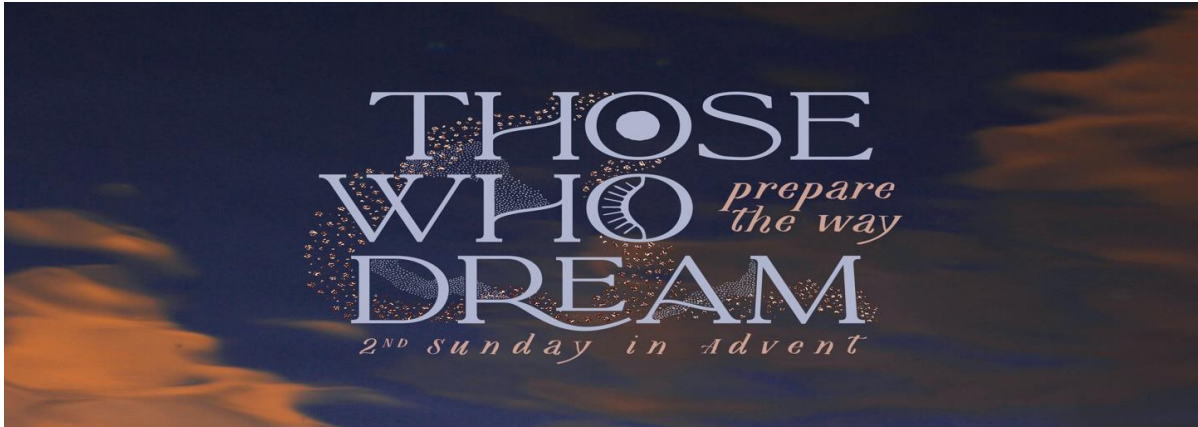


Corbin Presbyterian Church



December 6, 2002

11:00 a.m.

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Mark 1:1-8

Gathering Around the Word

*No matter where we worship, God is with us. Worship is a way of life, not just an event or a physical space.
We cultivate sacred space by slowing down and being still enough to recognize God's presence in our midst, wherever we are.*

Prelude

Puer Natus In Bethlehem

*Dietrich Buxtehude
1637-1707*

Opening Prayer & Welcome

Call to Worship

John the Baptist said, "Prepare the way."

So family of faith, how do we prepare our minds for worship?

We silence the inner critic. We let go of busy thoughts. We make space for God to speak.

How do we prepare our hearts for worship?

We bless all emotions. We feel what we feel. We open ourselves up to be moved.

How do we prepare our bodies for worship?

We take in the scent, sight, and feel of our space. We breathe in God's mercy. We exhale God's love.

How do we prepare our souls for worship?

We bring our full selves into our worship space. We wear our hearts on our sleeves.

We trust that even now, God is here.

Family of faith, what we practice in worship, we must live out in our daily lives.

So prepare the way. Let us worship God.

Hymn

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in ancient story.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,

And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Lighting the Candles of the Advent Wreath – The Candle of Peace

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light the 1st candle in hope. We light the 2nd candle for peace.

Hear the promise of peace from Psalm 85:10-11:

*Steadfast love and faithfulness with meet;
Righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
And righteousness will look down from the sky.*

Prayer: God of hope, God of peace, you speak peace into the world through the way of the Christ-child. Help us to dream of your peace, and live into that dream that we might be called children of God. God of promise God of peace, into our darkness come. Amen.

Response:

*The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our weapons of battle, our hatred and war,
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.*

LYONS

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2015. Used by permission.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

GLORIA

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination



40 Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
2 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.
3 A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of
the Lord,
make straight in the desert a
highway for our God.
4 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.
5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be
revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has
spoken."
6 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.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows
upon it;

surely the people are grass.

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

9 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!"

10 See, the Lord God comes with
might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

11 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 Flower Fades by Hannah Garrity | Inspired by Isaiah 40:11 | paper lace | A Sanctified Art - In this image a single iris stalk rises up with three flowers. Representing the inconstancy of the people, the flower is just beginning to fade and the grasses begin to bend. The breadth of the Lord swirls through the frame. In the background, straight vertical lines represent the paths made straight, the leveling of the ground, the smoothing of the rough places. Yet, in our inconstancy, God is there for us. There is hope, as Isaiah cries out, for God continues to speak peace into being within in. God continues to whisper meaning and purpose into us, teaching us to rely on God and to bend our trajectory toward righteousness. In this moment, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our physical ways of reaching out and encircling each other in love are stripped away. We must speak. We must speak the peace that we normally act out; we must speak it into being. Can we find the words? Can we reach out to those with whom we can connect? Can we, together, make space for God to speak peace through us?

Scripture Hymn (Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13) O God, We Hear Your Word of Grace

CAROL

("It Came Upon the Midnight Clear")

O God, we hear your word of grace; the psalmist tells us this:
That love and faith will soon embrace and peace and justice kiss.
Then all will sing out, "God is good!" Then harvests will increase.
And we will listen, loving Lord, as you proclaim your peace.

The world proclaims a different word: how can these things be so?
For all around this hurting earth the seeds of discord grow.
When war and conflict greed and pride would claim our loyalty,
Too often we have turned aside from what we're called to be.

Lord, show us what we're called to do as we await your day.
For waiting well means serving, too, and walking in Christ's way.
Now by your Spirit, may we be the bearers of your grace,
Till peace and justice both shall meet and love and faith embrace.

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette; used by permission.

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

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

Sermon

Those Who Dream...Prepare the Way

The Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

Offering

Even though we cannot present our gifts during an in-person service of worship today, we still respond with gratitude for the gifts God has given to us. Tithes and offerings may be sent to Corbin Presbyterian Church, 601 Master St., Corbin, KY 40701.

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessings in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.*

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty to give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning, you dreamed of a world that would be good—of mountains, valleys, and oceans; of the changing of seasons; of laughter and the magic of music; of a creation united with you in love. You dreamed of this world, O God, and you formed it into being.

And when we, who bear your image in this world, turned away from you, you did not turn from us. Rather, in love, you held fast to your dream—working, shaping, and suffering to make it reality.

And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place. Ever-present God, your prophets dreamed of the day when you would tear the heavens and come down, and in Christ, their dream became reality.

Come down now, we pray, upon this bread and cup and make them be for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ; who at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup and gave it to them saying,

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

Creating God, send your Spirit upon your people that we too may dream your dream—of the lion lying down with the lamb, of justice rolling like a mighty river, of swords beaten into plowshares, of prisoners set free. May we dream your dream, and then, as we wake, empower us with your Spirit, and work to make your dream reality.

Form us with your dream, everlasting God, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught his disciples to pray, saying,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Bread of Life, be our light in our darkness. **Christ is the light of the world.**

Cup of Salvation, be strength for our journey. **Christ is the Hope of the world.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Let us come for all things are now ready.**

The Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem v.4

ST. LOUIS

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;

Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Following the Word into the World

Charge & Blessing

Comfort, comfort my people, says the Lord.

So stand on the promise that every valley shall be lifted up;

every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Stand on the promise that the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and that all people shall see it together.

Postlude

Veni Emmanuel

**Lani Smith
1934-2015**



Corbin Presbyterian Church

601 Master Street, Corbin, KY 40701

Phone: 606-528-1444 Website: www.corbinpres.org Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CorbinPresby/>

Zoom link for worship: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83307369561?pwd=NUJocHNlNmNMZEtiOUdGRW0vcEwzdz09>

The Reverend Lisa R. Eye, Pastor

Clay Howard, Director of Music/Organist

Mary Begley, Administrative Assistant

David Hoskins, Treasurer

Session

Class of 2020

Karen Nies

Class of 2021

Tom Fish

Bob Martin

Class of 2022

Janet Martin

Doralene Webb

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am – 1pm

Rev. Eye may be reached by calling the Church Office or by email: pastor@corbinpres.org