

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON MA
Holy Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020

Organ Prelude

Dr. Grant Moss

Welcome and Announcements

Sung Introit

Annie Rogers, soloist

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer, Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel*

Presider

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

People

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

Collect for Purity

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.**

Canticle J A Song of Judith

Judith 16:13-16

Recited in unison

I will sing a new song to my God, *

for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.

Let the whole creation serve you, * for you spoke and all things came into being.

You sent your breath and it formed them, * no one is able to resist your voice.

Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths, *

rocks melt like wax at your presence.

But to those who fear you, * you continue to show mercy.

No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you, *

but whoever fears the Lord shall stand in your sight for ever.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *recited in unison*

- 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.**

Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

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."

The Gospel of the Lord. *People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Julianne Buenting+

The Nicene Creed *recited in unison* **BCP pg 358-359**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

As we joyfully await the full manifestation of God's reign in Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church and the world.

O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High and reach from beginning to end, mightily and sweetly ordering all things.

Behold and bless your church, remembering especially Michael our presiding bishop, Douglas, our bishop, and all ministers. Be present in ordering the life of this and every congregation. **Come and teach us the way of prudence.**

O Adonai, God of the Covenant, ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and on Mount Sinai gave your law. Forgive us when we stray from your guidance and will. **Come and redeem us for our life together.**

O Root of Jesse, before you rulers will shut their mouths, and nations bow in worship: We pray for your peace and justice in every nation and throughout the world; be present to all whose lives are ravaged by war and violence. Guide the leaders of this and every land into the paths of peace and goodwill.
Come save us and do not delay.

O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can shut, you shut and no one can open: Guide us in opening the doors of opportunity for the unemployed, for the unhoused, for the imprisoned, and for all who are suffering; and lead us in closing the doors to racism, poverty, and injustice.
Come and free all those who held in bonds of oppression.

O King of the Nations and their Desire, you are the cornerstone that makes us one: We lift up all those in any need or trouble, especially those on our parish prayer list: David Rosenberger, Lorna, Nancy Elliott, the Reverends Art and Judy Stevens, Nancy Harvin and family, Janet, the Smith family, Betty and Donnie Willard, Norma Keough, Bre, BettyLou DeTurck, Melissa, Vanessa, Richard, Mary Thurber, Mary Wozniak and her mother Mildred Lindsay, and our Manna guests and volunteers.
Come and save us whom you have fashioned out of clay.

O Dayspring, radiance of the Light Eternal and Sun of Righteousness: Shine your light on those who have died; and bring comfort to all those who mourn.
Come and enlighten all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Emmanuel, Expected One and Savior, We give thanks for all the blessings of this life; Make each of us ready to receive you into our hearts, to serve you in all whom we meet, and to greet you in the fullness of your glory in the day of your appearing.
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

The presider concludes with the following collect:

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession

The Presider says Let us confess our sins to God.

Minister and People in unison

**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.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Sign of Peace

The peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Music *E'en So Lord, Quickly Come*

Annie Rogers, soloist

*Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord
The Lord, Almighty God
Who was, and is, and is to come
Sing Holy, Holy Lord
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below
For Christ is coming, is coming soon
For Christ is coming soon
E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come
And night shall be no more
They need no light nor lamp nor sun
For Christ will be their All!*

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presider: The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Presider and People
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
**We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new
Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ,
and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Mary the God-bearer,
St. John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your
children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honor and glory is yours, Gracious God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
**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.**

Fraction Anthem

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**
Presider: The gifts of God for the People of God.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion *(adapted from the Prayer Book for the Armed Services)*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people and your Church,
we delight to offer to you praise and thanksgiving.
We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection;
we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today
in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you
to come spiritually into our hearts.
Heal and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Christ,
and let us never be separated from you.
May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer *in unison*

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Advent Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude Music

Dr. Grant Moss