



## The Second Sunday of Advent Saint Nicholas Day December 6, 2020 Morning Prayer

### Lighting of the Advent Candle: *The Wonder of the Promise*

Reader: During Advent we recall God's promises spoken through the prophets.

**C: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

Reader: To the hurting, God promises unshakable hope.

**C: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

Reader: To the forsaken, God promises unconditional love.

**C: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

Reader: To the broken, God promises unmerited grace.

**C: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

Reader: To the heavy hearted, God promises unbridled joy.

**C: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

### *Candle Lighting:*

Today we light the two candles. The **first candle** reminds us to recapture the wonder of the season. In a world that seldom slows, Advent is an opportunity to still our hearts and open our eyes to the wonder and majesty of our Savior. As we light the **second candle**, we call to mind God's promise to restore, redeem and reconcile a broken world, spoken through the prophets and fulfilled through Christ.

### *Blessing:*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be a light shining in the darkness  
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,  
for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY

O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit:**

as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever. Amen.

## PSALMODY

The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings.  
**Oh, come, let us worship and praise.**

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.  
**In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.  
**O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.  
**O that today you would listen to his voice!**

The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings.  
**Oh, come, let us worship and praise.**

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE: The Song of Mary Scottish Melody arr. David Haas

## VERSES

D G D

1. My \_\_\_\_\_ soul is filled with joy \_\_\_\_\_ as I
2. I am low - ly as a child, \_\_\_\_\_ but I
3. I pro - claim the pow'r of God, \_\_\_\_\_ you do
4. To the hun - gry you give food, \_\_\_\_\_ send the
5. In your love you now ful - fill \_\_\_\_\_ what you

G D G D

1. sing to God my sav - ior: you have looked up \_\_\_\_\_ on your
2. know from this day for - ward that my name will be re -
3. mar - vels for your ser - vants; though you scat - ter the proud
4. rich a - way \_\_\_\_\_ emp - ty. In your mer - cy you are
5. prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, Lord, my

Bm Bm7/A G Em

1. ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.
2. mem - bered, for \_\_\_\_\_ all will call me bless - ed.
3. heart - ed and de - stroy the might of princ - es.
4. mind - ful of the peo - ple you have cho - sen.
5. sav - ior, ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy.

## REFRAIN

Em Melody D G D G

And \_\_\_\_\_ ho - ly is your name through \_\_\_\_\_ all gen - er -

D G D Bm Bm7/A

a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the

G Em D G

peo - ple you have cho - sen, and \_\_\_\_\_ ho - ly is your

D G D

name. (Keybd)

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## READINGS

### First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

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

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>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!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup>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.

## **Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

<sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>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? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

## **Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**SERMON – The Rev. Patricia Harris**

## HYMN OF THE DAY –

### He Comes to Us as One Unknown



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -  
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -  
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and  
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and  
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in  
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -  
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the  
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a  
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.  
cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.  
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.  
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.  
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,  
**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

**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 forever. Amen**

## **PRAYERS**

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

Let us pray.

*A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.*

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

- for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .
- for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .
- for the gifts of relationship with others . . .
- for the communion of faith in your church . . .

*Other thanksgivings may be added.*

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

- for those who govern nations of the world . . .
- for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .
- for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .
- for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .
- for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

*Other intercessions may be added.*

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **BLESSING**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

Almighty God bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace. **Amen.**

**Song – Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding**



*Descant*

2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye child - ren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;  
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)