

December 2-8, 2020

Sharing good news from
Reformation Lutheran Church



Peace and Joy in Every Day.
—Isaiah 55:12

The Weekly Word



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Scripture Readings for Sunday, December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent
All Readings Have Been Included in this week's Weekly Word

LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray



A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

■ FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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.

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

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get 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!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He 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.

■ PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13



¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob. ²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins. ⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you. ⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. ¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. ¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase. ¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

"You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace. The mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." —Isaiah 55:12

■ SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

■ THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK: Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

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

Praise to you, O Christ!

I have baptized you with water... but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



P: God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

P: Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work, especially (*names*). Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



SUNDAY'S GUEST WORSHIP LEADER WILL BE MICHAEL BURNETT


In Pastor John's absence, Michael Burnett, Campus Minister for United Campus Ministries at Christopher Newport University will once again lead our services this coming Sunday.

A native of Poquoson, Michael graduated from Poquoson High School and is a graduate of Christopher Newport University with a degree in Philosophy/Religious Studies. He is currently a certified candidate for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church.



We welcome him to Reformation and thank him for taking part in our services this Sunday as Pastor recovers from the flu.

December 6	8:30	11:00
Ushers	Judith Amdal	Mary Armbrister
Asst. Minister	George Duda	Diane Stallings
Lector	George Duda	Tom Kellen



There will be NO Table Talk this week. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 16th at 6:30pm on ZOOM.

ATTENTION COUNCIL MEMBERS!

The DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING will be TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8th at 6:00 p.m. on ZOOM.

Please have all MINISTRY REPORTS to the Parish Office, in electronic format, no later than 12 noon on MONDAY, DECEMBER 7th.

Thank you!



Happy Upcoming Birthdays To:

Maisie Jane Scarino
Thursday, December 3rd

Mike Kershner
Tuesday, December 8th


zoom WITH US THIS SUNDAY AT 10AM

This week, Jerry Plassman will be leading our ZOOM meeting. If you need the meeting ID and passcode, please contact Jerry. Note that it will differ from the one Pastor uses.


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That's how many months it has been since Reformation Coffee Group has met. We won't be meeting in December.

As we wonder with the Psalmist, "How long, O Lord?" we raise our prayers for all, worldwide, who are making the same lament. We also raise our voices of wonder and praise: "Unto us a child is born."



Peace be with you.





We learned this week of the passing of Alan Averill, son of Bob and Louise Averill. Linda Bailey was kind enough to inform us so we could pass this information on to Reformation members who may remember the Averill family.