

December 8, 2024

10:30 am

The Second Sunday in Advent

Welcome

Opening Hymn “Prepare the Way, O Zion” *Frans Mikael Franzen, Charles B. Price*

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near
Let every hill and valley a level way appear
Greet One who comes in glory foretold in sacred story

Chorus: O blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy Name

He brings God’s rule, O Zion, He comes from Heaven above
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth and love
Lift high your praise resounding for grace and joy abounding (*Chorus*)

Fling wide your gates, O Zion, your Savior’s rule embrace
His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place
All lands will bow before Him, their voices will adore Him (*Chorus*)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – The candles of Hope and Peace, are lit (Reader)

Psalmist All Pray: Lord of all peace, without You there is no hope for peace for the world. We pray that You will bring true peace to our world and our community. Amen.

Celebrant Blessed be God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it:

People Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.

Celebrant Our help is in the name of the Lord:

People Who made heaven and earth.

Celebrant I was glad when they said to me

People Let us go to the house of the Lord.

Celebrant Praise the Lord.

People The name of the Lord be praised.

All Almighty God, You bring to light things hidden in darkness, and know the shadows of our hearts; cleanse and renew us by Your Spirit, that we may walk in the light and glorify Your name, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.

Celebrant Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first and great commandment is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

People ***Amen. Lord have mercy and write these laws in our hearts, we pray.***

Celebrant Glory to the Father.

People ***Glory to the Son.***

Celebrant Glory to the Spirit.

People ***Forever Three in One.***

Celebrant Be glorified at home.

People ***Be glorified in church.***

Celebrant Be glorified in Texas.

People ***Be glorified in the United States.***

Celebrant Be glorified on earth.

People ***Be glorified in heaven.***

Celebrant Glory to the Father.

People ***Glory to the Son.***

Celebrant Glory to the Spirit.

People ***Forever Three in One.***

Celebrant *Alleluia!*

People ***Amen.***

The Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The First Lesson is from the book of the prophet Malachi, chapter 3, beginning to read at verse 1

3 “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵ “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. (ESV)

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People ***Alleluia! Praise be to God***

Psalm 126 *Let us read this Psalm responsively by half verse.*

1 When the LORD overturned the captivity 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, *
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

4 Indeed, the LORD has done great things for us already, *
whereof we rejoice.

5 Overturn our captivity, O LORD, *
as when streams refresh the deserts of the south.

6 Those who sow in tears *
shall reap with songs of joy.

7 He who goes on his way weeping and bears good seed *
shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

Psalmist This is the Word of the Lord.

People ***Alleluia! Praise be to God.***

The second lesson is from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, chapter 4, beginning to read at verse 8.

⁸ Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you! ⁹ For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. ¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. ¹¹ To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, ¹² and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things. ¹⁴ I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵ For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶ I urge you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷ That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. ¹⁸ Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. ²¹ What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness? (ESV)

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People ***Alleluia! Praise be to God.***

Sequence Song, “Ancient Words”

Lynn DeShazo

***Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart. (2x)***

Celebrant We stand to hear the good news of our salvation, as it is written in the Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 3 beginning to read at verse 1.

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” (ESV)

Celebrant This is the Gospel of Christ.

People **Alleluia! Praise be to Christ our Savior.**

Sequence Song, “Ancient Words”

Lynn DeShazo

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. O let the ancient words impart.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Chuck Thebeau

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant We stand together with Christians throughout the centuries, and throughout the world today, to affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All **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 of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, 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 worshipped 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

Celebrant Come, long-expected Jesus. Receive our prayer as part of our service to the Lord who enlists us in His own work for Love. Come, long-expected Jesus.

Psalmist Heavenly Father, we come with thanksgiving for the lives You have given us, redeemed, and sustained through Jesus Christ. Send now Your Spirit to guide us as we pray in this Advent season.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Father, we pray for Your holy Church; that we all may be one in Christ. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve You; that Your Name may be glorified by everyone. We pray for all bishops, priests and deacons; especially Steve, our Archbishop; Clark, our Bishop; Chuck, our priest, that they may be faithful ministers of Your word and sacraments. Give them strength to do Your will in all that they undertake and that they may be blessed in all their works.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Strengthen your Church for her witness and work in the world. Today we lift up Apostles Anglican Church in Houston, Texas. We ask your anointing upon Archbishop Lamido, Kaduna, Nigeria; and the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans around the world. We especially pray that you would empower our sister parish, Christ Church Jerusalem, as an instrument for your peace in Jerusalem, Israel, and the Middle East.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Come into our hearts, repair the brokenness of sin, heal the wounds of mind and spirit, comfort the sick and grieving, warm the cold-hearted, fill the lonely and empty.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Come into our homes, make them places of grace, places of forgiveness, places of safety, places of joy, and places of peace.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Come to all those who protect us; our Armed Forces and first responders and fill them with a sense of Your ever abiding presence.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Come to those at the center of our government and fill them with wisdom, justice and truth as they lead our great nation.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist We pray for the little children and babies: born and unborn, that their tender lives may be protected and their rights guarded.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist We praise You and thank You for Your bountiful blessings You so freely give. We beseech You to move Your people to support and complete Your glorious City on the Hill. May we be a beacon that shines from the top of this hill not only throughout New Braunfels but Texas and the world.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Psalmist Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for an abundance of rain to replenish our land.

Psalmist With love we pray.
People ***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

Celebrant Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in us a faith responsive to the Father's Gift. Excite in us the hope of Your coming. Excite in us Your love for the world. In the name of our Coming King, Jesus. ***Amen.***

Prayers of Penitence

Celebrant Hear the words of challenge and comfort our Savior Christ says to all who follow him. If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. (*Luke 9:23-24*)

Come to me all of you who are tired of carrying your heavy loads, and I will give you rest. (*Matthew 11:28*)

So, all of you who repent of your sins, who love your neighbors and intend to lead a new life, following the way of Jesus, come with faith and take this holy sacrament to strengthen you. Let us reverently confess our sins to Almighty God.

All **Almighty God, creator of all, You marvelously made us in Your image; but we have corrupted ourselves and damaged Your likeness by rejecting Your love and hurting our neighbors. We have done wrong and neglected to do right. We are sincerely sorry and heartily repent of our sins. Cleanse us and forgive us by the sacrifice of Your Son; remake us and lead us by Your Spirit, the Comforter. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, whose steadfast love is as great as the heavens are high above the earth, remove your sins from you as far as the east is from the west, strengthen your life in His kingdom and keep you upright to the last day; through Jesus Christ our merciful High Priest. Amen.

All **Thank you Father, for forgiveness; we come to Your table as Your children, not presuming but assured, not trusting ourselves but Your Word; we hunger and thirst for righteousness, and ask for our hearts to be satisfied with the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ the righteous. Amen.**

The Peace

Offertory Hymn “Prepare Ye the Way”

John Michael Talbot

The Word of the Lord came one evening
Concerning His bride’s great sin
He’d send down His Word to renew her
To prepare for the Bridegroom again

The Word said repent from seeking vain glories
While the gifts in the Lord’s Name you give
Repent of all the first stones cast to kill
While your own self righteousness lives

Chorus: Prepare ye the way for the Lord
Prepare ye the way for the Kingdom
Prepare ye the way
Prepare ye the way for the Lord

The Word said repent and turn from your strivings

Repent and turn from your hatred
Repent from the doctrines of men that divide
And tear like the wedding gown ripped

Walk in His love like newborn children
Walk in His love let the wedding gown mend
Walk in His love with humility come with pure hearts
And cast all your cares to the wind (*Chorus*)

The Word of the Lord came one evening
Concerning His bride's great sin
He assured me we will be forgiven
And then let the marriage begin (*Chorus x2*)

Outro: Prepare ye prepare ye the way (*x6*)

Doxology

All sing Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant Is the Father with us?

People He is.

Celebrant Is Christ among us?

People He is.

Celebrant Is the Spirit here?

People He is.

Celebrant This is our God.

People Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

Celebrant We are His people.

People We are redeemed.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right and our delight to give You thanks and praise, great Father, living God, supreme over the world. Creator, Provider, Savior and Giver. For Abraham, the

wandering nomad, You made an everlasting covenant and called Your family; for a burdened people You raised up Moses as a prophet and leader; for a confused nation You chose David to be king; for a rebellious crowd, You sent Your prophets.

In these last days You have sent us Your Son, Your perfect image, bringing Your kingdom, revealing Your will, dying, rising, reigning, remaking Your people for Yourself. Through Him You have poured out Your Holy Spirit, filling us with light and life.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with angels, archangels, faithful ancestors and all in heaven, we proclaim Your great and glorious name, forever praising You and singing,

“Sanctus”

“Sanctus” Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. (2x)

Men sing: Holy, Holy, Holy...

Ladies sing: Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. (2x)

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

People remain standing

Celebrant Almighty God, owner of all things, we thank You for giving up Your Son to die on the cross for us who owe You everything. Pour Your refreshing Spirit on us as we remember Him in the way He commanded, through these gifts of Your creation.

On the same night that He was betrayed He took bread and gave You thanks; He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, take, eat, this is My body which is given for You; Do this in remembrance of Me.

People ***Amen. His body was broken for us.***

Celebrant In the same way, after supper He took the cup and gave You thanks; He gave it to them saying: Drink this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, which

is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

People ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Celebrant We are brothers and sisters through His blood.

People ***We have died together, we will rise together, we will live together.***

Celebrant Therefore, heavenly Father, hear us as we celebrate this covenant with joy, and await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. He died in our place, making a full atonement for the sins of the whole world, the perfect sacrifice, once and for all. You accepted His offering by raising Him from death, and granting Him great honor at Your right hand on high.

People ***Amen. Jesus is Lord.***

Celebrant This is the feast of victory!

People ***The Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia!***

The Communion

Celebrant As our Savior 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, forever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People ***Though we are many we are one body, for we all share one bread.***

Celebrant The cup of blessing which we bless,

People ***is a sharing in the blood of Christ.***

Celebrant Draw near with faith and receive.

People ***Christ is the host and we are His guests.***

Celebrant Christ is alive for ever.

People ***We are because He is.***

The celebrant then holds the bread and the wine and declares to the people:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for you, to preserve your body and soul in eternal life. Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts, by faith, and with thanksgiving.

“O Come to The Altar”

Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Wade Joye, Mack Brock

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin, Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well, Jesus is calling

Chorus: O come to the altar, The Father’s arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there’s no reason to wait, Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born, Jesus is calling (*Chorus x2*)

All Christians who have turned in faith to Jesus Christ and have been baptized are invited to receive Communion; people come forward for communion while the following songs are sung.

Communion Songs “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

John M. Neale, Thomas Helmore

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

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

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight (*Refrain*)

O come Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go (*Refrain*)

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace (*Refrain*)

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Charles Wesley, Rowland H. Pritchard

Come Thou long expected Jesus born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us let us find our rest in Thee
Israel’s strength and consolation hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne

“Here I Am to Worship”

Tim Hughes

Light of the world You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
The beauty that makes this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus: Here I am to worship here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You’re my God
You’re altogether lovely altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days all so highly exalted
Glorious in Heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love’s sake became poor (*Chorus*)

Bridge: I’ll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross (*x2, Chorus*)

Post-Communion Prayer

All Almighty God, eternal Father, we have sat at Your feet, learned from Your word, and eaten from Your table. We give You thanks and praise for accepting us into Your family. Send us out with Your blessing, to live and to witness for You in the power of Your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, the First Born from the dead. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”
Charles Coffin, Charles Winfred Douglas

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh
Awake and hearken for He brings glad tidings of the King of kings

Then cleansed be every breast from sin make straight the way for
God within and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty

Guest may come

For Thou art our salvation Lord our refuge and our great reward
Without Thy grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay

All praise eternal Son to Thee whose advent doth Thy people free
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore

Celebrant Words of dismissal.

All ***Praise be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!***

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