

# GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

*Welcome to "Voices of Grace", our virtual worship experience that features parishioners leading worship from their own homes. We hope you join us from yours! Wherever you are, we pray for your health and well-being. God bless you!*

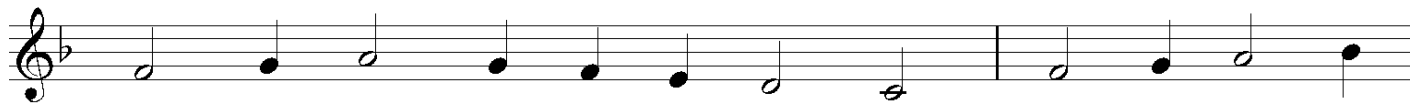
*Jonathan+*

**DECEMBER 6, 2020 ~ THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
VOICES OF GRACE "VIRTUAL" WORSHIP

## VOLUNTARIES

Two Chorale-Preludes on 'Gottes Sohn ist kommen' *Johann Heinrich Buttstedt (1666-1727)*

## HYMN 67



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



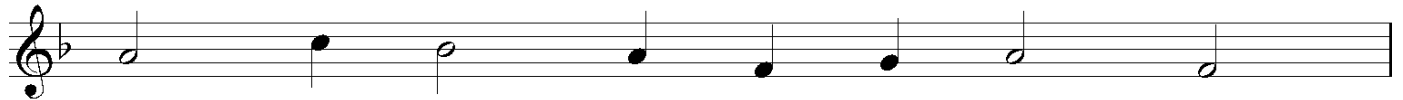
mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -  
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
 let the val - leys rise to meet him  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
 and the hills bow down to greet him.  
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

*Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.  
 Music: Psalm 42, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572);  
 harm. Hymnal 1982*

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

*Read by Maxine & Ruby Galligan-Hubbard*

THE ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS

*Sung by the Choir*

**ADVENT II**

*Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true:  
 to you be praise and glory for ever!*

Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets  
 but in our days you speak through your Son  
 whom you have appointed the heir of all things.

Grant us, your people, to walk in his light  
 that we may be found ready and watching  
 when he comes again in glory and judgement;  
 for you are our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

*Words: from The Promise of His Glory, 1990  
 Music: Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)*



## THE LESSONS

THE FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

*Read by Kathryn Chamberlain*

**C**OMFORT, O COMFORT MY PEOPLE, SAYS YOUR GOD. 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. A voice cries out: "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. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. 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. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. 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!" See, the LORD God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

*Said by all*

*Led by Chelsea Swan*

**You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, \***  
**you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.**  
**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \***  
**and blotted out all their sins.**  
**I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \***  
**for he is speaking peace to his faithful people**  
**and to those who turn their hearts to him.**  
**Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \***  
**that his glory may dwell in our land.**  
**Mercy and truth have met together; \***  
**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**  
**Truth shall spring up from the earth, \***  
**and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**  
**The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \***  
**and our land will yield its increase.**  
**Righteousness shall go before him, \***  
**and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**



ANTHEM

COMFORT YE, MY PEOPLE, saith your God;  
speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,  
that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.  
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

*Words: Isaiah 40:1-3*  
*Music: from Messiah, Part the First, HWV 56, George Frederic Händel (1685-1759)*

THE SECOND LESSON

*Mark 1:1-8*

*Read by Mary Sowab*

**T**HE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*People*      The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

THE HOMILY

The Rector

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Led by Duncan Cook*

*Please join in responding to each petition saying:*

**Hear our prayer.**

ANTHEM

EVERY VALLEY shall be exalted,  
and every mountain and hill made low,  
the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

*Words: Isaiah 40:4*  
*Music: from Messiah, Part the First, HWV 56, George Frederic Händel (1685-1759)*

THE BLESSING

*The Rector*

*The anthems for this virtual service were taken from a live recording of the  
Choir & Choristers of Grace Church in December 2019.  
The Tenor Soloist is Brad Kleyla, accompanied by the Providence Baroque Chamber Orchestra.*

~ PRAYER LIST ~

This week, we pray for: *Mike, Leslie, Gail Kenney, Hope Brothers, Ellen Sherman, Liam Dunlap, Sue Farley, Deborah, A.T. Wall, Williametta Thorpe, Bethany, Ann, Matthew, Bev, Andrea, Maryann, Renee, Beth, Robert Cramer and all those caring for the sick, those seeking treatments and vaccines for the virus, and all those whose work places them in harm's way.* We also pray for those members of our church who are homebound.

THE COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets  
to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:

Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,  
that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



**GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE**

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