

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
DECEMBER 6, 2020 AT 10:00AM



During this time when we aren't able to be together physically, we invite you to join us in other ways. Please check our [Website](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#) pages regularly for new information and video messages. If you are in need of groceries, medicine, or any other essentials please let us know by calling (717) 299-1188 or emailing equilla@stjohns-lancaster.org. We have a number of volunteers and staff members willing and able to run errands as needed.

THE WORD OF GOD

INTROIT *Entrance Antiphons for the Advent Season* arr. James J. Chepponis

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING LITURGY: PEACE

Reader 1 Isaiah 11 describes the Kingdom of God as a place of peace where hatred, anger, and violence are not just tucked under the rug, but swept away all together. In today's terms, that scripture *could* sound like this:

Reader 2 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
Reader 1 Israel and Palestine will tear down their wall.

Reader 2 The leopard shall lie down with the kid,
Reader 1 Black lives and poor lives will matter to all.

Reader 2 The calf and the lion will feed together,
Reader 1 Democrats and Republicans will work together in harmony,

Reader 2 and a little child shall lead them
Reader 1 And without fear, the Church will lead them.

Reader 2 Today we light the candle of peace as a prayer, a protest, and a reminder of God's prayer for this world. Starting first with the candle of hope, we light the candle of peace to symbolize God's ever-increasing light.

Reader 1 And as this light burns and grows, we will wait, eagerly, longing for the birth of a child and for the peace only love can bring. May peace light up the world. Amen.

(The second candle is lit.)

Readers Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN *Prepare the way, O Zion* **PAGE 11**

OPENING ACCLAMATION **BCP 77**

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
People *His mercy endures for ever.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY**BCP 355**

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 Lord. *Amen.*

THE KYRIE**BCP 356**

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**BCP 230**

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.*

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 40:1-11

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

- 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 LESSON: 2 PETER 3:8-15A

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.

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. *(pause)*
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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: ADVENT II

Let us lift up our voices to God in strength, saying, be patient with us and prepare us,
Lord.

Together as your Church, we long to see your face. Speak to us, Lord, as we walk
through the wilderness listening for the sound of your voice. Give our leaders patience,
wisdom, and a heart for your will: for Michael, our presiding bishop; Audrey, our
bishop; and Amanda, Matt, and Stacey, our clergy. In your mercy,
Be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.

We pray for all who govern, especially Donald, our president, Joe, our president–elect,
and for the Congress and courts of this Land. Guide the leaders of the nations as they
work for the welfare of their people and the good of all. In your mercy,
Be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.

Awaken us to the suffering of people near us and those far from us. Call forth in us a
spirit of generosity and kindness. Equip us to respond to their needs. Arouse in us a
sense of urgency to demonstrate your Good News in our lives and voice it, that all may
hear. Make us messengers of your love. In your mercy,
Be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.

We ask you to comfort those who have lost hope, who struggle with anxiety about the future, who live in fear. Bring healing to those for whom we pray: Marita Houston, Christiane Zust, Regis Heilman, and Mary. In your mercy,
Be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.

We pray for those who have died, that their memories be blessings in our lives. In your mercy,
Be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.

Celebrant Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

THE PEACE *(take a moment to send someone a text, an email, or post on social media!)* **BCP 360**

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

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES **BCP 830**

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE OFFERTORY

During this unprecedented time, giving is crucial to our health and viability. Please consider this a time of reflection and an opportunity to contribute to the ongoing ministries of St. John's. Contributions can be mailed to the church office or given online. Thank you!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B **BCP 367**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People *We lift them to the Lord.*
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord God.
People *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

*We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John's and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 336

Officiant And now, as our Savior 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast.

THE INVITATION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Officiant and People

Beloved Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you in this life or in the life to come. Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 339

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. Amen.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. Amen.

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN *Comfort, Comfort ye my people*

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GOOD NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

BCP 102

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Refrain

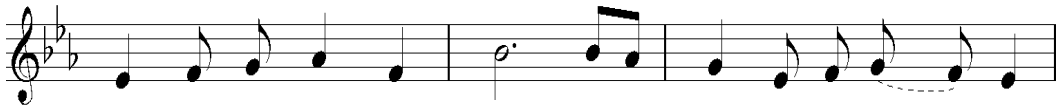


Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

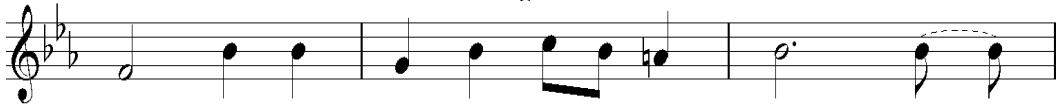
THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS CRYING



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a____
2 O____ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
3 but the word of our God____ en - du - reth, the____



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst____ of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The____
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
flowers of the field they____ per - ish, like
feed his____ flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our____ God____ may go!
na - tions shall____ pass like a dream____ a - way;
lead them, and____ bring them____ safe to his fold.

COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

UPCOMING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:

TODAY

9:00 a.m. Children's Church (Zoom)
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
2:30 p.m. Food Pantry
2:30 p.m. Capital Campaign Meeting (Zoom)
4:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

10:00 a.m. The Village
12:00 p.m. Noon Day Prayer (Facebook)
7:00 p.m. Worship @ the Community Christmas Tree

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

2:30 p.m. Food Pantry

Weekly Support Ministries

AA: Tuesday - 6:00-7:00 p.m. (All Purpose Room)
NA: Monday and Wednesday - 12:00 Noon (All Purpose Room)

FOOD PANTRY— Thank you for your continual support of our food pantry ministry. Your donations allow us to feed so many neighbors struggling to make ends meet during this difficult time. Thank you for being good news to those in need. We are currently in need of toiletries, cereal, pasta, and canned goods. (Please leave items on the back porch of Becker House).

GROCERY CARDS— Sue Tobie will be available at the church for all of your grocery card needs on Monday, December 14 from 11AM-12:30PM. If you would like to purchase some cards Monday, the 14th is the time. After Monday, we will take a pause in grocery card sales until we are back together again, so come by Becker House and stock up!

ANGEL TREE MINISTRY— Please join us as we spread some Christmas Cheer through our Angel Tree. Check out the church website for the sign up sheet link. Thank you for helping us ensure our neighbors are provided for during these difficult days!

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE



A Community Affair: The St. John's Christmas Tree

COVID-19 has interrupted many of our traditions, but it can't take away the gift of expectation as we prepare our hearts for Christmas! Our Christmas tree will be placed in the courtyard and we need your help with decorating it! Throughout the month of December, you are invited to bring an ornament to hang on our tree. Together we will wait with hope and anticipation for the birth of our Savior. Together we will journey to Bethlehem and celebrate the night God tiptoed down the backstairs of history and deposited the light of the world into a manger.

Every Wednesday at 7:00PM in December, we will gather around the tree for prayer and community.

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Matt MacDougall, Associate Rector
matt@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Stacey Catigano, Deacon
stacey@stjohns-lancaster.org

VESTRY

Debbie Carter (Senior Warden), Webb Cook (Junior Warden), Sue Heilman,
Tim Huber, Molly Moyer, Nicole Pham, Heather Trenary,
John Gouveia, Joe Way, Annie Lattanzio Hale

STAFF

Equilla Curry, Parish Administrator
Gina Keiser, Financial Secretary
Richard Kuhn, Sexton

Maria Weaver-Hollowniczky, Nursery and Security

PRIESTS AND CANONS ASSOCIATED WITH ST. JOHN'S

Canon William F. Honaman, DHL
The Rev. William Archer
The Rev. Faith D'Urbano
The Rev. Elizabeth Mollard

SERVING AT THE LITURGY

Celebrant

The Rev. Matt MacDougall

Preacher

The Rev. Amanda Knouse

Lector

Steve Latshaw

Altar Guild

Team 1

Web Streaming

Joe Way