

ADVENT III WORSHIP

December 12, 2021

Words of Welcome

Gathering 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 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.**

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.

The first, second and third Advent candles are lit.

Celebrant 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 (IOAM): "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

Officiant 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.**

Song of Faith: Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in the Holy One and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *

and God will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the divine Name.

Make God's deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that the Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for God has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

The Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

This reading will be presented for shared reflection.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel Reading: Luke 3:7 - 18

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of a change of heart. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount required." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

The Rev. Miranda Hassett

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 all nations and peoples.

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 the earth and the whole created order.

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 local communities.

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.**

O God of power and mercy, who gives us roses in a season of cold and darkness; fill us with your unexpected truth and vision of peace among all people. By the example of La Virgen de Guadalupe, whom we honor today, may we seek justice and mercy for all God's children; 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.**

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Musical Offering: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Prepared by Rachel and Levi Behrens, with help from Jenny Behrens