

December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude and Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

***Lighting the Advent Candle** (focus: Isaiah 40:1-11)

Leader: O God, we light the second candle of Advent.
(A family member lights the two purple candles)

People: We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

Leader: Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek such a God.

People: Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen.

***Hymn #110:** "Now Bless the God of Israel"

***Passing of the Peace**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 Karen Yoho

Time With Young Disciples

***Unison Prayer**

Emmanuel, Holy One, your face shines on our lives. We are filled with peace. As you lit the sky with angels who spoke words of peace so long ago, we call upon you to be the light of the world that still needs peace desperately. Shine peace on those who struggle to meet their daily needs. Shine peace on those who fear diagnosis, fear tasks of caretaking, fear international conflict. Let our faces reflect to others the peace you shine on us. Amen.

Sermon: "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"

Special Music: "Rise Up Shepherd, and Follow"

The Community at Prayer (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord's Prayer*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

Prayer Response

Invitation to the Offering

(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

We dedicate these gifts that have been shared. Let these gifts usher peace into this world and signal to the people that God is with us. Amen.

***Hymn #119: "My Soul Gives Glory to My God"**

*Commissioning and Blessing

*Choral Response

*Postlude