

Astoria First United Methodist Church

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances

CENTERING MUSIC

“Thanking You”

Stephen Morden

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

*“He Came Down”
“Everybody Sing”*

**FWS # 2085
v2**

LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

“Candle of Peace”

James Cook

ADVENT SCRIPTURE

“Isaiah 40:1-11”

Pastor Michael

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: “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. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry!” And I said,[c] “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.* Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

SCRIPTURE READING***“2 Peter 3:8-15”*****James Cook**

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation.

SPECIAL MUSIC***“O Come All Ye Faithful”*****Stephen Morden****UNISON PRAYER FOR CONFESSION****James Cook**

Into the dark depths of our fear and anguish, you, O Lord, reach out to us. We need your guidance this day, for we have found it far too easy to stray into selfish pathways. We seek first our own comfort; we proclaim that all is right with the world, yet our hearts feel strangely dis comforted. Guide us and gather us, Lord. Teach us to be people of peace and hope. Help us to cast off the mantle of greed and hatred. Forgive us for the many times when we have ignored the cries of those in need; when we have turned our backs on opportunities to help others. Forgive us, Lord. Teach us to be a people of peace and justice. Help us again to hear the voice of one who cries in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we offer this prayer. AMEN.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**WORDS OF ASSURANCE****James Cook**

God’s forgiving love has been poured upon each one of us. Hear the good news! You are healed and forgiven! AMEN.

HYMN OF PREPARATION**UMH #500*****“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”*****GOSPEL LESSON*****“Mark 1:1-8”*****Pastor Michael****SERMON*****“Brokenness & Getting to the Heart of the Matter”*****Pastor Michael****JOYS AND CONCERNS****Mary Frances**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Michael

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Michael

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. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

(Please remember to bring the communion elements of the bread and juice with you today)

BENEDICTION:

Pastor Michael

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Advent worship opportunity via ZOOM starting
Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. through December 22nd**

Christmas Eve Service with Seaside via ZOOM at 7:00 p.m.

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC
as they join us for worship.**

**We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.
Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.**

If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.

We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.
