



Order of Service for November 29, 2020
The First Sunday of Advent
9:30 am
Service of Spiritual Communion
Officiating: The Rev'd Fergus Tyson
Preaching: The Rev'd Dr. Norman Knowles



Where Advent Begins

by Jan Richardson

In her book *The Vigil: Keeping Watch in the Season of Christ's Coming*—a beautiful reflection on Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany—Wendy M. Wright relates words given to her by a Trappist retreat master, who said, “To be a Christian does not mean knowing all the answers; to be a Christian means being willing to live in the part of the self where the question is born.” With today’s Gospel, Advent reminds us of this in a fashion that may seem painfully direct but can also be tremendously freeing: it tells us that we do not know everything, cannot know everything, are not responsible for knowing everything. It tells us that, ultimately, we live in mystery.



But it also tells us this: if we stay awake; if we open our eyes in the midst of our life, with all of its wildness and wonders, then we will see: Our Lord is coming. Drawing closer. Drawing us closer to him.

How will you stay awake in this season? What do you long for the weeks ahead to look like? How might you find God’s response to those longings in the rhythm of your life, in the midst of your days? May wonders attend you this Advent.

<http://adventdoor.com/2010/11/21/where-advent-begins/> (alt.)

Service of Spiritual Communion

The Gathering of the Community

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Introduction to Advent from the Archbishop
(screens)

Great Litany (screens)

Collect of the Day (screens)

Children's Time (Advent Candle Lighting)

Prayer for the Advent Wreath (screens)

Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel
(screens)

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

ISAIAH 64:1-9

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Canticle 7: The New Jerusalem (screens)

The Holy Gospel

People: *Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts

forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

MARK 13:24-37

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed (screens)

The Prayers of the People

World AIDS Day Prayer (screens)

Prayer in Response to COVID-19 (screens)

Confession and Absolution (screens)

The Peace (screens)

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory (screens)

Prayer over the Gifts (screens)

Eucharistic Prayer (screens)

The Lord's Prayer (screens)

The Breaking of the Bread (screens)

The Communion

Prayer for Communion (screens)

Prayer after Communion (screens)

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: Rejoice, the Lord is King (screens)

Dismissal (screens)

Virtual Coffee Time (Zoom link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88948030856?pwd=Q1lseHlzSDRySo5Qdk8oM2h2bldEdz09>)

Prayers for This Week

(bold italics indicate new or special emphasis this week)

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for *the Lusitanian Church (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury)*.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Prayer Cycle we pray for *the members of the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission*.

In our Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the parishes of *St. John, Olds; for their clergy Robert Sears, Inez Hannett (Hon.), and Jeanne Hunter. We also pray for the Vocational Deacons and Lay Ministers in our Diocese.*

We lift to you our friends, in our Companion Diocese, the Windward Islands.

In our Parish Cycle, we pray for *the safety and well-being of all members of our Parish, and pledge to stay connected with one another and face the challenges of COVID-19 together; we remember our clergy, Fergus, Cyril, Norman, Bob, and their families; and we especially uphold all who are infirm, immune-compromised, or on the front lines in this battle.*

We pray for our foster child Desta Keweti.

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health, comfort and strengthen those of our parish who are sick, injured or distressed, and those approaching or recovering from surgery, especially we lift up to you *the family of Joy (Abby's sister); Antony; Judy; Raymond (uncle of Paul); Dinah; the family of John; Debra, Lori and family of Josie; Crystal (niece of Rosemarie); Bill & Pat; Steve; the family of Bob; the family of Carmen; John; the family of Bonnie; Gerald; Gerald and Louise (Shannon's father and mother); Megan and family, Molly (mother of Sian); the family of Simon; Stephen; Dwight (Dorothy-Ann's cousin); Jo; the family of Brenda (relative of the Collers); the family of Joan (mother of Richard); Tracy; Roxie and the family of Andy; Harry (friend of Ian and Kathleen); Julia; the Herritt family in their bereavement; Gina; Gael; Verna and her family; Michael; Barb; Jen; the family of Leslie; Patrick, Jordan; the family of Lene; the family of Helen; Eleanor; Jackie K. (sister of Pauline); Dorothy; the family of Mauricia (mother of Ella); Max & Rebecca; Anne; Dozy & Obie & family; Karla; Kathy; Kevin; Richard (friend of Anne); Terry; Jerrod; Melissa and her family (friends of Jenn); Dennis; Mike; Val; Martin; Chinazor; Sheila; Melissa and her family; Adrianna; Peggy; Bob and Joanne; Laura (sister of Kim); the family of Douglas; Michelle; Ian; the family of Nina; Pat; Christine; Rick (brother of Sheila); Gwen; Jacquie; Ellen; Pauline; Monika (mother of Dennis); Kathy (daughter of Bob & Joanne); Trudy (cousin of Iona); Len; Andrea and Andrew's family; Margaret; Marlene; and the family of James (father of Allison).*

We pray for containment of the COVID-19 coronavirus worldwide; protection for nurses and all those on the front lines or especially vulnerable to its effects, in particular all who are homeless; and full restoration of health for all those who are ill.

We pray for all struggling economically, and all those affected by fires, floods, storms or other natural disasters. We pray for us all to stand together in hard times.

We pray for peace and justice in our own country and throughout the world. *We remember the people of Nigeria, and all whose lives have been torn apart by violence. We pray for safe haven for those whom violence has forced to flee their homes. We pray for an end to racism and discrimination, and all acts of hate done in the Name of the God of love. We stand in solidarity with all whose lives have been devastated by human evil and all seeking to make the world as it ought to be.* We pray for protection and guidance for all in law enforcement or our military in danger at home or overseas. May your Holy Spirit guide world leaders to seek just resolutions to all conflicts, that all people may come to know your peace that passes all understanding and war be no more.

We thank you for the birth of Isobel, and pray for your blessings to be lavished upon her, Amanda, Justin, and all the family.

We thank you for your healing touch, which sustains us every day; *for the improving health of Jacquie*, and all the many healings that have taken place in our parish; and your unending mercy as you hear our prayers.



The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God.