



Bellflower UMC

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

GREETINGS¹

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING  #706²

**Soon and very soon, We are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon, We are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon, We are going to see the King,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, We are going to see the King.**

CALL TO WORSHIP³

Come! Listen! A voice cries out: “In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

We come, and we wait in the just peace of the coming Messiah.

Pay attention! God is removing barriers and leveling the playing field, making a way for all people to witness the glory of the Lord.

We pay attention, and we wait in the just peace of the coming Messiah.

We wait, and we work as God’s landscapers, filling in valleys and making rough places a plain, bringing justice where conflicts and obstacles once reigned.

We wait, and we work in the just peace of the coming Messiah.

As we gather, may we prepare our voices to proclaim and our hands to get messy as our lives declare the coming of our Savior and Comforter.

We come to worship and to grow in the just peace of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.

¹ Cover art by KaLisa Veer, <https://unsplash.com/@kalisaveer>

² Andraé Crouch. ©1971 Bud John Songs, Inc.; Crouch Music Corp. CCLI 11249

³ Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.

↑⁴HYMN 🎵

224. Good Christian Friends Rejoice

↑HYMN 🎵

211. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Isaiah 40:1-11

SCRIPTURE

DISCUSSION

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER - #895

RESPONSE 🎵

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Incline Thine ear to us,

and grant us Thy peace. Amen.

PEACE / OFFERING

DOXOLOGY - #95 🎵

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks

for this holy mystery

in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world

in the strength of your Spirit,

to give ourselves for others,

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE 🎵

Go Now In Peace

⁴ ↑ Please stand as you are able.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak 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.

A voice cries out: "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.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon 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 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!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He 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.

Bellflower UMC spreads God's love within our church family and throughout our communities and world using our prayers, our gifts and our service; thus to become a shelter of love and a community of compassion..

To learn more, visit facebook.com/Bellflower.UMC

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (309-722-1500, rob@methodist.cc).