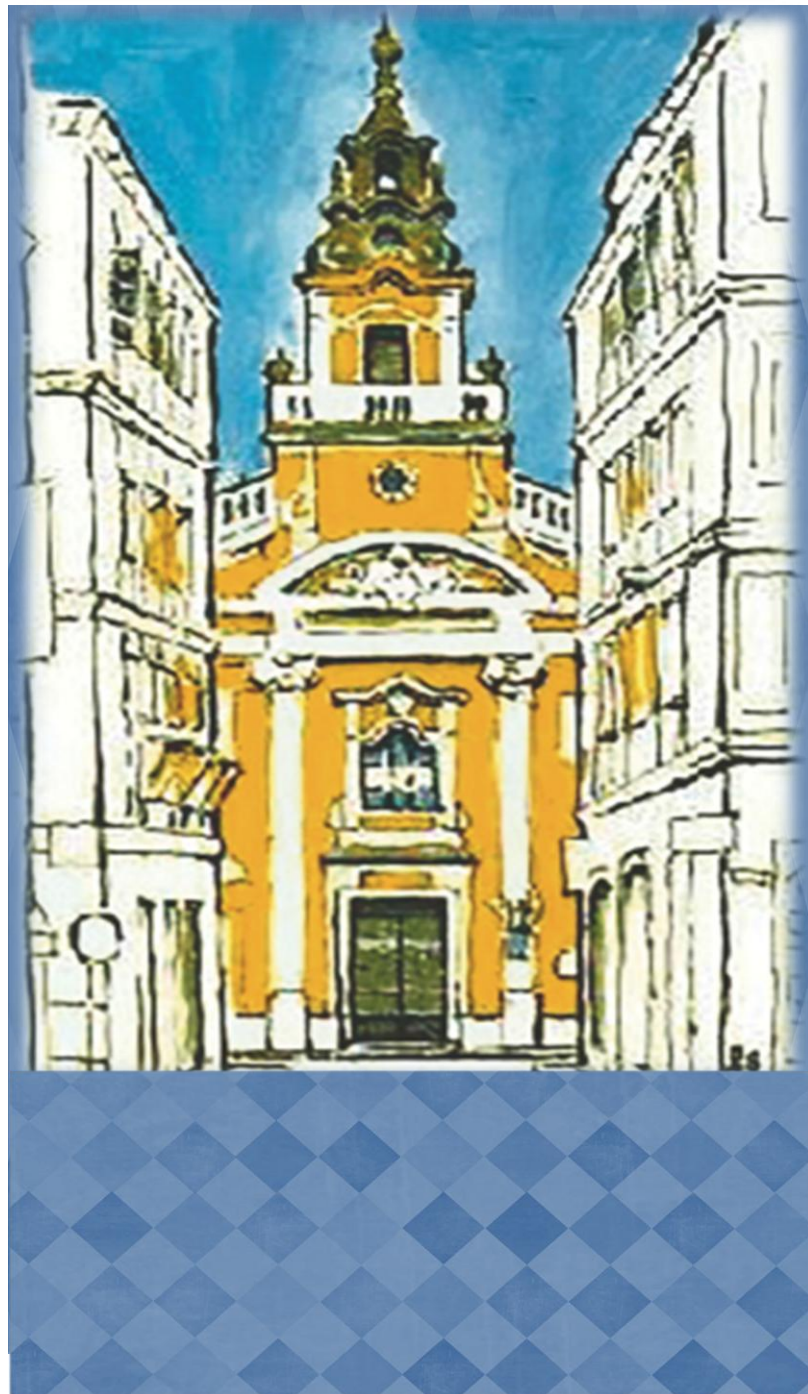


PRAISE AND WORSHIP

*6 December 2020 – Second Sunday of Advent – at 12 Noon
VCC Online Service*



WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Tomasz Piętak

Prayer

VOICE: Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of **hope**. We light it again as we remember that Christ will come again to fulfil all of God's promises to us.

VOICE: The second candle of Advent is the Candle of **Peace**. It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle to remind us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

VOICE: Peace is a gift that we must be prepared for. God gives us the gift of peace when we turn to him in faith.

VOICE: The prophet Isaiah calls Christ "the Prince of Peace." Through John the Baptist and all the other prophets, God asks us to prepare our hearts so that he may come in.

VOICE: Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ. Our peace is found in him. We light this candle today to remind us that he brings peace to all who trust in him.

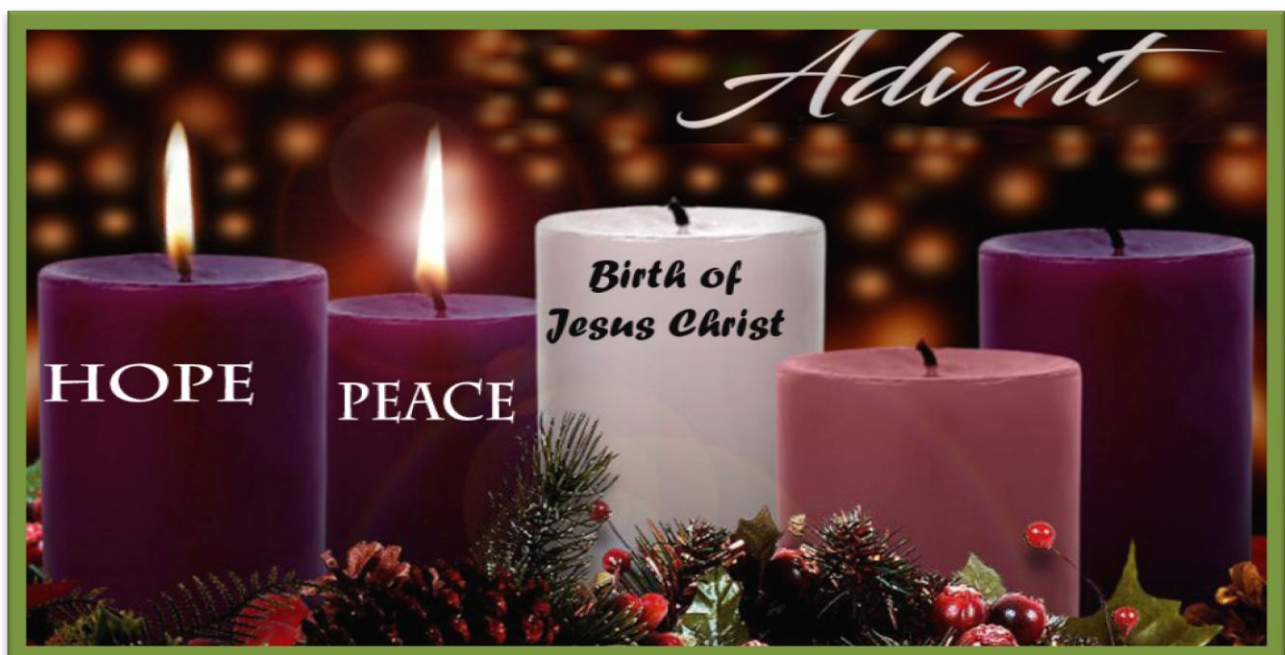
Advent Second Candle Lighting

Sonja Botha

• #132 *When God Is A Child*

2. Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.

Refrain: When God is a child
there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first
and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.



VOICE LET US PRAY. Loving God, thank you for the peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship. Guide us in all that we say and do. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Greeting/Announcements

Rev. Dr. Neil Parker

• #125 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set your people free.
From our fears and sins release us;
Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
You, our strength and consolation,
come salvation to impart;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of many a longing heart.

2. Born your people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
born your gracious realm to bring.
By your own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit
raise us to your glorious throne.

WE HEAR THE WORD

Scripture Readings

Sonja Botha

2 Peter 3:8-15 (NIV)

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. **9** The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.^[a]

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives **12** as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.^[b] That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. **13** But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. **15** Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

Footnotes:

a) [2 Peter 3:10](#) Some manuscripts be burned up

b) [2 Peter 3:12](#) Or as you wait eagerly for the day of God to come

Responsive Psalm

Isaiah 40:1-11 (NIV)

Comfort for God's People

- 1 Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
- 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
- 3 A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord^[a];
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.^[b]"
- 4 Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
- 5 And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
- 6 A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
- 7 The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.
- 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."
- 9 You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,^[c]
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
- 10 See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

11 He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

Footnotes

- a. [Isaiah 40:3](#) Or A voice of one calling in the wilderness: / "Prepare the way for the LORD
- b. [Isaiah 40:3](#) Hebrew; Septuagint make straight the paths of our God
- c. [Isaiah 40:9](#) Or Zion, bringer of good news, / go up on a high mountain. / Jerusalem, bringer of good news

Sermon

**Peace when there
Is no Peace**

Rev. Dr. Neil Parker

WE RESPOND IN THANKS AND PRAYER

Responsive Song – Arise, Shine

Chanda Rule & Ruth Cunningham

Arise, shine!
for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD
has dawned upon you

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Doxology

Recorded

Announcements / Sharing

WE GO INTO GOD'S WORLD WITH BLESSING

Live Performance

• **Blessing / Commissioning**

• **#312 Amen**

- Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Tomasz Piętak