



Morning Prayer
The Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020 9 am
The Lighting of the Advent Wreath
A Visit from St. Nicholas

Comfort, comfort my people, says our God. [Isaiah 43:1]

Ministers of the Liturgy

The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee

Youth:

Sebastian Carpenter, Malachi Carpenter Allison Kee, Emily Kee,
Nathan Pirelli, Teagan Richards, Zoey Richards, Landon Sweet

Musicians: Randolph Bloom, Mary Johnson, Jeff Lukas

Organ Prelude

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Today is the second Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Peace. Our peace is found in God, and in His Son Jesus Christ. John the Baptist and all the prophets remind us that to receive peace we must be prepared for it. We light this candle today to remind us that Christ is the Prince of Peace, the one promised from the beginning of the world. We thank God for the hope he gives us and for the peace he bestows.

O God of Peace, Emmanuel, we pray you to send your light into our hearts. Help us to be ready for the day and hour of Christ's final appearing. Work in our hearts at this time and help us prepare ourselves for the peace that he brings, the inner peace that tells us that we are united with you and the outer peace that will come when he returns to judge the world. Bless our worship that it may be pleasing to you, and bless us that we may prove to be your faithful servants. **Amen.**

Advent Hymn *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Hymnal #56

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel!*

Opening Sentence

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

² *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you*

³ *For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. [Isaiah 43:1-3]*

The Confession

Ann Rowthorn

Renew in us this day the image of your love, O God; renew in us in the likeness of your mercy..
May any refusal to forgive that lingers with us, any bitterness of soul that hardens our hearts,
be softened by your graces. Renew us in the image of your love, O God, renew us in the
likeness of your mercy. **Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Come, come, O Christ, and stand in our midst
Peace to each one who comes in joy.
Peace to the creatures,
Peace in our hearts,

Peace to each one who comes in need.
Peace to each man, woman, and child.
Peace to the nations.
Peace in our world.

Come, come, O Christ, stand in our midst as you did stand in the midst of your disciples, and
speak to us words of peace.

Invitatory Psalm 141:1-3,8ab

O LORD, I call to you; come to me quickly; * hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, *
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Set a watch before my mouth, O LORD, and guard the door of my lips; *
let not my heart incline to any evil thing.

My eyes are turned to you, Lord GOD; * in you I take refuge.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, * you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people * and blotted out all their sins.

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *

for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.
9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, * that his glory may dwell in our land.
10 Mercy and truth have met together; * righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, * and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, * and our land will yield its increase.
13 Righteousness shall go before him, * and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

A Reading from the Prophet 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 for ever.

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

A Song of the Wilderness *Isaiah 35:1-7,10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, * the desert shall rejoice and blossom; It shall blossom abundantly, * and rejoice with joy and singing.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, * the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weary hands, * and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! *

Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, * and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.

Then shall the lame leap like a deer, * and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness * and streams in the desert;

The burning sand shall become a pool * and the thirsty ground, springs of water.
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, * with everlasting joy upon their heads.
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, * and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark [1:1-8]

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Song of Mary *Magnificat* Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,* he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,* and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children forever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

Musical Meditation

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into

heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Hear our cry, O God. **And listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray.

Help us, O God our Savior; **deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Look upon your congregation; **give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Declare your glory among the nations; **and your wonders among all peoples.**

Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away; **never forget the lives of your poor.**

Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

and your favor to those who are true of heart.

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Lord's Prayer

Collect of the Day

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for the Feast of St. Nicholas

Almighty God, in your love you gave your servant Nicholas of Myra a perpetual name for deeds of kindness both on land and sea: Grant, we pray, that your church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by the tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the church and the world as we wait with hope and longing for signs of the God of Peace in our world.

We give thanks for gathering us together in this community; show your church how to make good use of this holy time so that we may see your Spirit in one another.

O Come, Emmanuel, **Your people await your coming**

We give thanks for the freedom you have given our nation. Grant that our leaders and the leaders of all nations use their power for peace and justice.

O Come, Emmanuel, **Your people await your coming.**

Watch over all those who must spend this holiday season apart from the people they love. Grant us the grace to trust the love that grows stronger with distance and to see your purpose in all that we long for. Watch over our children, that they may know the peace, as well as the excitement, of your presence.

O Come, Emmanuel **Your people await your coming**

Embrace with your healing love those who are suffering from weakness in body and spirit, their family members and the people who resent the burdens of this time. *Pause . . .* Gather into your joyful presence those who have died, especially those we now name, silently or aloud . . . *Pause*

O Come, Emmanuel **Your people await your coming.**

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Stewardship Prayer

Blessed be God who calls us together **Praise to God who makes us one people.**
Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin. **Praise to God who gives hope and freedom**
Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed. **Praise to God who is revealed as love.**
Blessed be God who alone has called us.

Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Accept our thanks for all you have done.

Our hands were empty, and you filled them. Amen.

A Prayer in Time of Transition

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor who

will care for your people and for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Open our hearts to possibilities we have not yet imagined, through Jesus Christ, our Light, our Center, our Hope. **Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal:

Let us know peace. For as long as the moon shall rise, for as long as the rivers shall flow, for as long as the sun shall shine, for as long as the grass shall grow, let us know peace. **Thanks be to God.**