

2nd Sunday Advent Readings: Lighting the Bethlehem Candle
The Ronan Family

Worship leader: The second purple candle reminds us of God's preparation for the coming of the Christ-Child.

2nd Speaker: *God's plan was a long time in the works; He was busy preparing for the coming of the Savior who would bring salvation into the world by paying for our sins.* "Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God. "Speak kindly to Jerusalem; and call out to her, that her warfare has ended, that her iniquity has been removed, that she has received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins." Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." Isaiah 40:1-5



Worship leader: The Lord Himself was to be their Messiah, who would be born in an insignificant part of Judah - Bethlehem. "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity." Micah 5:2

2nd Speaker: *The Roman government had ordered the world to be taxed in their hometowns. This was part of God's plan so that Mary and Joseph would return to Bethlehem, the city of David.*

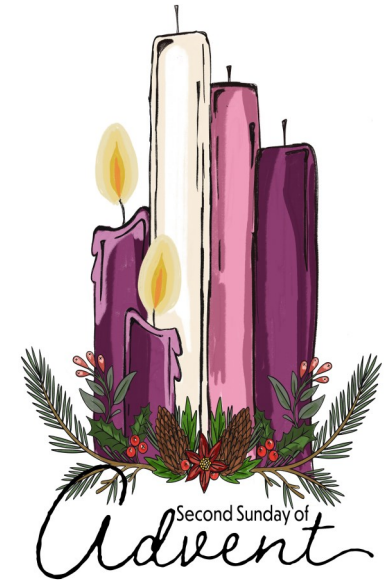
Congregation: "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:1-7

Worship leader: Let's pray.

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