

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016 · 8:30 a.m. Worship

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Songs and Prayer

Advent Reading

This is a time of year when patience yields to frustration, fulfillment turns to greed, and enough simply becomes not enough. In these days of excess, we wonder how we can ever change our understanding of God's provision—for us, our families, friends and strangers alike. Where is the justice in it all?

[Light the first candle.]

Because our God is a God of justice, we too are a people of justice, and inequality will not rule our land. The poor will live with the rich, the adult will learn from the child, and God's provision will be enough. We light this candle today to provide a reminder that even a small flame is enough to cast light all around it—assurance that our work for justice can speak with the voice of God.

[Light the second candle.]

One: And so we offer this mysterious prayer:

ALL: Lord Jesus, quickly come.

Opening Prayer

Holy God, we gather with expectation and hope as we approach the advent of your Son, Jesus of Nazareth, whose coming was foretold by prophets of old. Grant that through the singing of your praise, and hearing of your Word, we may be prepared for another encounter with the Living Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Readings and Message

Old Testament Lesson – Isaiah 11:1-10

*Gospel Lesson – Matthew 3:1-12

Children's Message

Sermon – “Prepare the Way of Justice”

Pastor Alan

Response

Pastoral Prayer

Communion

Invitation to Holy Communion

Confession and Assurance of Pardon

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Offering

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Supper

Closing Songs and Prayer

*For those who are able, please stand