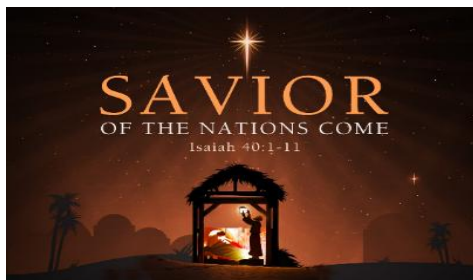




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## PRAISE ABLAZE

DECEMBER 7, 2025 • 11 AM • 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*Savior of the Nations to Come – Prepare the Royal Highway.*

**Welcome!** We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened through the study of God's Word and empowered to live as His witnesses.

**Families**, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; a small area is set up in the atrium for children with "wiggles"; and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the rear parking lot entrance to your left as you exit the atrium doors of the Multi-Ministry Center (MMC). **Guests**, we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the *Guest* side of the *Welcome Card* found in the pews/chair backs and place it in the offering baskets. **Holy Communion** questions, please see purple sheets on *Info Table*.

**As We Gather:** The prophet writes in Isaiah 40:1, "Comfort, comfort my people." Gone is the scornful "this people" of Isaiah 6:9. Now it's "my people!" The words explode with comfort, for this is God's covenant promise, "I will be your God, and you will be my people" (Exodus 6:7). Comfort comes in Isaiah 40:1 and comfort appears in the words of Isaiah 40:11, "He will tend his flock like a Shepherd."

### A HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen today...

Message .....	Rev. Jason Hoerth	Reader .....	Dan Mikow
Children's Message ....	Chris Graves DCE	Elder .....	Kevin O'Ferrell
Deaconess Intern .....	Julia Witt	Acolyte.....	Rylie Wiedeman
Cont. Worship Ldr. ....	Dyann Cooper	Tech .....	Josh Cooper

+++

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Welcome/ Video**

*"Come and See, Hope" – Skit Guys*

**Opening Worship**

*Peace Be Still  
Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)*

**Call to Worship**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath / Confession and Absolution**

**Children's Message**

**God's Word** *(see opposite or screens)*

*Isaiah 40:1-11  
2 Corinthians 7:1-10  
Matthew 3:1-12*

*(Children excused for Children's Church.)*

**Offering** *(Thanks for your support of God's mission here.)*

**Today's Message**

*(Children return from Children's Church.)*

**What We Believe**

*Nicene Creed*

**Prayers & Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing / Song**

*Sing (Advent Version)*

**Dismissal**

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## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

*(Read highlighted section together.)*

*(Comfort Given to God's People.)*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>**A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."** <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Go on 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!" <sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>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.

## EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 7:1-10

*(Paul's joyful grief.)*

<sup>1</sup>Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. <sup>2</sup>Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. <sup>3</sup>I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. <sup>4</sup>I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy. <sup>5</sup>For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. <sup>6</sup>But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, <sup>7</sup>and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your

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## **EPISTLE** (cont.)

*2 Corinthians 7:1-10*

mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. <sup>8</sup> For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. <sup>9</sup> As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. <sup>10</sup> For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 3:1-12*

*("The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord.'")*

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup> Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were Baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

### **Acknowledgments**

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