



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church
12116-102 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB, T5N 0L6
P. 780.488.1118 F. 780.482.0003
www.christchurchedmonton.org

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Luke 3:4,6*

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (The Book of Alternative Services)

Celebrant: The Venerable Susan Oliver
Preacher: Dr. Alison Hurlburt
Reader: Shannon Kerr
Crucifier and Lay Reader: Willie King

The flowers on the altar are offered in thanksgiving for the safe arrival of Shamil, Areej, Layan, Hamsa, Alice, Sam, and Lima as they begin their life in Canada.

We are Treaty people of Treaty 6 Territory; a covenant between Nations, witnessed by the Creator. We commit ourselves to the sharing of this land and its sacred gifts together in peace by welcoming all peoples and genders in the spirit of Treaty and wâhkôhtowin, as all our relations.

Prelude: How Beautiful are the Feet (Handel's Messiah)

Opening Hymn: #106 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places, where the Lord our God may go!

O Zion, give voice to good tidings, ascend to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.
The works of pride all perish, like flowers they shall decay;
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.

But your word, O God, is faithful, your arm, O Lord, is strong;
you stand in the midst of nations, and you will right the wrong.
You will feed your flock like a shepherd, and fold the lambs to your breast;
in pastures of peace you'll lead them, and give to the weary rest.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places, where the Lord our God may go!

The Gathering of the Community

(Please stand)

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

People: And also with you.

Kyrie

Solo: Kyrie eleison; **All: Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison**
Solo: Christe eleison; **All: Christe eleison, Christe eleison.**
Solo: Kyrie eleison; **All: Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: 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.

Celebrant: 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 Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Children's Talk

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: (Malachi 3:1-4)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Second Reading: (1 Thessalonians 3:9-13)

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, -because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. -It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight -to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, -having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Gradual Hymn #89 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St. Luke (3:1-6)

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler

of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, -as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; -and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gradual Hymn #89 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

Sermon

Dr. Alison Hurlburt

The Apostle's Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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. 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 of the People

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

All: 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.

Celebrant: 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

(Please stand)

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

*We offer the peace of Christ collectively, rather than individually.
Please feel free to smile at your neighbour, but refrain from shaking hands.*

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn: #100 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace: thus saith our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load;
speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them:
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark! The herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for Christ a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble as befits Messiah's reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's Word is never broken.

Prayer over the Gifts

(Please stand)

Celebrant: God our strength,

All: 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. Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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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 our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence. Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

Response: #735 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

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

Celebrant: Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

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

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

People: Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Music during Communion:

#701 Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy of us.

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the word: grant us peace.

#94 Wait for the Lord, Whose Day is Near

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

#107 Prepare the Way

Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the say of the Lord,

And all people will see the salvation of our God.

Post-Communion Hymn #131 Love Came Down at Christmas (vs 2, 3)

Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine;
worship we our Jesus -- what shall be our sacred sign?

Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and neighbour, love for prayer and gift and sign.

Prayer after Communion

(Please stand)

Celebrant: Faithful God,

All: we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet. Help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Glory to God,

All: 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.

Blessing

Announcements

Recessional Hymn: #88 Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go forth in the name of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: The King Shall Come (choir)

This week we pray for: Diocese of Saskatoon: the Rt. Rev. Chris Harper, Bishop. All Saints' Cathedral, Edmonton: Alexandra Meek (s. Scott Sharman), Rector and Dean; Ruth Sesink Bott (s. Dawson), Vicar; Robin Gibbons, International Ecumenical Canon; Fr. Michael Lapsley, Honorary Canon for Healing and Reconciliation; Scott Sharman (s. Alexandra Meek), Canon Theologian in Mission; Gwen Bright, Alan Perry (s. Noel Yuen), Honorary Assistants; John Gee, Honorary Vocational Deacon; Sara Kate Edwards-Smith (s. Steve), Executive Assistant. Buyé Diocese, Mbaba Parish: Jeremy Ndikumana, catechist. All First Nations people of Treaty 6.

Readings for Next Sunday

Zephaniah 3:4-20; Canticle 3 (Isaiah 12:2-6);
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

The Anglican Parish of Christ Church, Edmonton, Alberta
Bishop | The Right Reverend Stephen London

Parish Clergy

The Venerable Susan Oliver | sue@christchurchedm.ca
The Reverend Dr. Arlene Young | arlene@christchurchedm.ca
The Reverend Sheila Moorey | sheila@christchurchedm.ca
Music Ministry: Joy Berg | joyberg61@gmail.com
Lay Readers | Alison Hurlburt, Willie King, and Alexis Taylor
Office Manager: Ronald Laginski | admin@christchurchedm.ca

Honorary Clergy Assistants

The Reverend Pastor Martin Garber-Conrad
The Reverend Canon Maureen Crerar

Rector's Warden: Heather Taylor 780.707.7509 | heatherbarnum@hotmail.com
People's Warden: Greg Heaton 780.438.1663 | gheaton994@gmail.com
Associate Warden: Barb Norton 780.452.5531 | barbara.norton@ualberta.ca
Treasurer: Roger Thomson | 780.488.1118

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