

# Calvary United Methodist Church

*Sunday, December 6, 2020; 10:15 am*

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

*Dee Freeman*

### Call To Worship

Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.

**We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.**

Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.

**Comfort, comfort O my people says our God of love.**

**The grass withers and the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever!<sup>1</sup>**

### Invocation of the Spirit

### Opening Hymn

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

See the next page for the lyrics.

### First Testament Lesson:

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

“Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 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. A voice cries out: “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. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” 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. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. 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!” See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 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.”

(Isaiah 40:1-11 NRSV)

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/opening-liturgy-isaiah-40-1-11.html>

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Our lists are long, even in this strange mess where we live these days. And we want to do it right, we want to be safe, but we want to be able to enjoy the season. We've got work to do to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend the relationships, and to prepare for the company that will come.

**The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open the door into our lives.**

So, we light these candles as a sign of our faith that the God we worship is not far from us and that we can clear the way for that God to come and dwell with us. We light these candles in faith that company is coming.

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

## Declaration of Praises

## Sharing of Prayer Concerns

## Prayer Time

## Scripture Lesson

Mark 1:1-8

"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' " John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Mark 1:1-8 NRSV)

## Sermon

*Rev. Matthew Williams*

*Company's Coming: Clean-up Crew!*

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

## Closing Hymn

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

See the next page for the lyrics.

## Benediction

## Postlude

*Dee Freeman*

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 196

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy  
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,  
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is-rael's strength and con - so -  
now thy gra-cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of  
spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

# 238 Angels We Have Heard on High

1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;  
 4. See him in a man - ger laid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav - en - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.  
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a,

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - -

BIRTH AND BAPTISM

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "BIRTH AND BAPTISM". It consists of two staves: a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The vocal line is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics "ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!" are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment is written in a bass clef with the same key signature. The music features a variety of note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## Announcements

- We would like to deplete our inventory of holiday nuts; if you can help us do that, it will be appreciated. They are in the chapel. Call Myrna to access building if you don't have a key.

3 bags of Almonds @ \$10 a bag  
5 bags of Honey Roasted Peanuts @ \$7 a bag  
5 bags of Pistachios @ \$11 a bag  
3 bags of Harvest Medley @ \$11 a bag

- We are sharing the love of Christ by reaching out to 70 foster care children who won't be able to be with their families during the holidays. Hearts have been removed from our Foster Care Tree at the Bheam Ave. entrance.

### Reminder to those have a heart(s):

The heart lists age and sex of each child and a list of ideas for gifts. Each gift is to be approximately \$20-\$25. Gifts are to be wrapped with the heart placed back on the gift for identification.

**Gifts must be dropped off in the sanctuary by Sunday morning, December 13, to ensure timely delivery to the children.**



**If you don't have a key to access the building, buzz in at Bheam Ave. and Myrna will let you in. Call the church office at 535-1236 before coming to be sure Myrna is in the office. She will be working some days in the office and some days from home.**