

INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

Our past knowledge and present encounter with God ground our confidence that the future will be both like and unlike the present—like the present in the encounter with God, and unlike it in the fullness of liberation as a reality.

Lighting of the Candles (2 Purples)

Reader: We light the candle of peace, rejoicing in the peace Jesus brings.

***SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 40:1-11**

*** OPENING HYMN: # 2090Light the Advent Candle (Vs. 2)**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is not dependent on what we glory in to make his own work glorious.

People: Anything that God does is glorious, and marvelous in our eyes.

Leader: Such was the case when God chose Bethlehem, smallest of the Judah clans, for Jesus' birthplace.

People: From that insignificant village came our Messiah who feeds his flock like a shepherd!

*** Let us pray (Congregation):**

Eternal God, who chose the lowly village of Bethlehem to be the birthplace for your Messiah: Come to our community and let your Son be born anew in us; that we, sharing with all those who are a part of his flock, may know the strength of his love. In his name we pray. Amen.

*** LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:**

157 Jesus Shall Reign (vs 1, 2, & 5)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)**

Lord, God in heaven, the little town of Bethlehem creates a beautiful vision in our minds. It is easy for us to look back in history and see it as a sacred place. But our vision is not as clear when we look at the present, to see within our own community, that here, too, is where Christ is to be born. Forgive us for looking elsewhere for evidence of the Messiah, without looking to ourselves that he may come to life within our society. Let this Christmas be a joyful experience as each of us, in our humility, discovers the birth of our Savior within our neighborhoods! Amen.

*** LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:**

196..... Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Blessed are we who believe in the fulfillment of what was spoken and promised by God. For the promised one will bring peace and liberation through transformation.

***SCRIPTURE READING: Micah 5:2-5**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: **"Christ is and always will be Our Peace"**

*** RESPONSE TO THE WORD: # 213 Lift Up Your Heads (vs 1 & 4)**

CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns

*** PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 O Lord, Hear My Prayer**

HOLY COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN: # 431 Let There Be Peace on Earth

***DISMISSAL BLESSING**

1st Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11(NKJV)

"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. ² "Speak ^[a]comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the LORD's hand Double for all her sins." ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight ^[b]in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made ^[c]straight and the rough places smooth; ⁵ the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ The voice said, "Cry out!" And ^[d]he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh *is* grass, and all its loveliness *is* like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, because 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 stands forever." ⁹ O Zion, you who bring good tidings, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, you who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift *it* up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD shall come ^[e]with a strong

hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward *is* with Him, and His ^[f]work before Him. ¹¹ He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry *them* in His bosom, *and* gently lead those who are with young.

2nd Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2-5 (NKJV)

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth *are* from of old, from ^[a]everlasting." ³ Therefore He shall give them up, until the time *that* she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel. ⁴ And He shall stand and feed^[b] *His flock* in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; and they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵ and this *One* shall be peace.

When the Assyrian comes into our land, and when he treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princely men.



December 6, 2020
2nd Sunday of Advent

LeRoy United Methodist Church

A Community Church: Moving Forward
10 Trigon Park, LeRoy, NY 14482
Pastor Hector Rivera
585-768-8980

Office: smiller@leroyumcny.org
Website: www.leroyumcny.org
FB: LeRoy United Methodist Church