

**Year B; Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for December 10, 2023**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Isaiah 40:1-11
- Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
- 2 Peter 3:8-15a
- Mark 1:1-8

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Isaiah 40*)

One: After Israel's sin and their trouble in exile, God did not forget them but said to them,

**All: Comfort, O comfort my people.**

One: Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,

**All: that she has received from the Lord's hand double for her sins.**

One: A voice cries out:

**All: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

One: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

**All: the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain."**

One: Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

**All: and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."**

One: A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

**All: All people are like grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.**

One: The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are like grass.

**All: The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.**

One: The LORD will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,

**All: and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. Let us worship God!**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 85*)

One: LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**All: You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.**

One: Let us 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.

**All: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.**

One: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**All: Faithfulness will spring from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

One: The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

**All: Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps. Let us worship God!**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Mark 1:1-8*)

Before Jesus began his formal ministry, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Let us confess our sin to God, repent of our unfaithful ways, and request God's forgiveness.

#### **SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

#### **CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Psalm 85*)

**God of mercy and grace, we find ourselves, also, in a wilderness — a wilderness of a fallen world where sickness, death, war, and violence continue to partially reign. Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us. Do not be angry with us forever; do not prolong your anger to all generations. Revive us again so that your people may rejoice in you. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Forgive our sins and restore us, O God. In the name of the one who knew no sin. Amen.**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Psalm 85*)

The Psalmist testifies that the Lord is favorable to his land; he restored the fortunes of Jacob. He forgave the iniquity of his people and pardoned their sin. Repent and know that you are forgiven. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

**All: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from 2 Peter 3*)

**Merciful God, you are not slow about your promise, but you are patient with each of us. You desire that none should perish and that all would come to repentance. Your patience is beyond ours, O Lord, and your mercy beyond any known in our world. With thanks for your patience, your mercy, and all your blessings, we offer these gifts for your work in the world. Amen.**

Elements in this document are based on the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV). Some portions are direct quotes; though, quotation marks and designations are usually left out for ease of use in bulletins and other worship resources. Usually, the Call to Worship is based upon the Psalm of the day and follows that Psalm very closely but modifying it for a leader vs. congregation responsive setting if necessary. Other elements usually deviate more significantly from the text. While they may quote very short sections, they are generally written in the theme of the text. Elements usually designate the book and chapter from which they are derived.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



Portions not from the *NRSV* are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

For all other uses or cases, © Copyright 2022-2023, Andrew Smothers, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.