

Advent II Morning Prayer

December 6, 2020



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
515 Second Street | Woodland, California

This Advent at St. Luke's

Preparing the way of the Lord is big work. John the Baptist prepared the way by calling the people of God to repent, to change their lives. So, we are called to change our own lives to prepare the way during this season. Now is the time to listen and discern the changes which will make way for Christ's coming in your life.

St. Luke's Sunday is worship centered around the old Anglican tradition of Morning Prayer. It's a bit different now that we using inclusive language for God and humanity, but we still recite canticles and pray and contemplate the Eucharistic readings of the week.

This Advent is very different for all of us, as we try to slow the spread of coronavirus. More time at home might prove to be a blessing for our spiritual lives as well as our physical health. We know that it can feel isolating, and that the darker days, longer nights, and time to search our memories aren't always a blessing. Please reach out for help if it starts to feel like too much.

In Advent, we are watching for signs of God coming into the world, and opening the way for God to enter our hearts.

Order of Service & Readings

Ringings of the Bells

Organ Prelude *Setting by Johann Gottfried Walther, O Thou, of God the Father*

Welcome & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v. 1,4,5



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Opening Sentence

Officiant O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One. *Baruch 5:5*

or

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. *Isaiah 45:8, NRSV*

Confession & Absolution

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

Versicle

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People **And your glory all the day long.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Antiphon

Officiant Our God and Savior now draws near:

All **O come let us worship.**

Invitatory

Venite, Psalm 95:1-7

All **Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving *
and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.
For you are a great God; *
you are great above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are yours also.
The sea is yours, for you made it, *
and your hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture
and the sheep of your hand. *
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!
Let us listen today to God's voice:
Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness,*
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me.
They put me to the test, *
though they had seen my works.
Forty years long I detested that generation and said, *
"This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways."
So I swore in my wrath, *
"They shall not enter into my rest."**

Psalm

Benedixisti, Domine, 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.

All **Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Antiphon

Officiant Our God and Savior now draws near:

All **O come let us worship.**

The Lessons

Hebrew Scripture

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.

Canticle E

A Song of Jerusalem Our Mother, Isaiah 66:10-14

All **Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her ***
 all you who love her,
Rejoice, rejoice with her, *
 all you who mourn over her,
That you may drink deeply with delight *
 from her comforting breast.
For thus says our God, *
 “I will extend peace to her like a river,
 the wealth of nations like an overflowing stream.
“You shall nurse and be carried on her arm, *
 and you shall nestle in her lap.
“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; *
 you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.
“You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice, *
 you shall flourish like the grass of the fields.”

Epistle

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.

Canticle B

A Song of Pilgrimage, Ecclesiasticus 51:13-16, 20b-22

All **Before I ventured forth, even while I was very young, ***
I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.
In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her, *
and I will seek her to the end.
From first blossom to early fruit, *
she has been the delight of my heart.
My foot has kept firmly to the true path, *
diligently from my youth have I pursued her.
I inclined my ear a little and received her; *
I found for myself much wisdom and became adept in her.

To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory, *
for I have resolved to live according to her way.
From the beginning I gained courage from her, *
therefore I will not be forsaken.
In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her, *
therefore have I gained a good possession.
As my reward the Almighty has given me the gift of language, *
and with it will I offer praise to God.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

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.”

Homily

The Rev. Carren Sheldon

Hymn

Anon., 16th Cent., Savior of the Nations, Come!

1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

The Apostles' Creed

All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.

People **And listen to our prayer.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Help us, O God our Savior;

People **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Officiant Look upon your congregation;

People **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Officiant Declare your glory among the nations;

People **And your wonders among all peoples.**

Officiant Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

People **Never forget the lives of your poor.**

Officiant Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

People **And your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Officiant Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

People **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

Officiant 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.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offerings of prayer and/or money are welcome at this or any time.
[Click here to donate: https://tithe.ly/give?c=409634](https://tithe.ly/give?c=409634)

Lord's Prayer

All **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.**

Blessing

St. Clare

Presider Live without fear:
your Creator has made you holy,
has always protected you,
and loves you as a mother.
Go in peace to follow the good road
and may the blessing of God,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
be with you, today and always. Amen

Closing Hymn

Anon., 18th Cent., Come, thou long-expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Concluding Sentence Ephesians 3:20, 21

Officiant 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.

All **Amen.**

Postlude

Setting by Paul Manz, Tell Out my Soul

Come to Coffee Hour, it's online & all are welcome!

Grab a cup of coffee and join us online for Zoom "coffee hour" conversation immediately following Morning Prayer.

This week's coffee hour host is Bruce Watts.

What's your experience of wilderness this Advent?

Get Involved

Sign up for weekly e-mail updates and receive all the latest information on opportunities to help and to learn with St. Luke's. Contact our Church Administrator at stlukechurchwoodland@gmail.com

Coffee Hour Hosts Invited

Sundays, 10-11:30am, via Zoom

Coffee hours after Sunday worship need Zoom hosts. The commitment is to bring a spirit of joy, admit participants into St. Luke's Zoom group and facilitate the conversation. No baking required! E-mail for more information on the Coffee Hour Hosts Team [email Margaret Wisehart](mailto:margaretwisehart@gmail.com).

Book Study

Mondays, 5-6pm, via Zoom

Currently reading and discussing Thich Nat Han's *Living Buddha, Living Christ*. For more information, contact [Mairic](mailto:mairic@gmail.com).

"The Way of Love" (Forward Movement)

Wednesdays, 7 pm, via Zoom

A weekly gathering for a short reading, reflection, and prayer. Books can be purchased in paperback online. Drop-in as your schedule allows. Email margaretwisehart@yahoo.com for information and Zoom link.

St. Luke's Queer Alliance

Thursdays, 6:30 pm via Zoom

St. Luke's welcomes sisters, brothers and non-binary queers in search of a faith community that supports everyone's unique path on the spiritual journey. We offer a home where diversity isn't silenced but celebrated, where belonging grows from the soil of respect, love, inclusion, commitment and joy. For more information, email Metamairic@gmail.com.

Inquirers' Group

Tuesdays, in January, February & March, 2021, 6pm, via Zoom

This group will meet to explore and discuss the Episcopal Church, our teachings and questioning. While no experience is necessary, you'll need an inquiring heart. Participants who discern a call to the sacrament of Confirmation will be prepared for it. For information, contact Rev, Carren, interimrector@stlukeswoodland.org



St. Luke's provides a welcoming sanctuary for all people, takes faithful risks to foster community and proclaim God's love through our words, deeds and relationships.

**At St. Luke's Episcopal Church,
we affirm God's love for all of God's people.**

Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, whatever your age, abilities, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious background, socio-economic circumstance, or political affiliations:
you are welcome here.

We intend to:

- *Provide a welcoming sanctuary for all*
- *Prioritize being and staying in relationship*
- *Nurture the next generation*
- *Weave God into the fabric of our daily lives*
- *Engage the world around us*
- *Speak truth in love*
- *Honor our legacy and traditions*
- *Take faithful risks, having courage to evolve*

With Christ and in Christ, We Welcome, Celebrate, Collaborate and Grow

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*St. Luke's is steadfast
in its commitment to
full-inclusion for queer
folk in God's Church.*