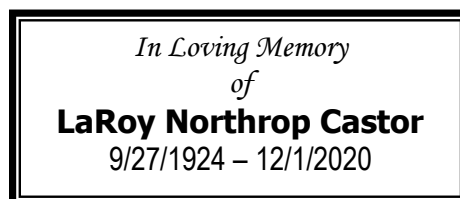
Viola: Timothy Schwarz

Organ: Rich Spotts

In need of special prayers this week: Len Browna, Roy Castor, Michael Kemp, Laura Lockhart, Sylvia Weed (mother of Kathryn Jablokow, Barbara LaNore (sister of Lynda Smyth), Bruce D. Meissner (son of Judy and Bud Meissner), Sylvia Jolly, MM Harris, Herb Harris, Gary Lynch (son of Doug Lynch), Chris Popescu (aunt of Joanne Bates), Herb Ewald (husband of Lynda Ewald), Marty Bell (cousin of Alice Price), Elizabeth Cole (granddaughter of Nancy Webb Cole), Doris Boerner, Helen Porter (mother of Joe Porter), Janet Wells (mother of Gwen Bihn), Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Christine Kim (wife of Stephen Kim), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Phyllis Frazier, Nick Cupo, Sr., Joanne Hawkins (mother of Nick Cupo), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., John & Carolyn Burrell (parents of Janet Gildner), Susan Arnhold (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Kris and Erik Reidenbach (friends of Sally Adams), Linda Doyle, the Carpenter & Trammell families.

For Pastoral Care: To notify the church of an illness, hospitalization, death, or to request prayer, contact a minister or call your Deacon or the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.

Sympathy and prayers for the family of Roy Castor, as they mourn his recent death.



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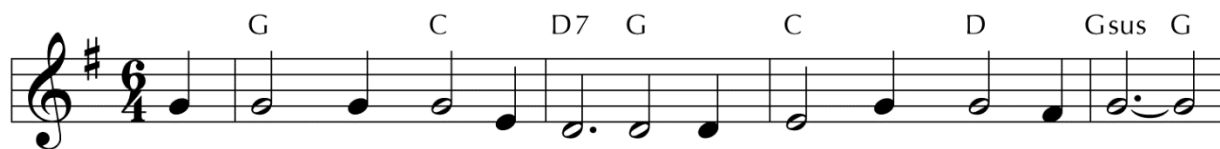
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Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

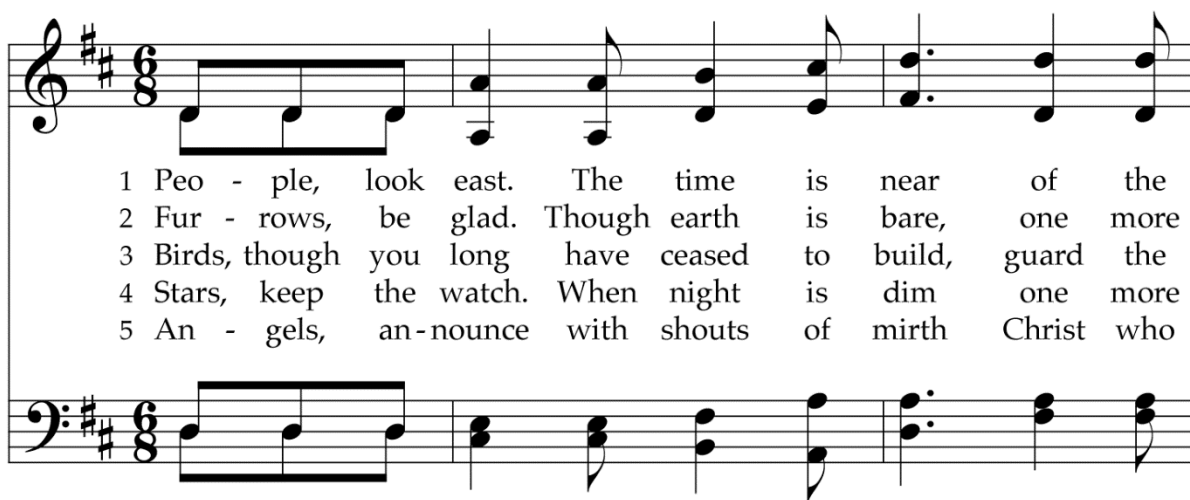
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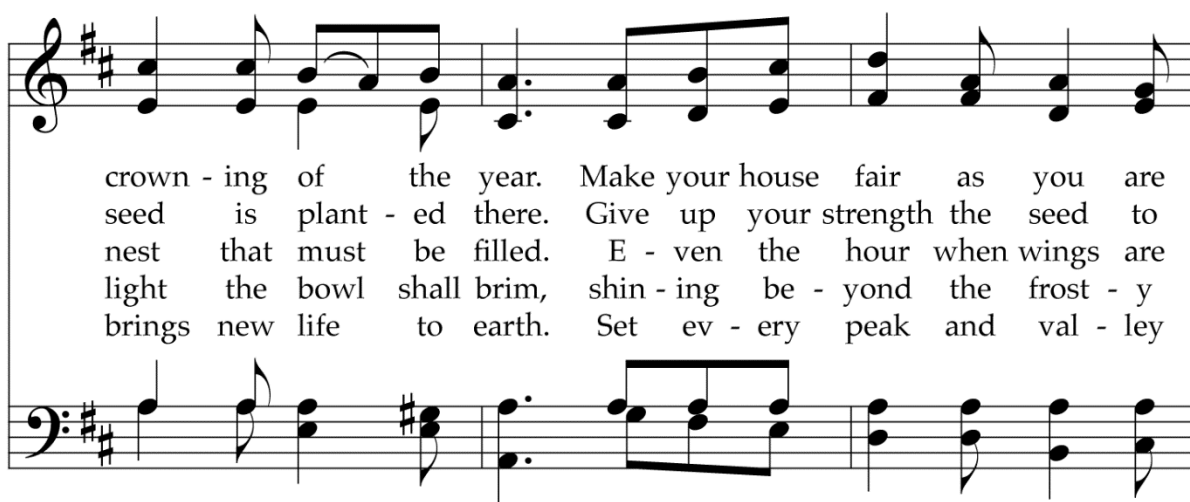
BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

105

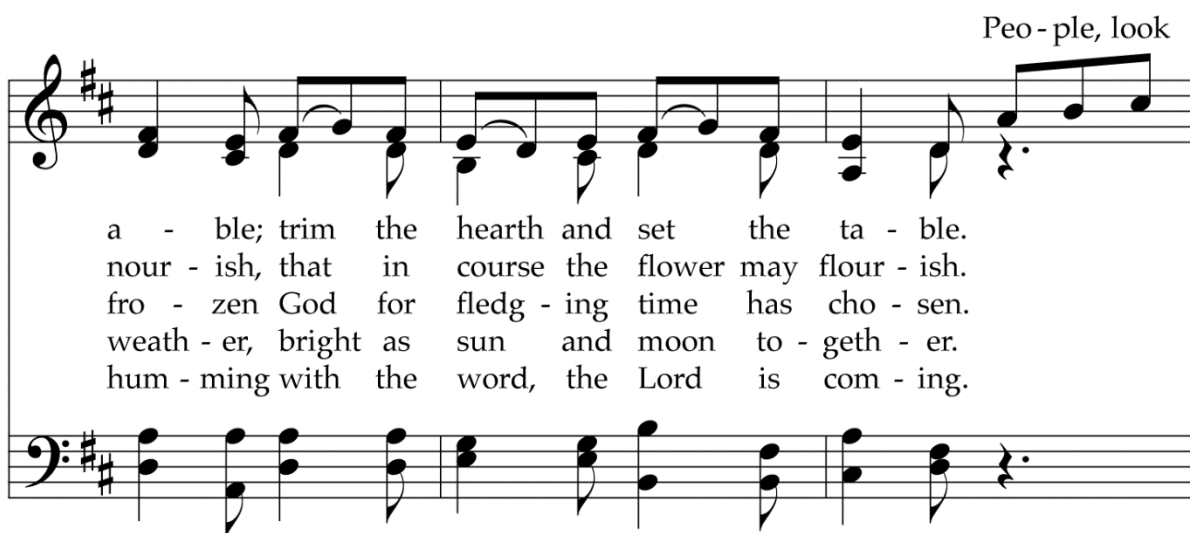
People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who




crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley



Peo - ple, look


a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:



Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)



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 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain