

2020-12-06_Zoom-AAW (Advent 2)

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:
'In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,

every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the LORD
has spoken.'

⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out.'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

'All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the
flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows
on them.

Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures for
ever.'

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God!'

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with
power,

and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd:
he gathers the lambs in his arms

and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the
Messiah, the Son of God, ²as it is written in
Isaiah the prophet:

'I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way'—

³ 'a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him."'

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the
wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean
countryside and all the people of Jerusalem
went out to him. Confessing their sins, they
were baptised by him in the River Jordan. ⁶ John
wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a
leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts
and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message:
'After me comes the one more powerful than I,
the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to
stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptise you with
water, but he will baptise you with the Holy
Spirit.'