

PRINCE OF PEACE

*Advent
Season*



Sunday November 29, 2020

First Sunday in Advent

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

This Advent, we are looking to hear words of comfort, of challenge and of good news. The prophet Isaiah and the four Gospel authors were writing in a time when people needed desperately to hear all of these words as well. This first week, Isaiah, the prophet, and Mark—the Gospel writer who published first—reassure the people that good news is beginning and yet they both say, “Make yourself ready! Raise your voices, change your hearts, get ready to be transformed, because now is the time.” Let us embrace hope that we can do what needs to be done to bring more light into the world.

Lighting the Advent Wreath: I believe

Prayer of the Day

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of untiring hope.
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when our view is obscured
by clouds of doubt,
ignite the flame of hope within us,
**All: that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out.**

[Congregation joins the song]

**I believe in the sun,
I believe in the sun,
even when... even when...
it's not shining.**

Children's time to SHINE!

First Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-11 *(Common English Bible translation)*

Comfort, comfort my people!
says your God.
Speak compassionately to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended,
that her penalty has been paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins!

A voice is crying out:

“Clear the Lord’s way in the desert!

Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!
Every valley will be raised up,
and every mountain and hill will be flattened.
Uneven ground will become level,
and rough terrain a valley plain.

The Lord’s glory will appear,
and all humanity will see it together;
the Lord’s mouth has commanded it.

A voice was saying:

“Call out!”

And another said,

“What should I call out?”

All flesh is grass;

all its loyalty is like the flowers of the field.

The grass dries up
and the flower withers
when the Lord’s breath blows on it.
Surely the people are grass.

The grass dries up;
the flower withers,
but our God’s word will exist forever.

Go up on a high mountain,
messenger Zion!
Raise your voice and shout,
messenger Jerusalem!
Raise it; don’t be afraid;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

Here is the Lord God,
coming with strength,
with a triumphant arm,
bringing his reward with him
and his payment before him.

Like a shepherd, God will tend the flock;
he will gather lambs in his arms
and lift them onto his lap.
He will gently guide the nursing ewes.

Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19

- ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
- ² **before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
- ³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ⁴ O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- ⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ¹⁷ But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
- ¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
- ¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Gospel: Mark 1. 1-15 *(Common English Bible translation)*

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger before you.

*He will prepare your way,
a voice shouting in the wilderness:*

*"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight."*

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins.

Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me.

I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

The gospel of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Message

Hymn of the Day All Earth is Hopeful 266 Alberto Taule; Madeleine Forell Marshall Toda La Terra
11 11 12 12

1. All earth is hopeful,
the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open
For God's creative task
This the labor of people
Who struggle to see
How God's truth and justice
Set everybody free.

2. People of Israel,
You heard the prophet tell
a virgin mother
will bear Emmanuel
she conceived him God with us
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage
To children of this earth!

3. Mountains and valleys
Will have to be prepared
New highways opened
New protocols declared
Almost here God is nearing
In beauty and grace
All clear every gateway
In haste, come out in haste!

4. We first saw Jesus
a baby in a crib
this same Lord Jesus
today has come to live
in our world he is present
in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us
And ever sets us free.

Apostles Creed

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 into hell.

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 Peace

Announcements

Prayers of Intercession

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence

Gracious God, you send from your abundance the people, talents, and resources needed for all the ministries of your church. We give thanks for the work you have accomplished through your people, and we pray for your continued blessings in our ministry together.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you open our hearts in compassion for one another. We give thanks for the care and healing received through the hands and feet of your servants. Send us to love those most in need of your mercy.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hospitable God, you connect and strengthen us through meals and conversation with family and friends. In this time of thanksgiving, steer us from passive receiving to active response, from old quarrels to reconciliation, and from overconsumption to true gratitude.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the love and care we have received from saints who have gone before us. By their example, enrich the generosity of our witness to others.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until the day when you gather creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

May the creator of the stars of light fill you with hope,
The long expected Savior bless your Advent waiting with love,
And the unexpected Spirit guide your journey through these days.
And the Messenger of the Most High says, "Be not afraid!"

Amen.

Hymn: Introduction

"I Heard the Bells of Christmas Day"

Henry Longfellow; John Calkin public domain

WALTHAM 88 88 reprinted source Hymnary. org

1. I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
of peace on earth good will to men.

2. And in despair I bowed my head
there is no peace on earth I said
for hate is strong and mocks the song
of peace on earth good will to men.

3. Then pealed the bells
More loud and deep
God is not dead nor doth he sleep
The wrong shall fail the right prevail
With peace on earth good will to men.

4. Till ringing singing
on its way
the world revolved from night to day
a voice a chime a chant sublime
Of peace on earth good will to men.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks for joining us!

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