

**December 4, 2022**  
**Second Sunday in Advent**

## **PREPARATION**

Pre-service music

Words of welcome

Lighting of the advent candle (see last page)

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you**

Let Us Pray... Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **HEARING THE WORD**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Short period of silence for meditation)*

**Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (Read responsively by whole verse)**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,

and your righteousness to the king's son;

**<sup>2</sup>that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

**<sup>4</sup>Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

**<sup>6</sup>Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**<sup>18</sup>Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup>And blessed be your glorious name forever,

and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

**Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13**

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

<sup>11</sup>and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may

abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**The word of the Lord.** Thanks be to God.  
*(Short period of silence for meditation)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Please stand and speak together:*

**Hallelujah!**  
**Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption in drawing near.**  
**Hallelujah!**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON – REV. DERRICK FALLON**

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**HYMN OF THE DAY (NEXT PAGE)**

## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *(begins with an extended period of silence)*

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. *A brief silence.*

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians (*especially John of Damascus, whom we commemorate today*). Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## **PEACE AND OFFERTORY**

### **PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **OFFERTORY & OFFERTORY HYMN**

Praise to you, O Christ our savior (verses 1 & 2 – refrain / stanza / refrain)

# Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior

*Refrain*

Em Bm Em Am D Em C G Am D Em C Bm

Praise to you, O Christ, our Sav-ior, Word of the Fa - ther, call-ing us to life:

Em Am Em Bm Am D G Em C Em7 Am Bm Em

Son of God who leads us to free-dom; glo - ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

1 You are the Word who calls us out of dark - ness;  
 2 You are the one whom proph - ets hoped and longed for;  
 3 You are the Word who calls us to be ser - vants;  
 4 You are the Word who binds us and u - nites us;

C G Am Bm C D

you are the Word who leads us in - to light; you are the Word who  
 you are the one who speaks to us to - day; you are the one who  
 you are the Word whose on - ly law is love; you are the Word made  
 you are the Word who calls us to be one; you are the Word who

Em Em7 C Am Dsus4 D G Em

*Refrain*

brings us through the des - ert: glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!  
 leads us to our fu - ture: glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!  
 flesh who lives a - mong us: glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!  
 teach - es us for - give - ness: glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!

C Am Dsus4 D C Am D Bm

*Refrain*



## OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of Abundance **C: we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience, hope and love, as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## THE PENITENTIAL RITE

Invitation to Confession:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession:

L: God of all time,

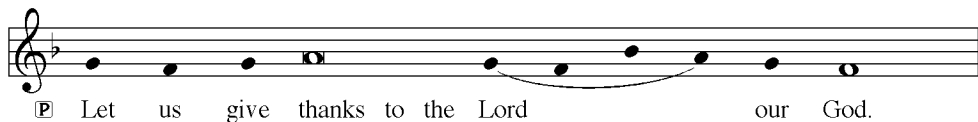
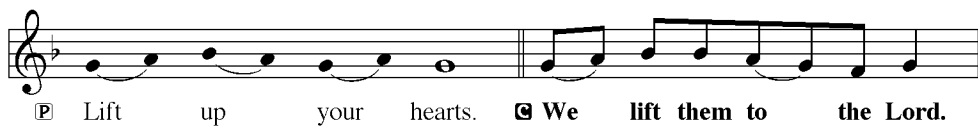
**C: we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Absolution:

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.**

## THE MEAL

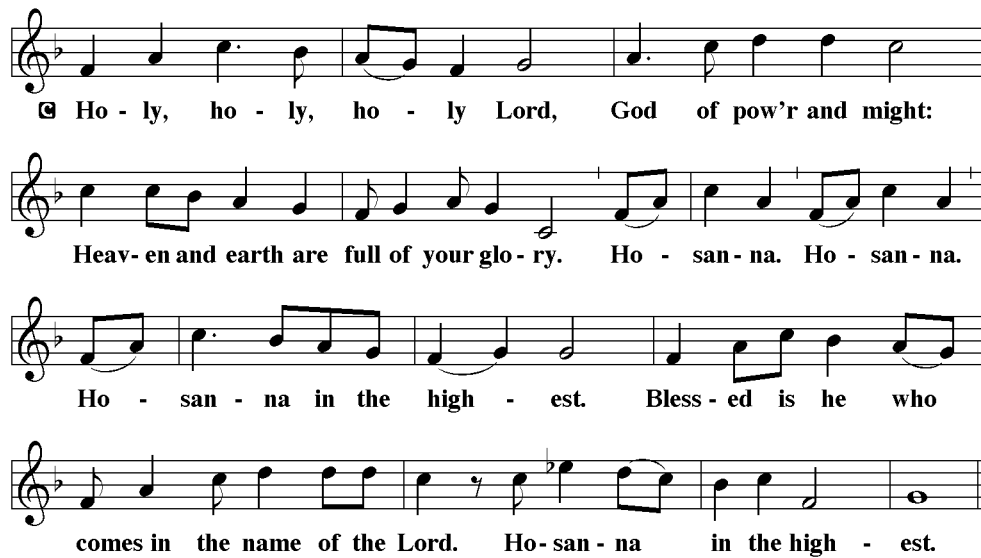
### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God; you comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all

things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san- na. Ho - san- na.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,  
our Salvation and our Hope,  
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.  
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,  
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.  
At this end of the ages  
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love  
and to heal all the suffering world.  
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
in righteousness and peace.  
Send your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

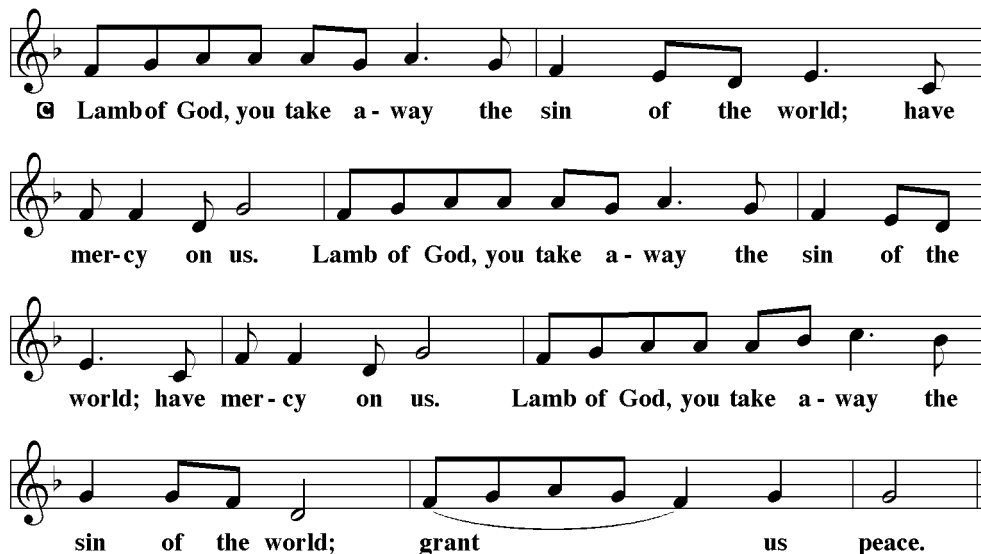
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **FRACTION**

#### **LAMB OF GOD**



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

### **COMMUNION**

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

## TABLE BLESSING

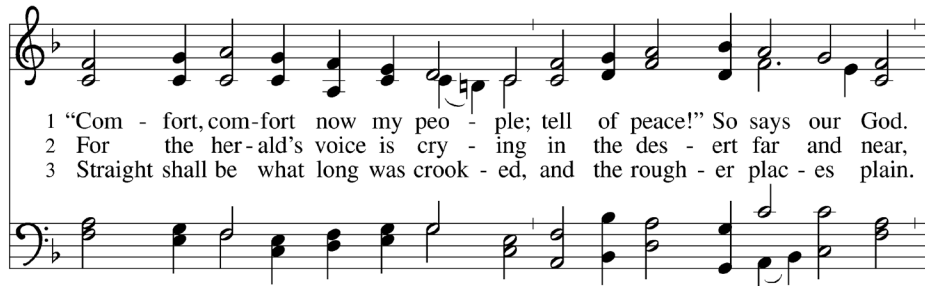
The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

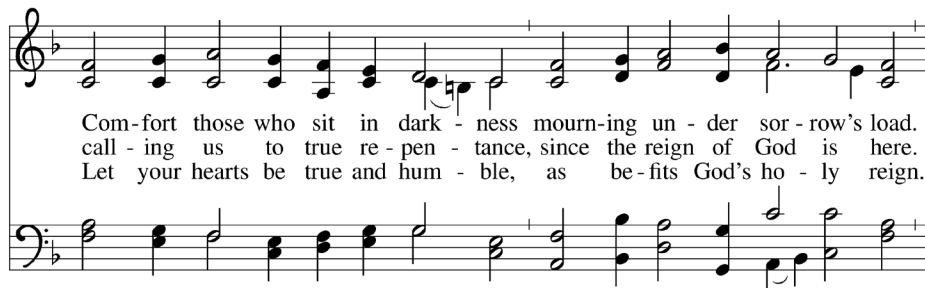
Let us Pray....Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN


### Comfort, Comfort Now My People



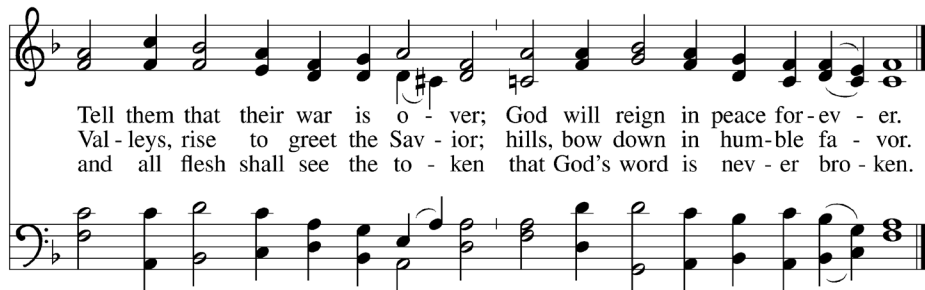
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

## **BLESSING**

God the eternal Word,  
who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Advent and Christmas at Shepherd of the Hills:**

December 4 (Advent II) – Today’s service will be led by Rev. Derrick Fallon

December 11 (Advent III) – The morning service will be led by Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy. After the service, we will decorate the Church and tree for Christmas.

December 18 (Advent IV) – This morning’s worship with Rev. Laura Cadmus will be our traditional service of Lessons and Carols for Advent and will include the blessing of our Christmas tree.

December 24 (Christmas Eve) – 5:30pm – Led by Rev. Rick Neu, we join in singing our favorite carols, celebrating the birth of our Savior, as recorded in Luke 2, and rejoicing with Holy Communion.

December 25 (Christmas Day) – 9:30 am – The morning service will be led by Rev. Neu

# PROVIDING BETTER FUTURES IN PERU

BY MELANIE GIBBONS

**MATTHEW 3:1-12 | FINDING HOPE IN THE WILDERNESS**

**ADVENT WEEK 2 | CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022

God of Hope, John the Baptist reminds us that choosing your way sometimes leads us into the wilderness. When we cry out for your divine comfort, teach us also to speak tenderly to our neighbors near and far, proclaiming your love to all. God of the wilderness:

## **EMBOLDEN US TO SHINE YOUR HOPE INTO ALL THE WORLD.**

God of Hope, as we light this second candle, we remember that you call us to courage. When we meet injustice, may we hold firm. When it feels easier to turn away, strengthen us to see you in the face of our neighbor, especially those we may not understand. God of the wilderness:

## **EMBOLDEN US TO SHINE YOUR HOPE INTO ALL THE WORLD.**

God of Hope, today we remember our siblings in Peru who live their lives in a real, physical wilderness. Give Deysi and her family continued courage in their journey. May we learn from our neighbors how to see beauty and life in our own wild places. God of the wilderness:

## **EMBOLDEN US TO SHINE YOUR HOPE INTO ALL THE WORLD.**

God of Hope, as John challenged his followers to open their eyes and hearts to different priorities, grant us the courage to open our own. Help us speak your love into the lives of our neighbors with boldness and compassion. God of the wilderness:

## **EMBOLDEN US TO SHINE YOUR HOPE INTO ALL THE WORLD.**

God of Hope, thank you for loving us as we are, and for giving us the courage to continue becoming. May we see hope and life in the transformation to which you call us. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One we long for in this season of hope.

**AMEN.**



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