



**Morning Prayer**  
**The First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 29, 2020 9 am**  
**The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**  
**Stewardship Reflection by Toussaint Jackson**  
**Commissioning of Liturgical Ministers**

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

**Ministers of the Liturgy**

The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee

Liturgical Ministry Leaders:

Randolph Bloom, Dave Clinkman, Beth Stochaj,  
Peach Warren, Justin Varteresian

**Musicians:** Randolph Bloom, Mary Johnson, Jeff Lukas

**Organ Prelude**

*Come now, Redeemer of our Race*

Dietrich Buxtehude

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Hope. Our hope is in God, and in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the one appointed by God to be judge of all things. He is the one through whom God has promised to save and redeem his people. We light this candle today to remind us that Jesus is our hope and the hope of the world. We thank God for the promises he has made to us and for the light he has brought into the world.

Let us pray.

O God of Hope, Emmanuel, God with us, we pray you to send your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the day and hour of Christ's final appearing. Live in us and help us to live in you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, transform us so that our worship, our celebration, our time of preparations, may be pleasing to you, both now and forevermore.

**Amen.**

**Advent Hymn**

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*

*O come O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

*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.*

<sup>2</sup> *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*

<sup>3</sup> *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; renew in us in the likeness of your mercy, O God. 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 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*

stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, \* how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \* you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \* and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*

the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; \* give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \*

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

### **A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah [64:1-9]**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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 [13:24-37]**

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

### **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

### Renewal of Our Baptismal Covenant

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? **I will, with God's help.**

### 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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 Love in the darkness and conflict of our world.

We give thanks for gathering us together in this community and for the ministry of those who serve as liturgical leaders; grant your church a discerning spirit and a watchful eye, that we may make good use of this holy time and that we may recognize your Spirit in one another and deepen our individual relationships with you together.

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

We give thanks for the freedom and abundance you have given our nation; grant us wisdom to share them compassionately. Grant that our leaders and the leaders of all nations use their powers to achieve peace and justice.

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

Watch over all those who must spend this holiday season apart from their loved ones. Grant us the grace to trust the love that transcends distance and to see your larger 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 caregivers and those 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.**

**Musical Meditation** *Comfort, comfort ye my people*

Hymnal #67

*Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.*

*Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.*

*Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;  
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.*

*For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;  
and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.*

### **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 for Facing the Coronavirus**

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of over 250,000 loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for an End to Racism**

Lord, Jesus Christ who reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the

barriers in our community and to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer of Thanksgiving**

For all the good things I do have	<b>Thank you, God</b>
For all the good things I have had	<b>Thank you, God</b>
For what I am	<b>Thank you, God</b>
For what I have been	<b>Thank you, God</b>
For what I can be.	<b>Thank you, God</b>
For what I shall be.	<b>Thank you, God</b>

### **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.**