

***SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
PRAYER SERVICE***



December 6, 2020
“Enriching Our Worship”

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND ASCENSION
Northwoods, MO

During the season of Advent, we are called to seek the light of Christ, even in the midst of darkness. Advent invites us to face the darkness within our own lives and in the world around us. The prophets assure us that the darkness will not overcome us. We are called to watch for the light with hope, faith, trust and joy. May the Spirit of God shine within our hearts so that we might be light for others.

Lighting of our Advent Wreath

Worship Leader

Today we relight the candle of HOPE.

[Here re-light the first Advent candle.]

Listen now, to the words of the prophet Isaiah: “The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.” (Isaiah 11: 6)

We now light a second candle. This is the candle of PEACE.

[Here light the second Advent candle.]

As we prepare for the coming of Christ, we remember that He alone is the hope and peace our world sorely needs.

Celebrant Our Savior and Redeemer now draws near:

People **Come let us adore Him.**

Celebrant O God, grant us your light,

People **That being rid of the darkness of our hearts, we may come to the true light which is Christ.**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Led by Walter Fox

*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 Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.*

Refrain-

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

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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 Savior. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

BCP page 356

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Celebrant God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

People Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

BCP page 708

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in

accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Renee L. Fenner
(also posted online)

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 from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death 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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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 Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Deon our Bishop, and Renee our Priest. We pray for our Diocese of Missouri, and for the people and ministry of Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis. We pray for Kathie, their Dean; Helen, their assisting Priest; and Susan and Barbi, their Deacons. We also pray for the Diocese of Lui; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *(pause)*
We pray especially for:

Cleo Anderson	Kimberley Baker	Terry Baker
Joey Beeker	Rose Marie Bell	Jourice Bishop
Chazetta Bland	V. Lester Bond	Juanita Carroll
Lorenzo Carter	Clark and Simmons Families	
Bessie Clemmons	Lola Crenshaw	Aubrey Escoffery

Anthony Fenner
Carman Gayden
Suzanne Harris
Ezell Roberts
Sallie Simmons
Sharron White

Evans Ford
Jim Goodwin
The Hughes Family
Marion Robinson
Mary Stafford

Vivian Fox
Antonio Graves
Mary K. Jones
Larry Sample
Catherine Thrope

We pray for all veterans and for those who are currently serving in the military especially:

Sgt. Omar Fernandes (Brantley)-United States Air Force
Sr. Airman Matthew Heeter- United States Air Force
Captain Jovonny Carrion-United States Army
Staff Sgt. Ashley Cole-United States Air Force
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keshar Miller-United States Army Reserve

We also pray for all students, parents, guardians, teachers, and school staffs.

A Prayer in Time of Pandemic

O God of all mercy and compassion, hear our prayers in this time of illness and infection, of isolation, fear, and uncertainty. We pray for the sick, and those weighed down by pain, distress, loneliness, and anxiety; and for all who care for them. We pray for those who have responsibility for public health and social order especially all medical staff and hospital workers, medical researchers, social workers, all essential workers, and for the leaders of the nations and their governments around the globe that they may make wise decisions in this time of crisis. We ask all this and more through your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

BCP page 823

A Prayer for An End to Gun Violence

Gracious God who loves us so perfectly, help us to better love you and each other. We weep for the gun violence that kills our children and so many others needlessly. Bless us with the wisdom and strength to put down our weapons and may violence cease in the nation and in our world. We ask all this in the Name of Jesus, your Son, and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

A Prayer for those wishing Communion

In union, O God, with the faithful of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always

be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you, and may you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those whom we love or those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind and may the Divine Mystery that is beyond our ability to know, be your companion along the way. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the grace of Christ the Son and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

4520 Lucas and Hunt Road
Saint Louis, Missouri 63121
314-367-2314 and 314-361-0105
allsaintsascension.com