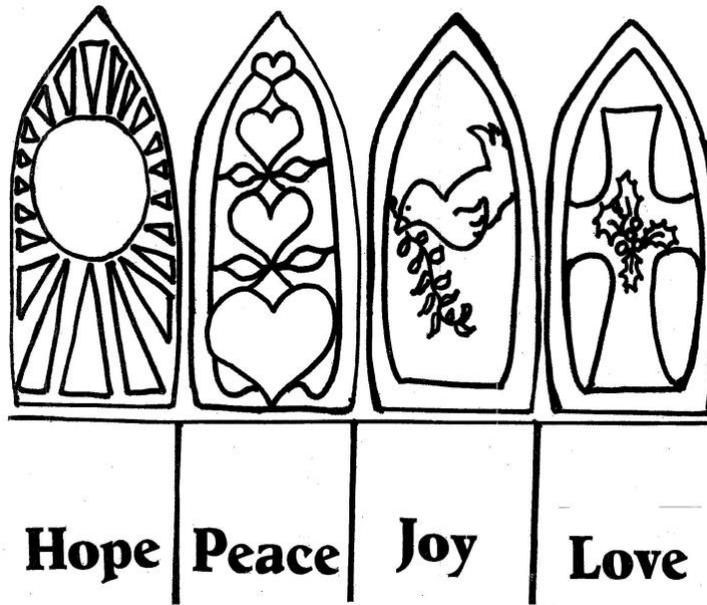


# Advent



**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 13, 2020**

1. The King shall come when morning dawns  
and light triumphant breaks;  
when beauty gilds the eastern hills  
and life to joy awakes.

2. Not, as of old, a little child,  
to bear, and fight, and die,  
but crowned with glory like the sun  
that lights the morning sky.

3. The King shall come when morning dawns  
and earth's dark night is past;  
O haste the rising of that morn,  
the day that e'er shall last.

*Celebrant*            Blessed be the One, Holy, and Living God.  
*People*                **Glory to God forever and ever. Amen**

*Celebrant*            May God be with you.  
*People:*                **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*            Let us pray together.

### **The Collect of the Day**

**Merciful God of peace, your word, spoken by the prophets restores  
your people's life and hope. Fill our hearts with the joy of your  
saving grace, that we may hold fast to your great goodness and in our  
lives proclaim your justice in all the world. Amen**

### **The Lessons**

#### **First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

**Reader:**           **Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.**

**People:**           **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 126**

- 1 When God restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
“God has done great things for them.”
- 4 God has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O God, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

**Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

**Reader:**           **Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.**

**People:**           **Thanks be to God.**

**Deacon:**           **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John**

*People:*       **Glory to you O Christ.**

### **John 1:6-8,19-28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*At the conclusion of the Gospel:*

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Beth Sherman**

**The Nicene Creed**

**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 human. 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 and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified and 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.

## The Prayers of the People

*Reader:* Let us be filled with the Holy Spirit and pray for the common good of the whole human family. *In the pause after each bidding, add your own prayers either silently or aloud.*

O come, Emmanuel, fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit as we pray for the good of the creation and the whole human family. We pray for the Church, the Body of Christ, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop and Nicholas, our Bishop; for the people of God, gathered from every nation under heaven; may we proclaim in every language, the dawning of a new age. In the **Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the Falkland Islands. In the **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for all laity in their several vocations and ministries that they may truly and devoutly serve God.

*Silence*

*Reader:* For this we pray.

*People:* **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, guide people of faith to proclaim by word and deed the presence of your love.

*Silence*

*Reader:* For this we pray.

*People:* **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

O come, thou Lord of light, who has shown us that through love you choose the way of apparent weakness to draw humankind to your way, guide us in the paths of justice and peace.

*Silence*

*Reader:* For this we pray.

*People:* **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree. Bless all whose lives are closely linked to ours, that we may be images of your love to one another.

*Silence*

*Reader:* For this we pray.

*People:* **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

O come, thou Key of David, inspire us to minister in our communities, as we are gifted and able to bring comfort and assistance to reveal the power of your compassion and mercy.

*Silence*

*Reader:* For this we pray.

*People:* **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, to heal, guide, and comfort all who suffer from illness or, distress remembering today\_\_\_\_\_

*Silence*

*Reader:* For this we pray.

*People:* **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

O come, Emmanuel, in whose embrace we commend those who have gone ahead of us to rest in your love, remembering \_\_\_\_\_

*Silence*

*Reader:* For this we pray.

*People:* **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

*Reader:* We give you thanks for the blessings of this life, including those celebrating birthdays: Aran Wall-Lyster, Bonnie Beeley, Scott Brown, Jiaying Shi, Michael Smith and Matthew Masse.

*Silence*

*Reader:* For this we pray.

*People:* **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

*Together:*

**God of unveiled truth, faithful flame in times of darkened sun and waning moon: lift up our unknowing hearts, and waken our sleeping love to announce the coming dawn of unexpected peace; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.**

**Additional Collects**

**The Vicar**

*Celebrant* **Summing all of our prayers, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying:**

**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 forever. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 2, 3, 4, 5) 56**

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go.

***Refrain* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O, Israel!**

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.

***Refrain***

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
free them from Satan's tyranny  
that trust thy mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.

***Refrain***

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.

***Refrain***

## **The Blessing**

**Dismissal:** Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*Dismissal response:* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Announcements**

**Please remember to return your 2021 pledge cards.**



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