



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Lighting the Candle of Expectation (Responsively): The Westphal Family
Gracious God, shake us awake, for we await you.

We wait for the fulfillment of our expectation.

Shaping God, awaken the earth and come, for we await you.

We wait for the direction of your revelation.

Surprising God, tear open the heavens and come, for we await you.

We wait for the signs of promised restoration.

Mysterious God, enliven our hearts as we worship you in wonder and trust.

We wait for the Shalom, the Peace of your incarnation.

The Advent Hymn: *Comfort, Comfort O My People* (v. 1) 101

"Comfort, comfort O my people,
tell of peace," thus says our God;
Comfort those whose hearts are shrouded,
mourning under sorrow's load.
Speak unto Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over.

Some Verses of Scripture: Micah 5:2-5

The First Advent Candle Is Lighted

The Advent Prayer: (Unison):

Lord: keep us awake and alert, watching for your Realm and your Reign. Make us strong in faith, so we may greet your Son when he comes, and joyfully give him praise, with you, and with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Advent Hymn: *Comfort, Comfort O My People* (vs. 2, 3)

101

For the herald's voice is calling
in the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance
since the realm of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble,
for Messiah's holy reign.
For God's glory evermore
shall be known o'er all the world;
And all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

*The Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Holy and Present God, you sent your Son Jesus to reconcile the world to you and to call us to follow his way, preparing the way for your coming kingdom. Yet, we do so little to prepare that way. This year, as we seek your light entering the world in Jesus, let that light shine through us beyond this brilliant season. As we celebrate "mercy mild", move us to show mercy to those who are not like us. And, when we sing the words that celebrate your incarnate love in the birth of the Christ Child, help us to see ourselves as called to continue his ministry of care and compassion. Amen.

*Silent, Personal Prayers of Confession

*The Assurance of Pardon (Responsively):

We believe that Jesus fulfills the hopes of the prophets of old.
Those prophets looked toward a ruler who would not only embody justice and hope, but would establish justice and hope. We praise you, O God, that the One who comes as Love Incarnate moves us to show his love, unto all the world. Amen.

*Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (Unison):

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, for ever. Amen.

Scripture Lesson:

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Sermon Title: "An evolving sense of "Shalom/Salem"

Dr. Robinson

Closing Hymn: *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

120

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where Emmanuel may go!

O Zion offers good tidings;
to the height of mountains dare!
Lift your voices to the city of Judah:
"Behold your God!" declare.
Like the flowers of the field we perish;
our human works decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away.

But the Word of our God is forever;
our Defender's will is strong.
God stands in the midst of the nations,
to render right the wrong.
Then God shall be as a shepherd,
the lambs gathered to God's breast;
and pastures of peace shall greet them,
to give to the weary rest.

Benediction

Postlude

An asterisk (*) where those who are able should stand as an act of worship.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

⁴⁰Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get 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!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He 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.

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THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Monday, November 29

Eve - Boy Scouts

Wed., December 1

4:45 - Confirmation

6-6:45PM - BRC

6:30PM - Bells

6:45-7:30PM - Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 2

Eve - Girl Scouts

Saturday, December 4

Piano Recital

Sunday, December 5

9AM - Sunday School

9AM - Christmas Program Rehearsal

10:15AM - Worship

Women's Guild Raffle (following worship)

6:30-7:45PM - Youth Christmas Party

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM WOMEN'S GUILD HOLIDAY RAFFLE IS ONLY ONE WEEK AWAY!

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!! Only ONE more Sunday to buy your tickets for the Raffle! See Cindy Remus or Judy Skupien after church. You can take packets of tickets to sell to your extended family members and friends too! (You don't have to pay for them, they'll just be signed out to you and you return the money later).

We are still accepting prizes: cash prizes, gift bags, Scrip cards, or any gift of your choice. Cindy Remus is your contact person for prize donations. A one-week Time Share Getaway and a beautiful quilt, along with two \$100 cash prizes are ready for the winning! (There will be many others too!) Contact Cindy Remus for a pick-up of your prize...yes, she will come to your home to pick it up.

Have you decided what you'll bake/make for the Baked Goods table? **Bring your goodies on Sunday, December 5th, or drop them off at the church on Saturday morning, December 4th, between 10 a.m. and 12:00 noon.** It will help the ladies if you put a price on your items.

If you can't make it to the Raffle, the Guild welcomes cash donations to support our mission of reaching out to help others in our church family, our community, and around the world. You can give/send your donation to Mary Cutler at 902 North Edge Trail, Verona, or drop your check in the offering plate (check made out to Salem Women's Guild).

We hope to see many of you Sunday, December 5th, for lots of fun, sweet treats, and HAPPY winners!

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