

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

Color: Blue or Purple

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#) (Comfort and hope coming to God's people in exile)

[Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13](#) (Salvation is at hand)

[2 Peter 3:8-15a](#) (Waiting for and hastening the day of God)

[Mark 1:1-8](#) (The ministry of John the Baptist)

Themes: Preparation, Waiting, Salvation, John the Baptist, Peace

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.

Baptized In Water (BUNESAN).....	Mark
Comfort, Comfort, Now My People (GENEVAN 42 aka FREU DICH SEHR).....	Isaiah, Mark
Dona Nobis Pacem (DONA NOBIS PACEM)	Psalms
Go, Tell It on the Mountain (GO TELL IT)	Isaiah
Heaven Shall Not Wait (HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT).....	2 Peter
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (HOUSTON)	2 Peter, Mark
Lift Up Your Heads (TRURO)	Isaiah, 2 Peter
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (BEECHER; HYFRYDOL)	2 Peter
Now the Heavens Start to Whisper (JEFFERSON; SUO GAN)	Isaiah, Mark
O Zion, Haste (TIDINGS)	Isaiah, 2 Peter
On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry (PUER NOBIS NASCITUR; WINCHESTER NEW).....	Isaiah, Mark
People, Look East (BESANÇON).....	Isaiah, Mark
Prepare the Royal Highway (BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN).....	Isaiah, Mark
Songs of Praise the Angels Sang (MONKLAND).....	2 Peter
Watchman, Tell Us of the Night (ABERYSTWYTH).....	Isaiah, 2 Peter

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

Abide With Us, Emmanuel – ME..... Psalms
Marty Haugen
© 2015, GIA Publications, G-9010
SATB, Solo, Keyboard, opt. Guitar, C-Instrument

And the Glory of the Lord – MD Isaiah
G. F. Handel, from “*MESSIAH*”
Various publishers
SATB, Keyboard

Blest Be the God of Israel – M Isaiah, Mark
MERLE’S TUNE, Hal Hopson/M. Burkhardt, arr.
© 1997, MorningStar Music, 60-0002
SATB or Unison, Organ

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain – M
Carolyn Jennings..... Isaiah
© 1981, Kjos Music, C8118
SATB, opt. Children’s Choir, Keyboard

Come, O Precious Ransom – MD 2 Peter
Mark Shepperd
© 2006, MorningStar Music, 50-0041
SATB, Handbells (5)

Comfort, Comfort – M..... Isaiah
GENEVAN 42/Matthew Culloton, arr.
© 2017, Galaxy Music Corp., 1.3489
SSAA, Flute, Drum

Comfort, Comfort – E Isaiah
GENEVAN 42/J.S. Bach, Edward Klammer, ed.
© 1987, GIA Publications, G-3112
Unison or SATB, Keyboard, Strings

Love and Mercy – E Psalms
Walter Pelz
© 2006, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-3869-6
SATB, Keyboard, opt. C-Instrument

Mercy and Truth Are Met – MD Psalms
Ned Rorem
© 1988, Boosey & Hawkes, 6101
SATB, Keyboard

Prepare the Way, O Zion – M Isaiah, Mark
BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN/Kenneth Dake, arr.
© 2012, MorningStar Music, 50-0425
SATB, Violin, Organ

We Are Waiting – ME..... 2 Peter
William Paxson
© 2004, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-7664-3
SATB, a cappella

– CHILDREN AND YOUTH –

He Shall Feed His Flock – E..... Isaiah, Mark
G. F. Handel, from “*MESSIAH*”/ M. Burkhardt, arr.
© 1991, MorningStar Music, 50-9404
Unison, Keyboard, opt. 2 C-Instruments

Prepare Ye – E Isaiah, Psalms
Stephen Schwartz (from “*GODSPELL*”)
© 1971, Valendano Music, i4033a
SATB, Keyboard, opt. Guitar, Drums

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

“The big question is whether you are going to be able to say a hearty yes to your adventure.”

— JOSEPH CAMPBELL, *The Power of Myth*, 1988

“You can see that there is no easy walk to freedom anywhere, and many of us will have to pass through the valley of the shadow of death again and again before we reach the mountain tops of our desires.”

— NELSON MANDELA, “*No Easy Walk to Freedom*,” 1953

CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Isaiah 40:1-5)

Leader: Comfort, O Comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to them and offer my peace.

People: Speak, O Lord, for we long to hear a word from you.

Leader: 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.

**People: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and we shall
all see it together.**

Leader: For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

People: For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Leader: Friends, let us worship God, who builds highways of hope,
provides maps for travel, and brings exiles home.

**ALL: Reveal your glory, Lord, and open our hearts to receive
your Spirit. AMEN.**

— F. Timothy Moore*

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ADVENT WREATH/CANDLELIGHTING

Week 2: The Candle of Peace

READING (Psalm 85:8-9)

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his
faithful, to those who turn to him in their
hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for
those who fear him, that his glory may
dwell in our land.

LITANY

O come, Immanuel, God-with-us.
Come Light. Come Peace.
Shine in the shadows.
Brighten your world.
It is in PEACE that we light a candle,
for surely, your salvation is at hand.

SONG

**O sing a song of Bethlehem,
Of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them
From angels in the air:
The light that shone on Bethlehem
Fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth
The angels sing alway.**

— "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem," Louis F. Benson, 1899

GATHERING PRAYER

God of hope, we expectantly wait for you to break through the darkness that overshadows these days. Where fear paralyzes us, grant us a love that casts out fear. Where despair sees only obstacles, provide hope that imagines a way to make the rough places a plain. Where mistrust divides people, deliver a faith in us where we love our neighbors as ourselves. Reveal to us the glory of the Lord. In Jesus Christ, who is still being born into this world, we pray. AMEN.

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AN ADVENT PRAYER

[Have a soloist sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"]

O Lord, we confess that, like the early Christians, we are tired of waiting. It may be that "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day," but our days are irreplaceable. How Long, O Lord?

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

While we wait for you to break us free from disease, economic strains, and racial injustices that have plagued us too long, we hear your call to prepare the way. Empower us to be about your work for the living of these days. Enable us to walk by faith, not by sight.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

Emmanuel. God with us. The prophet Isaiah said they shall name him, Emmanuel, which means God is with us. With us through whatever challenges we face. With us when we step forward into uncertain days. Emmanuel be born in us anew.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Rejoice? Yes, rejoice. Even as we wait for God's reign of justice and peace. We wait not with idle hands, but actively, living into the promises of God.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

In this Advent hope we wait. In the name of Jesus, who came to give us life, we pray.

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BENEDICTION

Friends, a voice has cried out, "prepare the way of the Lord." So, as you go back into the world, rejoice and encourage the downhearted, pray without ceasing, live into hope. And may the Lord bless you and keep you every step of the way. AMEN.

* Thanks to Rev. Dr. F. Timothy Moore for writing this week's liturgy.
Tim is the author of [Practicing Midrash: Reading the Bible's Arguments as an Invitation to Conversation](#) (Wipf & Stock)

Warren Howell, Editor