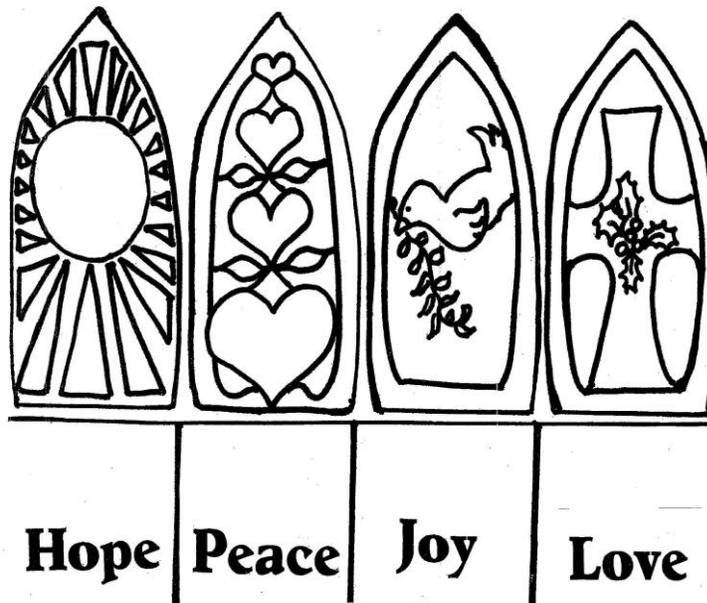


Advent



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him
and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken.

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

God of impossible love, you needed Mary to give consent, to bear the scandal, to carry your word within herself: may her courage give hope to women and men who yearn to sing new songs of justice and find the world a dwelling place for God; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

The Lessons 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

At the conclusion of the reading:

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

- 1 Your love, O God, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is
established for ever; * you have set your
faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 “I have made a covenant with my
chosen one; * I have sworn an
oath to David my servant:
- 4 ‘I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.’ ”
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
“I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.
No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any adversary bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, ‘You are my Creator, *
my God and the rock of my salvation.

Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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 Luke

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

The Gospel Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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 mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mother's Union around the world. In the **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for St. Thomas, Greenville; and St. Stephen's, Providence.

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: Sarah Elizabeth Fratus, Kathie Gibson, Fred Aparicio and Daniel Antaya.

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. 1,6,7,8) 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, thou Day spring from on high,
and cheer us by the drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Refrain

O come, Desire of nations,
bind in one the hearts of all mankind,
id thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of peace.

Refrain

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

The Blessing

Dismissal

Dismissal response: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia

Announcements

Please remember to return your 2021 pledge cards.



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