

ADVENT II WORSHIP

December 6, 2020

Words of Welcome

Gathering 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. So is a hymn we'll sing later, "Comfort, comfort ye, my people"!

**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.**

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 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.

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 **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.**

SONG: "O come, O come, Emmanuel," verses 3 & 4

Hymnal #56

**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 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.

Introduction to the Feast of St. Nicholas

The Rev. Miranda Hassett

Musical Offering: Be Peace on Earth

Claudia Berry Miran

St. Nicholas: A Garland of Tales

Written by Pamela Grenfell Smith

Introduction

The First Tale

Musical Offering: Angel Prayer

Cecilie Ballard

The Second Tale

The Third Tale

The Fourth Tale

**1. Comfort, comfort ye My people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's 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.**

**2. Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,
Calling us to new repentance, since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet Him, and the hills bow down to greet Him.**

**3. 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.**

The Fifth Tale

The Sixth Tale

The Seventh Tale

Musical Offering: O Sometimes Gleams Upon Our Sight

Andi Becerra

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.

We pray especially for all essential workers and healthcare workers, including...

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

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