

ADVENT III WORSHIP

December 13, 2020

Words of Welcome

Gathering Hymn: "People, Look East"

Words by Eleanor Farjeon

**1. People, look East! The time is near
of the crowning of the year.**

**Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.**

People, look East, and sing today:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.

**2. Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there.**

**Give up your strength, the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.**

People, look East! And sing today:

Love the Rose is on the way.

**3. Birds, though ye long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.**

**Even the hours when wings are frozen,
He for fledging-time has chosen.**

People, look East! And sing today:

Love the Bird is on the way.

**4. Stars, keep your watch; though night is dim,
One more light the bowl shall brim,**

**Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.**

People, look East! And sing today:

Love, the Star, is on the way.

**5. Angels, announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the East!**

**Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.**

People, look East! And sing today:

Love the Lord is on the way.

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, second and third Advent candles.

Reader People of God: return! You are called to be God's own. From the mountains announce the good news. God comes in justice and peace, to all who follow holy ways.

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 **Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

SONG: "O come, O come, Emmanuel," verses 5 & 6

Hymnal #56

**5. O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**6. O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
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 61:1-4

Reader A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Faith: Psalm 126

Sung refrain:

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

When God restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, *
“God has done great things for them.”

God has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

Sung refrain:

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

Restore our fortunes, O God, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Sung refrain:

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

The Epistle: I Thessalonians 5:16-25

Reader A reading from the first letter to the church in Thessalonica.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: "What is the crying at Jordan"

Hymnal #69

**1. What is the crying at Jordan?
Who hears, O God, the prophecy?
Dark is the season, dark our hearts
and shut to mystery.**

**2. Who then shall stir in this darkness,
prepare for joy in the winter night.
Mortal in darkness we lie down, blindhearted,
seeing no light.**

**3. Lord, give us grace to awake us,
to see the branch that begins to bloom;
in great humility is hid all heaven
in a little room.**

**4. Now comes the day of salvation,
in joy and terror the Word is born!
God gives Godself into our lives;
oh let salvation dawn!**

The Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-23

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Deanna Clement, Director of Music Ministry

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.**

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

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

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