

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

The Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

The First Reading

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 for ever. 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.

Psalm

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.

8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Do 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. The 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. But 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.

Since 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, waiting 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? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

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

The Gospel Reading

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."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Announcements

Birthdays this month

1st: Laura Newsom
 1st: Lincoln Randell
 2nd: Connie Fedrizzi
 2nd: Susan Schug
 6th: Gloria Akinson
 6th: Janet Sue Whetzel
 7th: Isabella Newsom
 14th: Becky Supercinski
 21st: Ron Raif
 26th: Jeff Richardson
 27th: Don King
 28th: Kayla Smith
 31st: John Dawes

This Week at SMAA

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

6:00 pm Dinner & fellowship

Sunday, December 17, 2023

9:00 am Bible Study
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Poinsettia Dedications

If you would like to provide a Poinsettia for the Sanctuary, please fill out the form located in the narthex and place in the offering plate. Suggested donation: \$20.00 per Poinsettia. Please indicate "Poinsettia" on your check

UPCOMING in DECEMBER

Sunday, December 17th, after the service

Family tree decorating party, bring a family ornament.

Sunday, December 17th, 4-8PM

Church Christmas Party at Bryan & Charlyne White's Home. Bring Hors D'oeuvres

Sunday, December 24th, after the service

Church decorating party, preparing the church for the Christmas Eve evening service. Need volunteers to help.

Sunday, December 24th, Evening service

Christmas Carols will begin at **5:45 PM** and service will begin at **6:00 PM**.

Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- Andrew McWhorter
- Bill Magee
- The Akinson & Brown Families
- Lorraine, Pete and Margie Litterski

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering.

Or, send an email with your request to: prayer@smaalongview.org

**** Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. ****

Stewardship Update

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	ABOVE/BELOW
11/12/23	\$2,064	\$2,939	-\$875
11/19/23	\$2,399	\$2,939	-\$540
11/26/23	\$1,237	\$2,939	-\$1,702
12/03/23	\$5,125	\$2,939	\$2,186
YTD TOTALS	\$164,084	\$144,004	\$20,080

NEXT Sunday's Servers (12/17)

Acolytes: Michael Greathouse

Cameras & Streaming: Robert Brown

Danny's Team: Mary Lynn Dawes

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Buffington

Greeter: Joshua Martinez

Lector: Ruby Hahne

Nursery Helper: Helen Daniel

Ushers: David Brown

Vestry People: Susan Schug, Susan Brown

Worship Tech: Amy Brown

St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church

The Rev. Tracey F. Carroll

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