

St. Hilda's Anglican Church, Fairbank

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

10:30 AM

The Order of Service

Organ Prelude:

Processional:

Opening Prayer:

~ written by Rev. Susan A. Blain, in To Dream God's Dream: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website.

<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-a/ace/advent-service-prayers.html>

Holy God,
We long for your peace, and trust in your promise;
we hear your call to turn toward you,
to change our lives and welcome you in.

Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom
and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together
may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all.
In the Name of the One who is coming, we pray.

Amen!

Welcome:

Introit Instrumental: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

"Make the Way Clear."

(Noel Lewis & Margaret Goodridge)

Reader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Reader: The second week of Advent offers a theme of preparation and sacrifice. Advent marks a time of anticipation for the coming of the messiah. So much has gone wrong. There is work to be done to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend relationships, and to prepare for the King of kings. So we prepare in our hearts a home...

All: Where such a mighty guest may come.

Reader: The prophet Isaiah reminds us that there is work to be done. *“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”* When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open the door into our lives. And prepare we in our hearts a home...

All: Where such a mighty guest may come.

Reader: Last week we lit the first candle as a sign of our hope that God meets us, sees us, heals us and supplies all our needs.

(the first candle is lit)

We light this second candle as a sign of our faith.

(the second candle is lit)

This is the sign of our Faith in the power of God as Saviour, Redeemer, and Mighty Deliver.

Faith that our deep regrets and sins find forgiveness from an all merciful God.

Faith that healing comes from God

Faith that assures us that eternal life is a gift from God.

Let this light be a reminder that God comes and seeks company with each of with us. And so we prepare in our hearts a home...

All: Where such a mighty guest may come.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God,

to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden.

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 Lord. Amen.

The Collect for the Day

Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 (*Violet White*)

A Reading from the Book of 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 forever. 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsive Reading: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (*Violet White*)

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.**

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 Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15 (*William Greenidge*)

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter

But 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.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gradual Musical: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 *Fr. Kenute*

The Lord be with you
And also with you

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark

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 Christ

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ

The Sermon: *Winston Coombes*

The Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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 Intercession: *(William Greenidge)*

*~ written by Rev Gilbert C Nisbet, and posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website.
<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>*

"O come, o come, Emmanuel!"

Come to our world with its cruelty and hatred;
its division and distrust; its greed and its selfishness.

Come with your gentleness, to ease the pain of enmity.

Come with Your forgiveness, to dispel dissension and restore harmony.

Come with Your humility, to cure the error of pride and self-centeredness.

Come with Your peace to transform the world into Your Kingdom.

"O come, O come, thou Lord of might!"

Come to those who act violently and quell their anger.

Come to those who oppress the weak and establish kindness.

Come to those who revel in their powerfulness
and remind them of the power of love.

Come with Your grace to establish Your Kingdom in the hearts of all.

"O come, thou Rod of Jesse!"

Come to our nation and bless us with peace and prosperity.

Come to the lost and the least and the lonely in our land
and let them know that they are valued and loved by you.

Come to those who have lost any sense of their worth
and surround them with your love.

**Come to the homeless, the forsaken, the poor in spirit
and the disturbed in mind bringing your peace.**

"O come, thou Key of David!"

Come to the Church and show it how to serve you as you wish to be served.

Come to the Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain,
and the Peace Institute of the Canadian Council of Churches and all churches.

Come to the national church, the Anglican Church of Canada,
and bind it in unity to its Lord and Master.

Come to local congregations especially our church and
enable us to reach out to the unchurched with the hope which they need.

Come and make Your Gospel a living reality here, in our time and place.

“O come, thou Dayspring!”

Come to the sick and the suffering with the balm of your healing, especially the sick in our parish: Joyce Myers, Petrona Levy, Elmira Williams, Gilda Davis, Ruth Andrews, Don Krasnovich, Lucille Calder, Doraline Alexander, Helen and Mark Hancock, Gloria and Ancille Parsons, Pablo Velasquez, Barbara Gordon, Hyacinth Brooks, Mary Engels, Hermon Lobban, Wilton Holas, Len Green, Marcia Sealy, Gene and Sophia Goodman and Jeffrey Legair.

Come to the guilty and the grieving with the offer of your forgiveness and hope.

Come to the distressed and the dying with the promise of your peace.

Come to all who are in need, for You are sufficient for every need.

And now hear us as we share with You in a moment of silence
the personal and private prayers of our hearts,
for ourselves and for those known to us....

(time of silent prayer)

Almighty and Eternal God,

You are the God of all times and places, of all peoples and all ages.

We thank you for all who have gone before us in faith

and are now at rest with You, especially those once known and

loved by us here on earth. Keep us close to them through our part

in the Church of earth and heaven and bring us at the last, by your

grace, to be with them and You in the glory of Your nearer presence;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You,

Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole

heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we

humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Instrumental: Thou Didst Leave thy Throne

The Prayer over the Gifts

God our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

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.

The Doxology

Glory to God,
Whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

In the midst of all the despair the world and life can present
may we find comfort in the good news.
May we never forget that our message is one of comfort, love and faithfulness.
May God lift us up, may God draw us closer,
May God defend us and may God renew us.
And may the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.
Amen.

Announcements

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional Instrumental: Mine Eyes have Seen the Glory

Postlude

New Regulations for Places of Worship

Due to the spike in COVID-19 cases we will not be offering in-person worship until the province lifts the restrictions that came into effect on Monday November 23 at 12:01 am. While all in-person services are currently suspended please join us for worship online every Sunday at 10:30 am.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Dec 6th) - 12 noon

*Kids for Jesus (K4J) online Sunday
School on YouTube, Facebook and the website*

Tues. & Thurs. (Dec 8th & 10th)

Noon Day "Bite & Sip" on Facebook

Advent /Christmas Schedule

Dec. 20, 8:30am & 10:30am - *Christmas Lessons & Carols*

Dec. 24, 4:30pm - *Kids for Jesus (K4J) online Sunday school (YouTube/Facebook page/Website)*

Dec. 24, 7:30pm & 10pm - *Christmas Services*

Dec. 25, 10:30am - *Christmas Day Service.*

NOTICES

*During the four Sundays of Advent we are asking for donations of **scarfs, hats, socks, mittens, gloves and masks of different sizes.** These are for the less fortunate etc. There will be boxes on the sanctuary steps marked for these items. Thanks for your consideration and support.*

- **2021 Church Calendars** Ask Oscar Lewis and Sonia Wickham. Price - \$5.00.

- **Stewardship**

We are grateful for the support the church receives from all of you through your weekly giving of your time, talent and treasure. We celebrate your faithfulness.

*The church has set up **Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)** as a way for parishioners to continue to give. An amount that is decided by you will be taken from your Bank account monthly and will be remitted to the church. It works the same as your envelopes. Tax receipts will be given as usual. Please contact Richard Morris for forms.*

Readings for Next Sunday, December 13 – The Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of St. Hilda's Church is to be Christ-centered in our life and worship, to serve lovingly those within our family and others within our reach that the spirit of God might empower us for worship, service, education, stewardship, evangelism, and pastoral care.