

# Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan

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Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

The Rev. Jamie Samilio

We respectfully ask that you wear a mask while moving from place to place in the church. We do not require you to wear a mask while seated and responsibly spaced. Thank you!

If you are worshipping online, you can find the Book of Common Prayer at:  
<https://bcponline.org/> (The Holy Eucharist Rite II)

Prelude

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Gregory Hamilton

Opening Hymn 76, vv. 1 - 3, 5 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

*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 flowers 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.*

## Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

*Reader:* In those days a fiery preacher from the desert came to tell the people: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near!" He is the one the prophet Isaiah spoke about when he said: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" We light the second Advent candle in preparation for the coming of the Messiah, in anticipation of the fullness of God's justice and righteousness, and remembering the call of John the Baptist to make paths straight, repent of our sin, and live holy lives devoted to God.

*Light the candle*

*Reader:* Come, Lord Jesus.

**All: Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord. Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**People** **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

*Celebrant* 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 for ever. **Amen.**

***Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.***

## **The Collect**

*Celebrant* The Lord 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 for ever. **Amen.**

## **The First Lesson**

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 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; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Response**

Canticle 16

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **The Epistle**

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of

you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord

**People**    **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn 75**, vv. 1-2    *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying*  
*There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:*  
*Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!*  
*The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;*  
*make straight all the crooked places, where the Lord our God may go!*

*O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up to the heights and sing!*  
*Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.*  
*Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass our works decay,*  
*the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away;*

### **The Gospel**

Luke 3:1-6

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sequence Hymn 75, v. 3**    *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying  
but the word of our God endureth, the arm of the Lord is strong;  
he stands in the midst of nations, and he will right the wrong.  
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd, the lambs he'll gently hold;  
to pastures of peace he'll lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.*

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Jamie Samilio

**The Nicene Creed**

BCP p. 358

### **The Prayers of the People**

Wherever we are, in the wilderness, the countryside, or the city, God, you are there. That our hearts may be stirred up in thanksgiving for the life you have given us, let us pray, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and stars that shelter the night: May our eyes be open to the beauty around us, the subtle changes in the sky, the delicate coating of soil from which breaks forth our food and flowers and in which animals make their home. Help us to protect and nurture your creation around us and ever proclaim its wonders. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the church in every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of the church, the persons next to us in the pew, those in neighborhood churches, the national international, and ecumenical church of every race, nation and economic circumstance. Let us give thanks for the web of friendship and trust that you give to those who are called the friends of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in authority: Let us pray for Christians who witness in places hostile to the gospel, and let us be thankful for our freedom to practice our faith. Let us pray for the leaders of nations that Christ may transform strangers into friends that all may see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this community in our joys and sorrows: Let us remember those who have gone before us, those who have sacrificed for us. Help us to look for what is below the obvious, and from this depth to reach out to others. Help us to know the joy that is

mingled even with our utmost grief. Let us give thanks for this gathering of God's people and for the renewal of life we are given. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those at greatest risk among us: Let us pray for those lonely, rejected, or oppressed, for the sick and those who struggle to regain their strength, for those among us with the longest memories to link us to the past, and for the newborn, in whose baptism our baptism is again renewed.

*Silence (The Congregation may add their own petitions.)*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask that all those who have died find eternal life in your loving presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* Lord, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place, and as you prepare the way, making every valley filled and every mountain brought low in blessing and adoration, guide us to Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

BCP p. 360

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## **Birthday and Anniversary Blessings**

### **Offertory Anthem**

*The Holly and the Ivy*

Richard Shepherd

## **The Doxology**

*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.*

## **The Holy Communion**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p. 361

*During Communion Debbie and Barb will stand on each side of the steps. If you would like to have additional prayers said for healing or for special needs and concerns, go to one of them and they will pray with you before you return to your seat.*

**Communion Hymn 67**      *Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People*      Organ

*Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.*

*Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,  
calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.*

*Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain:  
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;  
and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.*

### **Act of Reception (For those receiving virtually.)**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you were already there, I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you; never permit me to be separated from you. **Amen.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

## Closing Hymn 65

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

*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.*

*O blest is Christ who 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.*

*O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

*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.*

*O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*Lift Up Your Heads*

Franklin Ritter

*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*

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## Online Worship and Fellowship Links

### 8:30AM Worship, via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81924368884?pwd=U1BGMnVZTlZhdlsxVUZBekhzbHJQZz09>

Meeting ID: 819 2436 8884

Passcode: church

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