

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 2020, 10:00am



*Purple was the traditional color of Advent, a color that represents penitence and fasting as well as royalty.*

*Purple will continue to be the traditional color of Lent. But for Advent, we shall use deep blue, as other churches have come to do, because deep blue represents the Advent themes of expectation, hope and anticipation of the dawn of Christ. It is the color in the sky before the sun rises, encouraging us to keep watch for the promised light of Christ to break over the horizon, changing night into day. The use of blue has deep historical roots.*

*The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light.*

*Traditionally, the wreath is made of four blue or purple candles in a circle of evergreens, with a central white candle lit on Christmas Eve and Day. The meaning assigned to each candle varies by tradition.*

## The Word of God

Prelude:

Variation on "Stuttgart"

The Processional Hymn

People, Look East

Hymn #724 (WLP), v. 1, 4, 5

French Folk Melody

Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the  
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more  
An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who  
3 crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
light the bowl shall brim, Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
6 brings new life to earth. Set e - very peak and val - ley  
9 a - ble, Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
weath - er, Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
hum - ming With the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look  
east and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.  
east and sing to - day: Love, the star, is on the way.  
east and sing to - day: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## The Opening Acclamation

† Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*A † appears in the margin where you may wish to make the sign of the cross over your body. Making the sign of the cross is a choice left to each worshipper.*

*It is simply a way to engage your entire body (not just your speech and mind) in worship, and physically to signify embracing the blessing of God.*

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Jude Lyons  
**Deacon/Preacher:** The Very Rev. Paula Vukmanic

## The Collect for Purity

**All** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love  
you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Collect of the Day

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

**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.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*A family steps forward:*

**Leader** Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning.  
The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE.

*The candles are lit.*

**Leader** "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."  
(Colossians 3:15)

**People** Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls.  
Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world.  
Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. Amen.

## Hymn—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive Is - ra - el, that  
3 mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re -  
5 joyce, re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Traditional carol from the 9th century

## The First Lesson Isaiah 40:1-11

**1st Reader** A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

1st Reader      The Word of the Lord.

People            **Thanks be to God.**

The Response Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, *Benedixisti, Domine*

Reader            Let us pray together the Psalm response.

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

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

**8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \***  
**for he is speaking peace to his faithful people**  
**and to those who turn their hearts to him.**

**9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \***  
**that his glory may dwell in our land.**

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

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

**12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \***  
**and our land will yield its increase.**

**13 Righteousness shall go before him, \***  
**and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

The Holy Gospel—Mark 1:1-8

† Deacon 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.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

† The Sermon

The Very Rev. Paula Vukmanic

*There will be a moment of silence for reflection following the sermon.*

An Affirmation of Faith for Advent

*Liturgy For The Whole Church, Susan K. Bock*

**We believe in God, who bends and kneels toward our world, drenching it with love, making it new with every breath. We believe in Jesus, God become human, who brought every person a spark of the divine. We believe in the Spirit, hovering God, present among us, abiding, upholding, awaking all things to her grace. We believe we are called to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God and each other, ready for God's reign, awake and alert, as we work to bring it near. We believe we are called, as Christmas comes close, to lift up our hearts in hope and in love, seeking God's advent in each moment and person, each challenge and heartache, each blessing and joy. This we promise to do. Keep us faithful, Lord Jesus, and come soon.**

**Come soon! Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

*The People join in reading the words in bold.*

Our Advent prayers call upon God with our ancestors, the significant people of the Bible that led the way to the birth of Jesus.

God of the prophets, give your church courage to speak truth, and to tell of your love.

**God of the prophets, hear us and help us!**

God of the angels, give your church voice to sing your presence in the world. Give the world a freedom song, and help us to speak peace especially in all places of conflict in our world.

**God of the angels, hear us and help us!**

God of Mary and Elizabeth, give your church grace to bring forth new life into a world desperate for love, hope and opportunity for all.

**God of our mothers, hear us and help us!**

God of Zechariah and Joseph, give your church dreams and visions, and the courage to follow them.

**God of our fathers, hear us and help us!**

God of the shepherds, give your church humility, and to all who sit in darkness and anxiety, alone and afraid, light and peace.

**God of the shepherds, hear us and help us!**

God of the Magi, give your church gifts, and the will to find you among the poor and the marginalized.

**God of the Magi, hear us and help us.**

God of John the Baptist, give your church the grace to be a messenger of change and hope, to preach a message of love and peace in wilderness moments.

**God of messengers, hear us and help us!**

God of the Holy Innocents, give your church power to stand against violence and to protect the powerless. For all first responders and members of the armed and foreign services and their families, especially Drew Deley, Michael Herredia, Mark Kappelmann, Maia and Tom Lainis, Will Piepenbring, Scott Ruston, Michael Strong, Jonathan Zimmerman and Steve, and their families.

**God of Peace, hear us and help us!**

God of Healing, give hope in your promised coming, especially for those suffering in body, mind or spirit: Andrea, Barbara, Bob and Jane Africano, Claudia, Ceri Falk, Ann Godfrey, Frances Hailwood, Ashley Hawn, Sally Hill, Gale Lovrich, the Miles family, Molly, Marjorie Morris, Karla Nicole, Lisa Rieger, Bruce Schaefer, Anne Sharp, Steve Smith, and all those we name to you now *(please add your own prayers, silently or aloud.)*

We pray: **God of Healing, hear us and help us!**

God of Peace and Strength, we pray for those killed or injured in acts of terrorism, injustice, gun violence, abuse or prejudice of any kind, and from the consequences of diseases and natural disasters, fires and floods. We pray for the healing of those suffering from the coronavirus and those ministering to them.

We pray: **God of Peace and Strength, hear us and help us.**

God of New Life, we pray for all who have died, especially those we name to you now *(please add your prayers, silently or aloud)*... that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

**God of New Life, hear us and help us!**

Let us pray together:

**All In you we find our true joy, O God. Let this Advent season be a time to become mindful and alert in service to your people. Open our minds, hearts and hands to receive your transforming grace.**

**We pray through Jesus Christ who is always coming among us. Amen.**

### The Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Deacon Emmanuel, we want to believe you are with us dwelling in this and every moment,

**People Yet we catch ourselves longing for the past and rushing toward the future.**

Deacon We want to be found wide awake, alert with love, as you appear in this and every moment,

**People Yet we often slumber through, and laze away the miracle of ordinary days.**

Deacon We want to wait for you alone, and seek your will in all we do, with desire and hope,

**People Yet sometimes our trust fails, our longing grows cold, and our hope dims.**

Deacon We want to make room in our hearts, for you to be born again,

**People Yet we say or do things that hardens our hearts to you and your people.**

Deacon We confess our failure at missing the mark, of not loving from our highest self.

**People We are sorry and we ask your forgiveness as we journey together in this Advent season recognizing our need for you.**

### The Absolution

✠ Celebrant May our Gracious God, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

### The Peace

Celebrant May the transforming peace of Jesus Christ be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### Welcome and Announcements

# The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*Michael Praetorius*

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.  
It came a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, She bore to men a Saviour,  
When half spent was the night.*

*O flower whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us,  
And share our every load.*

*Solo: Mark Bennett*

## The Offertory Prayers

**Celebrant** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which the earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation.

**People** **Blessed be God forever.**

**Celebrant** Receive, O Lord, these gifts presented by your holy people for the work of your holy Church.

**People** **Blessed be God forever.**

*Please remain standing for,*

**The Great Thanksgiving** *(Eucharistic Prayer 2 from Enriching Our Worship 1, supplement to The Book of Common Prayer)*

**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 our thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues. The People read the parts in bold.*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

**From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.**

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways.

**But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; And yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.**

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Glory be to you, O Lord most high.**

**Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The People join in reading the text in bold.*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

**To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.**

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

**He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.**

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: this is my Body, which is given for you.

**Do this for the remembrance of me."**

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it,

**do this for the remembrance of me."**

† Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

**In the fullness of time bring us, with St Francis and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.**

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Invitation To Pray Together The Spiritual Communion Prayer From The National Cathedral

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

Celebrant Let us pray together

**All My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

*(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)*

The Communion of the People

Post Communion Prayer for Advent

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Holy and eternal God, you have graciously fed us with the Body and Blood of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

A Blessing for the Advent Season



Celebrant May the dawn of Christ's coming be the joy of your strength. May the sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; And may the blessings of God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Spirit our Sustainer, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

The Sending Forth

Deacon Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

The Recessional Hymn

**Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**

**Hymn #65, v. 1, 3**

*Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)*

Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple,  
 2 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed,  
 3 speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
 make the rough - er pla - ces plain;  
 4 com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble,  
 6 mourn-ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord  
 8 of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
 now o'er earth is shed a-broad; and all flesh shall see the to - ken  
 and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

*Postlude: Rorate Coeli*

*(arr. Pietro Yon)*