



BLESSED TO SHARE THE BLESSING IN THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS

## *Second Sunday of Advent 12/6*

### **Pastor**

Robert M. Portier

**Pastor Emeritus**

Linsey H. Dettmer

### **Choir Director**

Gary McCaffity

### **Organists**

Barbara Jones &

Jolanta Didenko

**Sunday School 9:45 AM**

### **Worship**

Saturday 6 PM

Sunday: 8:30 & 11 AM

Wednesday: 6 PM

**Phone: 865-365-8551**

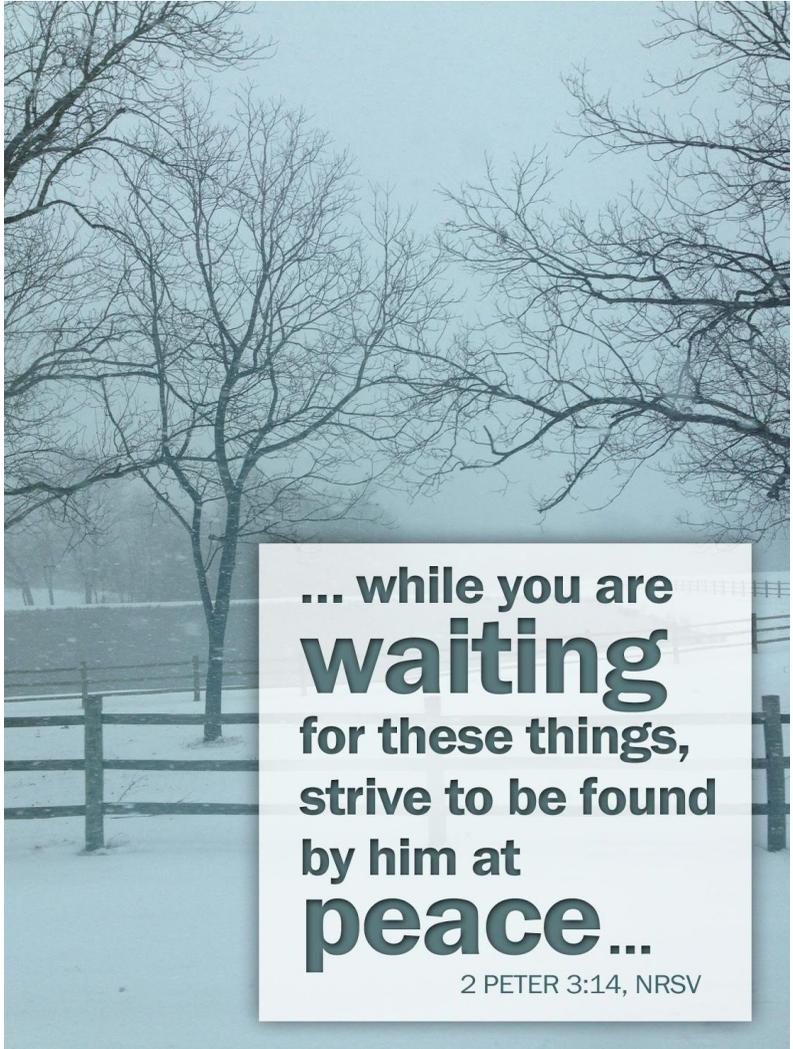
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*Sevierville TN 37862*



... while you are  
**waiting**  
for these things,  
strive to be found  
by him at  
**peace...**

2 PETER 3:14, NRSV

## Hymn of Invocation

### 343 Prepare the Royal Highway LSB 343

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;  
The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory  
Foretold in sacred story: Refrain
- ref Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!
- 2 God's people, see Him coming:  
Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before Him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain
- 3 Then fling the gates wide open  
To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him!  
All nations, now adore Him! Refrain
- 4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness so abounding: Refrain

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Confession and Absolution *Setting 3 begins on page 184*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. .... Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the The Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### Service of the Word

**Introit** *Read responsively*

Restore us, | O God;\*

let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

**Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock!\***

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.**

You brought a vine out of | Egypt;\*

it took deep root and | filled the land.  
**Restore us, O | God of hosts;\***  
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!  
**Glorify be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**  
Restore us, | O God;\*  
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

## **† Gloria Patri**

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## **† Kyrie**

**C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And with thy spirit.**

**P** Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **Old Testament Reading Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

“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.  
And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,  
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, fear not;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Behold your God!”  
Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 85** *Read responsively*

LORD, you were favorable | to your land;\*  
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

**You forgave the iniquity of your | people;\*  
you covered | all their sin.**

You withdrew | all your wrath;\*  
you turned from your hot | anger.

**Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,\*  
and put away your indignation | toward us!**

Will you be angry with us for- | ever?\*

Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?  
**Will you not revive | us again,\*  
that your people may re- | joice in you?**

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\*  
and grant us your sal- | vation.

**Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,\*  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to | folly.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,\*  
that glory may dwell | in our land.

**Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;\*  
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.**

Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,\*  
and righteousness looks down | from the sky.

**Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,\*  
and our land will yield its | increase.**

Righteousness will go be- | fore him\*  
and make his foot- | steps a way.

**Epistle**      **2 Peter 3:8-14**

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,

and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel Mark 1:1-8**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way,  
the voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

## Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life T everlasting. Amen.

## Hymn of the Day

### 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB 344

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away  
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

D 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

## Sermon

**Offering (Please place your offering in the white box as you enter or depart)**  
*(As we sing the offertory pastor raises the offering plate as a wave offering for all of our tithes and offerings given in person or by mail or via the internet)*

## † Offertory

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Church

### Service of the Sacrament

#### Preface

P The Lord be with you.

**C And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

**C It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary.....evermore praising You and saying:

**f** Sanctus (*Holy*)

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

**Lord's Prayer**

**The Words of Our Lord**

**Pax Domini** (*The Peace of the Lord*)

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

**f** Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.  
Amen.

**Distribution**

**f** Nunc Dimittis (*Now Dismiss*) (*Song of Simeon*)

**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Thanksgiving**

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** and His mercy endureth forever.

### **Post-Communion Collect**

**A** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### **Salutation & Benedicamus** (*we bless / we praise*)

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**A** Bless we the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and **T** give you peace.

**C** Amen

### **Closing Hymn**

#### **733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

1 O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last  
And our eternal home!

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## Announcements

### Our Friends in need of prayer:

Judy Schuller  
James Huling  
Bruce Rispoli

Roger Radel  
Dick Medley

Jim Wagner  
Charles Schuller  
Emil Mariani

**Pre - Service meditation:**

Reading and meditating on the Psalm, the Introit, and the text the bulletin can be helpful in your pre-service meditation.

**This Week at a Glance:**

TODAY	Worship Services @ 8:30 9:45 & 11 AM, Sunday School @ 9:45 AM
<b>MON</b>	<b>LWML meets @ 6:30 PM</b>
WED	Bible study @ 5 PM & Worship @ 6PM (non communion)
FRI	Women's Bible Study @ 10 AM
SAT	Men's Bible Study @ 9 AM 10:30 AM Home Bodies Zoom Room Bible Study. Worship Service @ 6 PM
SUN	Worship Services @ 8:30 9:45 & 11 AM

**Looking Forward to Next Sunday:** Reading over and studying the text for the coming week can enrich your personal prayer and study time and your worship time. The text for Wednesday is Genesis 22:1-8) and next weekend is Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11.

When it is again safe to resume choir practice, we will inform you.

**Service Schedule:** Until further notice

Saturday 6pm Communion service

Sunday 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 AM Communion

Wednesday 6 pm non-communion

In compliance with all current CDC, Guidelines:

- Social distancing remains in place
- Households that travel together may sit and commune together
- Sharing of the peace is replaced with a wave of peace
- Pews and other surfaces will be wiped down  
after the closing hymn is over
- Offering & prayer request box is at the entrance and exit.
- The entry doors will be propped open,
- Take your bulletin with you or throw it away
- If you use a hymnal, please wipe it down
- We will all enter through the narthex and exit through the door on the left, next to the

lectern, in the front of the sanctuary. When people are arriving for the next service, as necessary

-

Please socialize outside.

### **Communion Practices**

Common cup will be available

Standing at the rail 2 households at a time

(one on the lectern side and one on the pulpit side, no kneeling yet)

An elder will assist the pastor

Communion cup bowls on brass post will be used.

Communion blessing / dismissal will continue to be one after all commune.

### **Mask Guidance will remain in place as long as necessary.**

1. Masks should be worn upon entering the narthex and before being seated in the sanctuary.
2. Since we are seated in accordance with the protocol for social distancing, the mask may be removed when seated in the sanctuary.
3. Masks are to be worn as we proceed to and return from communion and can be removed once seated again.
4. At the end of the service, masks are to be put back on and worn until outside the building. However, if for any reason you are unable to wear a mask you are still welcome to join us for worship.

***A simple way to remember when to where a mask is :  
when moving in doors, if you are able, you should have a mask on.***

LWML Project: We are now collecting infant gowns (not footed, please) for baby kits,

sizes newborn-24 mos. Please place your donations in Mike's box in the narthex. LWML thanks you all for your continued support.

### Christmas Eve Schedule

So that we may accommodate as many as possible during this pandemic, we will be holding four services on Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm, 6 pm, 7:30 pm and 9 pm. These will be by **reservation only**. Beginning tomorrow, December 7<sup>th</sup>, call Gwen Cody (453-3214 or email [gwyndyll43@gmail.com](mailto:gwyndyll43@gmail.com)) and reserve your preferred time. If you leave a message Gwen will reply as soon as possible and verify. Mask wearing and social distancing guidelines will apply. However, one family may occupy a single pew together.

Christmas Day service will be at 11 AM

If you wish to purchase altar flowers, please put your name on the altar flower chart in the narthex. The cost is \$40 for two tall vase bouquets, for any questions contact Rod or Jean Kuszynski.

***Altar Flowers: By Mandy Smith in memory of her father***