

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 a.m.

December 6, 2020



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

Welcome to the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth.

Wherever you are on your faith journey, we are delighted you are here and we welcome you into fellowship with all who seek the presence of Christ in their lives.

Through the Season of Advent, please join us in beginning our worship services with prayer and contemplation, observing the incense that thickens the air, reminding us the Holy Spirit is with us. Observe the lit candles on the Advent wreath, helping us mark time as we anticipate Christ’s birth anew in our hearts and lives. Join in the singing of the Taize refrain that calls our attention to the ongoing need for justice and peace for all God’s children.

The Second Advent Candle

The second Advent candle reminds us of Jesus’ life-giving peace to all who trust in him. As the light of the Advent candles brighten, may our peace and hope be strengthened in you, Our Savior.

Opening Meditation

The Kingdom of God

The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and
 joy in the Ho - ly Spir - it. Come, Lord, and
 o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom.

Text: Taizé Community
Tune: Taizé Community
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The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God 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 forever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

The People sit for

The First Lesson: 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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (*Spoken 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.**

The Second Lesson: 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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand

The Gospel Procession

O come, O come Emmanuel (vss. 4, 6)

HYMN 56

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: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

O come, thou dayspring from on high, and cheer us by the drawing high;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (1:1-8)

People **Glory to you, O 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."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

The Rev. Karen A. Calafat

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 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 and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified;
who 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

Presider With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray, saying "Christ, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; Scott, our bishop; for all bishops, ministers and lay leaders, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For Donald, our President; Joe, our President-elect; Greg, our Governor; and Betsy, our Mayor; of all who are in command in the military and for first responders, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For healthcare providers and support staff worldwide and the patients in their care; for the aged and infirm, for refugees and victims; for the sick and the suffering; and for those we now name, _____, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to God. **To thee, Almighty God.**

Celebrant: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**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.**

Celebrant: 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
All **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 Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Blessing

May the God of hope, fill you.
May the God of joy, overflow you.
May the God of peace, pour you into the world.*

May God Almighty: Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier bless and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace seeking justice for all God's children.
People **Thanks be to God**

Postlude

**Race and Prayer: Collected Voices, Many Dreams.* Malcolm Boyd and Chester Talton, editors. 2003.

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