

DECEMBER 29, 2020  
ADVENT ONE



*Welcome to our service of Holy Eucharist. All are welcome, we are glad that you are here. The people are invited to join in everything that is in **BOLD** type, while the Celebrant will speak the plain type.*

*Advent is a time of waiting. Over four Sundays, and in the time between, we await the birth of Jesus and all that it will mean for the world.*

*And so Advent is also a time of reflection, of contemplation, about how we will respond to the example that Jesus set for us – an example of confronting the unjust use of power, and of committing to building right relationships with the whole of creation.*

*The people stand.*

ENTRANCE HYMN **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

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

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

## LIGHTING THE CANDLE

Voice 1: As we begin our Advent journey, we remember Mary and Joseph, who journeyed from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Voice 2: But when they arrived after their long travel there was no shelter to be found.

1: All they could find was some space in a stable.

2: And it was in this lowly stable where Jesus and his family found shelter.

1: Today we light this candle, a sign of hope;

2: A reflection of our hope and concern for this Earth: our place of shelter.

**ALL: In hope may we together protect the shelter God's Earth provides.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

*The people sit.*

First Reading: **Isaiah 64:1-9**

1 that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
2 as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
4 From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
5 You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
7 There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

**PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19** (*For the reading of the psalm, the people read the **BOLD.***)

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;\*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,\*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**  
3 Restore us, O God of hosts;\*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

- 4 O God of hosts,\*  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;\*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbours,\*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts;\*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you,\*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**
- 18 Restore us, O God of hosts;\*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- Glory to God our Creator, to God's most Holy Word,  
and to the Spirit, indwelling:\***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark: **Glory to you O Christ.**

### **Mark 13:24-37**

<sup>24</sup> "But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup> "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup> "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like

a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

## The Gospel of Christ: **Praise to you O Christ**

### SERMON

#### AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are called to proclaim the truth and let us believe: It is not true that this world and its people are doomed to die and to be lost.

**This is true: I have come that they may have life  
in all its abundance.**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction.

**This is true: The deaf hear, the dead are raised to life,  
the poor are hearing the good news.**

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word and that war and destruction have come to stay forever.

**This is true: Death shall be no more,  
neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more.**

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world.

**This is true: The Lord whom we seek  
will suddenly come to the temple;  
and the Lord is like a refining fire.**

It is not true that our dreams of liberation, of human dignity, are not meant for this earth and for this history.

**This is true: It is already time for us to wake from sleep.  
For the night is far gone, the day is at hand.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### THE PEACE

*The people stand.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Let us pray:

God of abundance,

**we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,  
and with them our very lives.**

**Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need  
until the coming of your Son, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, gracious God . . .

. . . to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and Might  
Heaven and Earth are Full, Full of Your Glory,  
Hosanna in the Highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the Highest.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God . . .

...Therefore, Holy One, according to his command,

**Christ has died**

**Christ has risen**

**Christ will come again**

And we offer our sacrifice . . .  
...now and for ever.

## LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,  
**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 for ever. Amen.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

God of Promise,  
you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.  
**Happy are those who are called  
to the supper of the Lamb.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## THE COMMUNION

### THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*The people stand.*

Let us pray:

God of Advent,  
**Keep us awake to the signs of your return in our midst:  
the cries of the earth, the songs seeking justice, the  
awakening of the people of the land.  
Keep us awake that we might see you  
when you come into our midst  
and might satisfy the deepest yearning  
of our hearts and souls—to know you. Amen.**

Glory to God,  
**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 in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SENDING HYMN

## PRIEST'S BLESSING

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

## SENDING OUT

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Presider: Emilie

Music: Patti

Readers: Maureen and Martha

Prayers: Roland