

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

Ministry of the Word

John 1:5



*The light
shines in the darkness,
but the darkness
has not understood it.*

2

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude

Hymn #109 "When the King Shall Come Again"

Text by Christopher Idle

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | When the King shall come again,
all his power revealing,
splendour shall announce his reign,
life and joy and healing;
earth no longer in decay,
hope no more frustrated,
this is God's redemption day
longingly awaited. | 3 | Strengthen feeble hands and knees;
fainting hearts, be cheerful!
God, who comes for such as these,
seeks and saves the fearful.
Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues
sing away their weeping;
blind eyes, see the lifeless ones
walking, running, leaping! |
| 2 | In the desert, trees take root,
fresh from God's creation;
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit
join the celebration;
rivers spring up from the earth,
barren lands adorning.
Valleys, this is your new birth;
mountains, greet the morning! | 4 | There God's highway shall be seen
where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean,
walks the road to Zion:
ransomed people homeward bound
all your praises voicing,
see your Lord with glory crowned,
share in his rejoicing! |

Greeting

page 185

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Third Candle – The Candle of Love

John the Baptist

Leader Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Leader Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Love. Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.

A person lights the Candles of Hope and Peace.

Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he

3

believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly, and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

A person lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Love.

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

Let us pray.

People **Lord God, your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

page 185

Celebrant Almighty God,

People **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah

¹ 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 broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

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

Praise to you, God of our salvation. Your generous gifts surpass all that we can ask or imagine. You have delivered us from the exile of sin and restored us to new life in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Glory and honour and praise to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Second Reading:

I Thessalonians 5:16–24

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May 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. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant Alleluia

People **Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Celebrant The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted.

People **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel:

John 1:6–8, 19–28

Subdeacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Subdeacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²² Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ 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.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Subdeacon The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

A time for silent reflection is kept.

Solo: “*Comfort Ye, My People*” Text: Isaiah 40:1-5 paraphrase. Melody: Claude Goudimel

The Apostles’ Creed

page 189

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the**

third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Leader In joyful expectation, we pray.

People **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Confession and Absolution

page 191

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant Most merciful God,

People **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 neighbours 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 upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

People **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

page 192

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Doxology

Celebrant Glory to God,

People **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Announcements

Dismissal

Subdeacon Go in peace full of expectation to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #95 "O Come, Divine Messiah"

Text by Simon-Joseph Pellegrin;
translation by Sister Mary of St. Philip

1 O come, divine Messiah;
the world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph
and sadness flee away.

2 O Christ, whom nations sigh for,
whom priest and prophet long
foretold,
come, break the captives' fetters,
redeem the long-lost fold.

Refrain:

Dear Saviour, haste! Come, come to
earth.

Dispel the night and show your face,
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.

O come, Divine Messiah;
the world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph
and sadness flee away.

Refrain

3 O come in peace and meekness
and lowly will your cradle be;
all clothed in human weakness
shall we your Godhead see.

Refrain

Today's Scripture Readings**Third Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11;
 Psalm 126
 1 Thes 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28

Next Sunday's Scripture Readings**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

2 Sam 7:1-11
 Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26
 Romans 16:25-27
 Luke 1:26-38

Celebrant	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Preacher	The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD
Subdeacon	Margie Lyttle
Reader	Laura Pummell
Organist	Michael Leach
Intercessor	Doug Heyes
Soloist	Máiri Demings
Videographer	Egan Done