

# “The Hope that Christmas Brings”

*A Sunday School Christmas Program*

*Please see Christmas Program insert.*

Director: Brittany Gerovac



**Sending:**

P: Go in Peace, Live in the Hope that Christmas brings!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*(CCLI License #1137749)*

## Beaver Valley Lutheran Church

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***Welcome! We are glad you are with us today!!***

*“If you do not have a church home, you are welcome here. If you would like to become a member, contact any member or the church office.”*

Sunday, December 10, 2023; 9:30 am

Second Sunday of Advent

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome/Announcements**

### **Sharing of the Peace/Invocation**

### **Call to Worship**

P: God of captives and pilgrims,  
you brought your people home from despair  
and gave them a land of freedom and plenty.

**C: Look in mercy on us your servants,  
deliver us from the prison of selfishness and sin,  
and bring us home to justice, sharing, and compassion,  
the realm you promised all the world  
in Jesus Christ the Savior. Amen.**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Jason and Lynn Haak, Rensie, Abe

*Light the Candle* (words below)

1) Light the candle as a symbol  
Of the Light that leads the way;

For each candle is a symbol

Of the hope that's ours today.

As we strike the match and light the wick,

Come, Spirit, shine bright.

Grant that all may see from the darkness

Your Gift, Your Truth, Your Light.

2) Light the candle as a symbol

Of the Light that leads the way;

For each candle is a symbol

Of the peace that's ours today.

As we strike the match and light the wick,

Come, Spirit, shine bright.

Grant that all may see from the darkness

Your Gift, Your Truth, Your Light.

**Bridge:** Emmanuel, Son of the Father,  
Come to us now, Savior and Lord.

## Prayer of the Day (All)

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with hopeful lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

Gary Parker

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>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!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>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.

### Alleluia Verse

*All Earth Is Hopeful*

ELW #266 (vs. 2)

### Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

*(Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)*

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' "

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

*(Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**)*

### Devotion

"Hope for Tomorrow, Hope for Today"

#### *Look Up!*

Look up, you whose eyes are fixed on this earth, you who are captured by the events and the changes on the surface of this earth. Look up, you who turned away from heaven to this ground because you had become disillusioned. "Look up, your redemption is drawing near."... Wait and something new will overtake you. God will come, Jesus will take procession of you and you will be a redeemed people! Lift up your heads, you army of the afflicted, the humbled, the discouraged, you defeated army with bowed heads. The battle is not lost, the victory is yours—take courage, be strong! There is no room now for shaking your heads and doubting because Christ is coming.

--Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from, [A Testament to Freedom](#)

### Offering



### Special Music

Beaver Valley Sunday School Band

*Director, Sara Kiefer*

### Hymn of the Day

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW #257 (vss. 1-3 &5)