



Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020

Prelude: Voluntary on “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

Gerald Near

Hymn: Comfort, comfort ye my people

Psalm 42

Aaron Carlyle, cantor

Opening Sentence

Officiant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Confession of Sin

**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 neighbors 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 on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Trisagion

Archangelsky

Aaron Carlyle, cantor

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

The 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.

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.

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Prepare the way O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

Aaron Carlyle, cantor

The Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (1:1-8).

Glory to you, Lord 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.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God’s help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God’s help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God’s help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

At the beginning of this Advent season, let us offer our prayers to God, saying: Lord, have mercy.

That our gracious Savior may rouse us from sleep and make us attentive to the nearness of his presence, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may discover God's word in every sound of this world, God's touch in every human embrace, and God's love in every gesture of self-sacrifice among us, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That divine energy and holy grace may bring our hearts to vigilance and make us see with uncovered eyes the Christ who suffers in his people's agonies, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may come to recognize in our holy assembly gathered for prayer that Jesus the Christ is with us here to make our songs of praise and pleading his own, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That God's coming into the days and years of our human history may be always new, always brimming with light to drive all darkness away, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops, especially Michael, Sam, and Anne; for this gathering; for all ministers and people; and in the Anglican and Diocesan cycles of prayer, the Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain and the Episcopal Church. **Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for the sick in our community, especially, Betty, Bill, Billie, Carol, Chloe, Don, Don, Frank, Jack, Janey, Jenny, Justine, Karen, Ken, Marion, Mary, Maxine, Michael, Olive, Pam, Patsy, Randy, Richard, Rod, Ron, Sam, Tim, and those we name now, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for our friends, family, and neighbors, especially Ali, Alice, Anna, Anna Rose, Audrey, Barbara the Barham Family, Becky, Beth, Bill, Casey, Cathy, Dan, Dean, Debi, Diane, Dick, and Don. We lift up Eddie, Ellie, Fay, Gary, Gemma, Harry, Helen, Henry, Jake, James, Janet, Jason, Jason, Jeanette, Joe, Joe, John, Julia, Justin, Karen, and Kathleen. We ask for healing for Kathryn, Kay, Keith, Kelli, Kelvin, Kenny, Kevin, Landon, Laurel, Licia, Linda, Lori, Marino, Mark, Mary, Max, Megan, Mel, Michael, Michelle, Nancy, Nick, and Pam. We pray for Patricia, Patricia, Renee, Roy, Sally, Sam, Sara, Sarah Lou, Shannon, Shirley, Sky, Sondra, Spencer, Stephanie, Stephani, Stephen, Steve, Tom, Vivian, William, and those we name now, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for all expecting a child, especially AJ and Alli and those we name now, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for all healthcare workers, especially those in the Nativity community, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for all who have died from COVID-19. We pray for all the departed, especially Sheila Denn, Michael Hugo, Bergen Mesko, Michael McMullin, Lucy Waidler, and those we name now, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

Make ready our hearts for your coming, O Lord, and receive our prayers in the name of the one who comes, our gracious Savior, Jesus the Christ.

The Peace

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

Announcements

Offertory: Comfort Ye, Comfort Ye My People

George Frederic Handel

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your Name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever. Amen.

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
always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Voluntary on “Bereden väg för Herran”

Paul Manz

Discussion Questions

(Questions courtesy of workingpreacher.org)

1. Does Isaiah’s vision of the “peaceable kingdom” apply to nations today? If so, how? If not, why? (Isa 11:6-7)
2. The prophet says, “The earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD.” What does this say about God’s plan for salvation? (Isa 11:10)
3. Why did John the Baptist preach such stern warnings? Do they apply to us today? Why or why not? (Matt 3:7-12)

We thank the following people for their contribution to this service:

Flowers: Betty Sammit

Readers: Jill Shires and Becky Christian

Cantor: Aaron Carlyle

Video Editors: Jason Pace, Robert Joines and Alfred Christensen

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Stephanie L. Allen, Rector

The Rev. Dr. David Lynch, Deacon

Philip Bass, Priesthood Intern

Kathryn Buckley, Children and Youth Minister

Jason Pace, Choir Master and Organist

Parish Coordinator: Megan Miller