

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.”

Sermon Rev. Sharon Carter

Responding in Faith

Affirmation of Faith *Apostles’ Creed (ecumenical)* p.14

The Service of Giving

Prayer of Dedication Offering Music
+Response *Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)* #23

Notes

The Service of Holy Communion Sharing of Joys and Concerns 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.

It is truly right...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy holy holy is the Lord of hosts. (2x)

The whole world is full of God’s glory.(3x)

Holy is the Lord!

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Going into the World

+Hymn *People Look East v.1,5* #12

+Charge and Benediction

+Postlude



FELLOWSHIP



MISSION



WORSHIP



THE BODY OF CHRIST THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church
 December 10, 2017
 +Stand as you are able
Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold

Preparing Ourselves

Prelude
 Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent candle

L: God is on the way! The earth and all its people will be renewed! We light candles today for the hope and peace of God's coming.

P: In that day God will purify all of us and restore the goodness of creation; together we will shine with the glory of God's righteousness. (two candles are lit.)

Let us pray: **Covenant God, You send us messengers to prepare us for your coming. May we heed their call to witness your arrival and may we welcome you with open arms. We pray this in the name of Christ, who taught us to pray together: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

+Hymn *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus #2*

Call to Confession

Confession Let us pray: **Preparing God, you have sent us prophets but we have not listened. Our idea of what is right is often centered on ourselves and our wants, rather than your call to live as your people in the world. Forgive us, O God, and help us make way for you in our hearts, in our homes and in the world. (moment of silence.)**

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.:
 P: **In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Song *like a child v.1,2* STF2092

In what ways are you comforted by God? In what ways does the world need to be comforted by God?

The Peace

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Anthem *I Hear the Prophet Calling*
 Choplin

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Holy one, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to be your path into the world. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11 Comfort, 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

In the quote from Ezekiel and Isaiah that is found in Mark 1:2-3, who is the "you" that the way is being prepared for? How did John prepare the way for Jesus? How do we prepare a way?

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.

Hymn *Comfort, Comfort You My People #3*

Mark 1:1-8 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of