



Grace Episcopal Church

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

Morning Prayer, Rite 2

Book of Common Prayer

GREETING

PRELUDE

He Shall Feed His Flock – Handel/Whitworth

OPENING SENTENCE

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for Him; in his word is my hope. ~ Psalm 130: 4 ~

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Pg. 79

The Officiant says to the people.

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

CONFESSION

Officiant and People together,

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

Pg. 80

Almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Pg. 80

Officiant: Lord open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**GLORIA (All) Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**ANTIPHON Our King and Savior now draws near:
Come let us adore Him.**

A SONG FOR THE MORNING: PSALM 67:1-5

Pg. 675

May God, be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.
Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has brought forth her increase;
May God, our own God, give us his blessing.
May God give us his blessing;
And may all the earth stand in awe of Him.

**ANTIPHON Our King and Savior now draws near:
Come let us adore Him.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People – G. Sewell

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

Pg. 708-9

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.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is
now, and will be for ever . Amen.**

A READING FROM ISAIAH 40:1-11

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people: **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME OF SILENCE/A TIME FOR LISTENING

a bell will ring the beginning and ending

SECOND READING: 2 PETER 3:8-15a

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church: **Thanks be to God.**

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK 1:1-8

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.”

Hear what the Holy Spirit is Saying to the Church: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION *There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Calling* (Hymnal 1982) – H. H. Bancroft

THE HOMILY

The Rev. M. Alton Plummer

A TIME OF SILENCE/A TIME FOR LISTENING

a bell will ring the beginning and ending

THE APOSTLE’S CREED

Pg. 96

THE LORD’S PRAYER *traditional*

Pg. 97

SUFFRAGES “B”

Pg. 98

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Pg. 211

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.**

O God, the creator and preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech you for all sorts and conditions of we, *your people*; that you would be pleased to make your ways known to them, your saving health to all nations.

More especially we pray for your holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life.

Finally, we commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; especially ...

ALL OF US WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 VIRUS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND THOSE WHO MOURN.

Silence

AND FOR THE FOLKS ON OUR PRAYER LIST ...

for those who are traveling, especially **Josey** Parker and **Cameron** Klass

and those with special needs:

Sean Sullivan, **Mark** Adkins, **Chris** Alexander, **Cora** Alexander, **Amanda** Amon, **Ella** Asebes, **Barbara** Beck, **Alice** Brandon & family, **Baylee** Brown, **Andrea** Cain, **Russell** Cinque, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Morgan** Curia, **Barbara** Dixon, **Johanna** Dresser, **Mike** Egan, **Aubrie** Gallen, **Shana** Garland, **Frances** Garner, **Marlon** Gaskins, **Susan** Gibson, **Jane** Grimes, **George** Hanna, **Rob** Hare, **Kristen** Harris, **Elizabeth** Harvey, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris and Mike** Hodges, **Will** Holmes, **Jon** Huff, **Nancy** Hutchins, **Brinkley** Johnson, **Anne** King, **Lindsay** Layfield, **Lynn** Mack, **Carol** May, **Kate** McKenzie, **Nicholas** Melomo, **Molly** Michael, **Roan** Mitchell, **O'Lema** Morgan, **Kathie and Scott** Nelson, **Page** Onorato, **Lynn** Parsley, **Gabby** Plott, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Suzy** Sheets, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Amy** Burkhart Smith, **Dan Griff** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Clarice and Henry** Surratt, **Robin** Tilley, **Jackie** Touchton, **Toni** Underwood, **Frances** Welch, **Courtney** Weller, **Susan** Whetmore, **Bill** Whitehurst, **Flynn** Williams, and **Charlotte** Young.

✦ *At this time you may offer your prayers in the comments bar on Facebook so that we may pray with you through the week.*

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel – arr. Rebecca Te Velde

The Collect Concludes:

Loving God, may please you to comfort and relieve all those whom we lift up to you today, including ourselves, according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.
We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation,
for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,
and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts,
and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures
that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ;
for the truth of his Word and the example of his life;
for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation;
for his dying, through which he overcame death;
and for his rising to life again,
in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit,
that we may know him and make him known;
and through him, at all times and in all places,
may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

DISMISSAL Let us bless the Lord. *Thanks be to God!*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:
Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and
ever. **Amen.** *~Ephesians 3:20,21*

POSTLUDE

Prepare the Royal Highway - P. Manz