

ADVENT II WORSHIP

December 6, 2020

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn: "O come, O come, Emmanuel," verses 3 & 4

Hymnal #56

You are invited to sing along with the piano.

3. **O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**
4. **O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them vic'try o'er the grave.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant 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 and second Advent candles.

Reader People of God: be glad! Your God delights in you, giving you joy for sadness and turning shadows to light. Be strong in hope therefore, for your God comes to save. You are God's beloved children.

Celebrant Let us pray. 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 for ever. Amen.

The Confession & Absolution

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

Turn your fierce anger from us, O God, and remember not our sins for ever.

People **Pour down, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness.**

A substantial silence for reflection is kept.

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

People **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant You will come in glory with salvation for 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: 2 Peter 3: 3b-4, 8-15a

Reader A reading from the second letter of Peter.

In the last days scoffers will come to scoff, proceeding according to their own desires, and saying, "Where is his promised arrival? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things remain as they were from creation's beginning.

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 7 - 13

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

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

**Show us your mercy, O God, *
and grant us your salvation.**

**I will listen to what you are saying, *
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.**

**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, *
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

**Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

**Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

**You, O God, will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.**

**Righteousness shall go before you, *
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.**

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily

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 .

Leader

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.

Offertory 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.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of Mary, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Celebrant And so, Holy One, we who have been redeemed by Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said,

"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People **We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; God of Miriam, Deborah, and Ruth; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Please pray in the language of your heart.

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**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.**

New Zealand form (adapted):
**Loving God, may your name be held holy,
your reign spread among us,
and your will be done well.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
From all that binds and burdens us, free us and
help us free others.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too sharp to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, save us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is
love, now and forever. Amen.**

**Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Spanish version:
**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre,
Venga tu reino, Hágase tu voluntad,
En la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros
perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el
poder, y tuyo es la gloria,
Ahora y por siempre. Amén.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

People **Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God.

Prayer After Communion

The congregation stands.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out to do the work
you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses to Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

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

Sending Hymn: "There's a voice in the wilderness crying"

Hymnal #75

This hymn is a poetic version of the Old Testament text assigned for this Sunday, Isaiah 40:1-11.

**1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the Lord our God may go!**

**2 O Zion that bringeth good tidings,
Get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their king.**

Like the flow'rs of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay;
the pow'r and the pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away;

3 But the word of our God endureth,
the arm of the Lord is strong,
He stands in the midst of nations
and he will right the wrong.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
the lambs he'll gently hold;
to pastures of peace he'll lead them,
and bring them to his fold.

Dismissal

*The Celebrant dismisses the congregation. The people respond, **Thanks be to God!***