

ADVENT I WORSHIP

November 29, 2020

Words of Welcome

Gathering Hymn: Signs of Endings All Around Us

- 1. Signs of endings all around us,
darkness, death, and winter days,
shroud our lives in fear and sadness,
numbing mouths that long to praise.
Come, O Christ, and dwell among us!
Hear our cries, come set us free.
Give us hope and faith and gladness.
Show us what there yet can be.**
- 2. Can it be that from our endings,
new beginnings you create?
Life from death, and from our rendings,
realms of wholeness generate?
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them
into hopes for life anew;
Fading light and dying season
sing their Glorias to you.**
- 3. Speak, O God, your Word among us.
Barren lives your presence fill.
Swell our hearts with songs of gladness,
terrors calm, forebodings still.
Let your promised realm of justice
blossom now throughout the earth;
your dominion bring now near us;
we await the saving birth.**

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The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Officiant In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.

People **Make straight in the desert a pathway for our God.**

We watch the lighting of the first Advent candle.

Reader People of God: awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face. Remember the ways and the works of God. God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of the coming Lord.

Officiant In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.
People **Make straight in the desert a pathway for our God.**
Priest Let us pray.

People **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.**

SONG: "O come, O come, Emmanuel," verses 1 & 2

Hymnal #56

- 1. 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.**
- 2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who ord'rest 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.**

The Confession & Absolution *The congregation stands or kneels.*

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A substantial silence for reflection is kept.

Officiant Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom: Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Officiant You will come in glory with salvation for all your people: Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant The almighty and merciful God grant us pardon and remission of all our sins, renewal of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Reader A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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 for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Faith: Psalm 80: 1-7

Sung Refrain:

**Return to our God who revives us, restores us;
Justice dawns like the morning sun.**

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

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

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

**Return to our God who revives us, restores us;
Justice dawns like the morning sun.**

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

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

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

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

**Return to our God who revives us, restores us;
Justice dawns like the morning sun.**

The Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

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."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Office Hymn: The Canticle of the Turning

A paraphrase of the Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55, by Rory Cooney

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring,
Let the fires of your justice burn!
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near
and the world is about to turn!

**1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You set your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be a-bout to turn?**

**2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.**

Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn
you will show your might, put the strong to flight
for the world is about to turn.

3. From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast.
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forbears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God
who is turning the world around.

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant As we pray together, you may unmute yourself if you choose, and you may pray using any version of this prayer that is in your heart. If you prefer to pray in silence, you can also turn off the sound on your computer as you pray. Now, let us pray as God's beloved children, using the prayer Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People for Advent

Susanne Watson Epting, alt.

To add a name to our prayer list at any time, or to join the email group that holds the community's concerns in prayer, email prayers@stdunstans.com .

Officiant

Let us pray together, saying, "Stay with us while we wait."

For the church that watches and waits for you, Lord Christ.

The people add their prayers for the church, silently or aloud.

God who has come and is coming again,

Stay with us while we wait.

For our nation and its leaders.

The people add their prayers for the country and those in authority, silently or aloud.

God who has come and is coming again,

Stay with us while we wait.

For the welfare of the whole world.

The people add their prayers for the whole world, silently or aloud.

God who has come and is coming again,

Stay with us while we wait.

For our city and our region.

The people add prayers for the concerns and gifts of the local community, silently or aloud.

God who has come and is coming again,

Stay with us while we wait.

For all who suffer from any need or trouble.

We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list, and for those we now name...

The people add their prayers for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, silently or aloud.

God who has come and is coming again,

Stay with us while we wait.

For the special needs and concerns, hopes and thanksgivings of this gathered community.

The people add their prayers silently or aloud.

God who has come and is coming again,

Stay with us while we wait.

For those who have died, and those who mourn.

The people add their prayers for those who have died, silently or aloud.

God who has come and is coming again,

Stay with us while we wait.

Celebrant

O Lord, you have set before us the great hope that your kingdom shall come on earth, and have taught us to pray for its coming: Give us grace to discern the signs of its dawning, and to work for the perfect day when your will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant In the tender mercy of our God,
the Dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you!

People **And also with you!**

We greet one another, wishing one another the peace of Christ.

The Blessing & Dismissal

Celebrant May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the shadows from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God Almighty, Source, Word, and Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Sending Song: "Come now, O Prince of Peace"

**Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one body;
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.**

**Come, Hope of Unity, make us one body;
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.**

Announcements & virtual Coffee Hour

All-Ages Sunday school at 10:15, on the same Zoom link