



Church@Home

6th December 2020

Advent 2, Year B

9am

SONG: AT25 “Comfort, comfort”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1x7V9N583Q>

**Comfort, comfort all my people
With the comfort of my Word.
Speak it tender to my people:
All your sins are taken away.**

**Though your tears be rivers running;
Though your tears be an ocean full;
Though you cry with the hurt of living:
Comfort, comfort.
Every valley shall be lifted;
Every mountain shall be low;
Every rough place will be smoother:**

**Though your eyes see only darkness;
Though your eyes can see no light;
Though your eyes see pain and sorrow:
Comfort, comfort.
Every night will have its morning;
Every pain will have an end;
Every burden will be lightened:**

*Words and Music: Robin Mann
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WELCOME

WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN THE NAME

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen*

WE CONFESS, GOD FORGIVES

Children of God, let's ask our Father to forgive our sins, because Jesus Christ is our Lord, who has died and risen again for us.

Lord God, our heavenly Father, we confess to you that we are sinful. And we have sinned against you in many ways – in our thoughts and in our words, in what we have done, and in what we have failed to do. Have mercy and forgive us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, Lord; help us to obey you, keep us from all evil, and bring us to eternal life. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God has had mercy on us. He loves us, and has given his son to die for us. So, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you!

Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Merciful God,
you sent your messengers to preach repentance
and prepare the way for our salvation.
Turn us away from our sins,
so that we greet our coming redeemer,
Jesus Christ, with joy.
For he lives
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THEME OF THE DAY: Matthew 1:18 – 25
“The **courage** of Joseph”
The values of Christmas: courage (2)

WE LISTEN – BIBLE READINGS

[Isaiah 40:1 – 11](#)

[2 Peter 3:8 – 15a](#)

RESPONSE

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

WE LISTEN – GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18 – 25

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise be to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“Joseph the brave!”

- * This morning, I want to read to you another one of the stories in THE BEGINNER'S BIBLE called “Baby Jesus is born”. It's a story that reminds us of how God used Joseph, the brave one, to take care of Mary.
- * Do you remember the story from last week?
An angel appeared to Mary and told her that she was going to have a special baby, a baby from God.
- * Do you think that Mary would have been more than a little scared of facing the future?
Yes, I think so. After all, she didn't yet have a husband, and maybe people wouldn't look after her....
- * But do you know who stood up to help Mary?
Joseph! Joseph married Mary, and took Mary into his house as his wife, and cared for her as she got bigger and bigger with the baby Jesus.
- * Let's hear the story of how Joseph cared for Mary and for baby Jesus and I want you to find “Where's Joseph?” in each picture, and tell me “What is Joseph doing?”.

Read the story from THE BEGINNER'S BIBLE entitled “Baby Jesus is born”

<https://youtu.be/rorZF0SOUvo?t=63>

(From 1' 03' – 2' 12'')

1. “Where's Joseph?”
 2. “What is Joseph doing?”
- * *Stress that God is using Joseph to take care of Mary, and the baby Jesus.*

CHILDREN'S SONG

"Be strong and courageous"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZaYpMWpRg>

Lyrics:

Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe by His side
Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe

Do not fear the fire
Do not fear the waters
Do not fear the thunder
Jesus has conquered them all

Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe by His side
Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe

Do not fear the darkness
(Do not fear the darkness)
Do not fear the sadness
(Do not fear the sadness)
Do not fear the sickness
(Do not fear the sickness)
Jesus has conquered them all

Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe by His side
Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe

CREED

**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, dead, and 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 everlasting.**

Amen

SONG: "Speak, O Lord"

https://youtu.be/my90e3a_nlM?t=3

**Speak, O Lord,
as we come to You,
To receive the food
of Your Holy Word.
Take Your Truth,
plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us
in Your Likeness;
That the light of Christ
might be seen today
In our acts of love
and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord,
and fulfil in us
All Your purposes
for Your glory.**

**Teach us, Lord,
full obedience,
Holy reverence,
true humility.
Test our thoughts
and our attitudes
in the radiance
of Your purity,
Cause our faith to rise,
Cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love
and authority.
Words of power
that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail
over unbelief.**

**Speak, O Lord
and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights
of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged
from the dawn of time,
That will echo down
through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand
on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk
as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord,
till Your church is built,
And the earth is filled
with Your glory.**

*Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
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DVD SPOT

Excerpt from "The Nativity Story" re Joseph seeing the pregnant Mary

<https://youtu.be/1-Snme2w97c?t=2481>

Watch from 41'21'' - 46' 00"

TODAYS MESSAGE

Matthew 1:18 – 25

"The **courage** of Joseph"

The values of Christmas: courage (2)

Click [HERE](#) to listen to the message on YouTube

SONG: TIS687 God gives us a future

<https://youtu.be/1kjEmbTS7hk?t=1>

**God gives us a future,
daring us to go
into dreams and dangers
on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow
in the Spirit's power,
we will let God change us,
for a new life starts now.**

**We must leave behind us
sins of yesterday,
for God's new beginning
is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit
must not hold back;
God gives hope and insight,
and the strength we lack.**

**Holy Spirit, teach us
how to read the signs,
how to meet the challenge
of our troubled times.
Love us into action,
stir us into prayer,
till we choose God's life,
and find our future there.**

*Words: E. J. Smith
Music: 30 Twentieth Century Hymn Tunes
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WE GIVE – The Offering

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Lord, lead us to show in our lives,
by our repentance and faith,
that we are your people.
As you have made us holy,
help us to live holy lives,
dedicated to you,
preparing the way for your coming.
Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Call to prayer

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has baptised us with the Holy Spirit, and given us the privilege of calling God 'Father'. Let us pray to our Father in heaven.

The regular response, OR:

Lord, hear us.
Father, hear our prayer.

Suggested intercessions

- * for all the baptised - that God would strengthen them in faith
- * for the church as it prepares for the celebration of the birth of Christ
- * that God would bless the missions of the church
- * that those who hear the gospel would repent and believe
- * that we may prepare the way for the gospel by pursuing justice in our society
- * that just as we await summer and the harvest and holidays, we may be prepared for the coming day of the Lord

Concluding prayer

Lord God, as your servant John the Baptist called your people to prepare a way for the Lord, let us always be prepared to receive the blessings that you freely give us through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and watch over you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace.

Amen

HYMN: LHS844 “SENT OUT BY GOD'S BLESSING”

<https://youtu.be/1aSknWFpwwg?t=2>

**Sent out by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his dwelling take leave.**

**The supper is ended; O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.**

**The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all,**

**His grace did invite us, his love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.**

**Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing his children of each tribe and race.**

**With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.**

**Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and his name that we bear.**

*Words: Omer Westendorf 1916-
Music: Traditional Welsh Melody*