

Sunday, December 6, 2020: Advent 2 - Peace

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



**Opening Song: *Even So Come***

All of creation, all of the earth
Make straight a highway

A path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint
Let every nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon

(*Chorus*)

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Every heart longing for our King
We sing even so come
Lord Jesus come

Even so come, Lord Jesus come

There will be justice, all will be new
Your name forever, faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon (*To Chorus*)

So we wait, we wait for You
God, we wait, You're coming soon (*repeat*)

(*To Chorus*)

**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle: Peace**

**All:  In a world filled with broken relationships, broken hearts, and broken spirits, we are called to announce God’s dream of peace, a peace that is not the absence of chaos, noise, or war.**

Reader One: Isaiah the Prophet reassured the people, God is sending words of comfort to you, speaking tenderly to you. God promises that your hard labour is over, your sentence has been served, and your penalty has been paid. You are forgiven not once but double all that is needed.

Reader Two: Go up to a high mountain, and call out the good news! Lift your voices up with strength and call out the good news! Do not be afraid! Your God is coming.

Reader One: Our God is mighty, but our God is also gentle. God loves the flock and will feed it just the way a shepherd would, holding us close like lambs and guiding us, old and young.

Reader Two: We wait for God’s peace and live in God’s hope as we light these candles.

*Please pause as we light two candles, then respond:*

**All: Loving God, come and shine your light in the world! Grant us the courage to be peacekeepers and workers in your kingdom, as we prepare the way for the Prince of Peace, God-with-us, Emmanuel.**

**Penitential Rite**

Leader: Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Silence is Kept*

**All:** **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 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.**

Leader: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.

**All:Amen.**

**Morning Prayer**

Leader: Lord, open our lips,

**All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Leader: O God, make speed to save us.

**All: O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

Leader: The kingdom of God is at hand: O come, let us worship.

**All: Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods. In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry land. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

**The Reading of Scripture**

First Reading: 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 forever. 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.**

Canticle: 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.*

*Prayer: God of grace, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son to be our Saviour. Help us to rejoice in our salvation by showing mercy and truth, and by walking in the way of righteousness and peace. We ask this in his name and for his sake*.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

*But 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. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Processional Chorus – *Overcome***

By Your grace, Your love, Your peace
You're enough, You're all I need

Everything I could want

Is found in Your love

**The Gospel Reading**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark

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

Gospel Reading: 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."*

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

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

**Worship Through Song**

***Christ is Mine Forevermore***

Mine are days that God has numbered
I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure
And forsake the King of kings
But mine is hope in my Redeemer
Though I fall, His love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing
I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow
Darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel
Where I see no earthly good
But mine is peace

That flows from heaven
And the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted
Christ completes his work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger
Pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter
Harm and hatred for His name
But mine is armour for this battle
Strong enough to last the war
And He has said He will deliver
Safely to the golden shore

And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk
For there my heart

Has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore

Come rejoice now, O my soul
For His love is my reward
Fear is gone and hope is sure
Christ is mine forevermore (*repeat*)
 (*continued on next page*)

And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk
For there my heart

Has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore
Christ is mine forevermore

***Overcome***

I can hear the roar, it's a mighty sound
Your love is an avalanche

I'm overcome, I'm overcome

With a crash I'm tumbling down
I'm wildly moved

I'm overcome, I'm overcome

(*Chorus*) By Your grace

Your love, Your peace
You're enough, You're all I need
Everything I could want

Is found in Your love

(Your love, Your love, Your love)

 I'm taken away by a river of peace
On this starlit night

I'm overcome, I'm overcome

I'm lost in the glow of Your majesty
Oh my God how You captivate

I'm overcome, I'm overcome

(*To Chorus*)

Like a snowfall that blankets the Earth
My sin has been covered

And I'm overcome, I'm overcome

The price has been paid

The war is already won
The blood of my Savior was shed

Oh He's overcome and I'm overcome

(*To Chorus*)

You're all I need
Everything I could want

Is found in Your love

**Listening Time**

**Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Myron Penner – Sermon Notes:**

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**Affirmation of Faith – 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.**

**Prayers of the People**

Leader: In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer,

saying, “Lord Jesus, come soon!” O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader: O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader: O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader: O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader: O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader: O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires. Remembering those in the St. Paul’s Cycle of Prayer: James Parker, Olga Elizarova,
and Sophia; Marcel and Terry Berard; Michael Doku; and Patience Oduro; as well as all of those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer.

 Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader: O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon! Amen.**

**The Collect**

Leader: 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.

**All: Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Leader: 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.**

**Rwanda Presentation *(Wendell and Nora James through Zoom)***

**Congregational Announcements *(Rev. Myron)***

(*Continued on next page*)

**Closing Song: *It is Well with My Soul***

When peace like a river

Attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot

Thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

(*Chorus*) It is well with my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet

Though trials should come
Let this blest assurance control

That Christ has regarded

My helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood

For my soul (*To Chorus*)

My sin, oh, the bliss

Of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross

And I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord

O my soul (*To Chorus*)

**The Dismissal**Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**No In-Person Services at St. Paul’s until at least January 3**

Following the Government of Alberta declaring a state of public health emergency, along with stricter, mandatory measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, Bishop Jane has taken the decision to keep church buildings in the Diocese closed until at least December 15.

As Covid cases have continued to increase over the previous week and in light of Dr. Hinshaw’s statement earlier this week that people should avoid gatherings for the holiday season, as well as anticipating further instruction from the Diocese to delay our reopening, we have made the difficult decision to close for in-person services for the remainder of December. This ensures Covid compliance and allows us to suitably plan for video services over the Christmas season. Services will be continued to be live streamed at 10:00AM on Sunday mornings for the remainder of December. The Christmas Eve service will be live streamed at 7:00PM on December 24 and a special Christmas Day service will be pre-recorded and available for viewing on our YouTube Channel from 9:00AM onwards on December 25.

The office will remain closed over this time with staff working from home as much as possible. If you need to meet with any member of staff, please email them directly to set up an appointment.

Please keep each other in your prayers over this unusual time.

**Community Corner for December 6**

A big THANK YOU and WELL DONE to all the participants at our **Gingerbread Night** on November 27. Houses were built, decorations added and fun was had by all. Drawing on our heads was a great success!

**Victoria Oval** – a great location to meet up for outdoor fun, the Victoria Oval boasts a skating rink, cross country ski trails, and access to the river valley trail. Do your best to get out in the sunshine and combat our shorter days. The countdown to our days getting longer is on – only 15 days more!

**Letter Exchange** – it’s such fun to find a note in your mailbox! If you would like to be included in a letter exchange, or if you would like more information, please contact Michelle at michelle@stpauls-anglican.ca



**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

Diocese of Calgary: the Most Rev. Gregory Kerr-Wilson, Archbishop (Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert’s Land); the Rt. Rev. Sidney Black, Indigenous Bishop for Treaty 7 Territory. St. Stephen the Martyr, Edmonton: Armand Mercier (s. Carol Anne), Rector. Buyé Diocese, Murehe Parish: Alexis Nzoyisaba, Rector. Kehewin Cree Nation.

**Next Week’s Ministry Teams:**

Music: Andrew and Team

Service Team: None (no in-person service)

Reader/Prayers: Andrew and Team

**This Week’s Ministry Teams:**

Music: Asher and Team

Service Team: None

Reader/Prayers: Asher and Team

**St. Paul’s Cycle of Prayer:**

James Parker, Olga Elizarova,
and Sophia;

Marcel and Terry Berard;

Michael Doku;

Patience Oduro

**For Care/Concern Team
or other prayer requests,** **email**:

office@stpauls-anglican.ca

**For urgent prayer requests call**

 the church office: (780) 455-0771

**For pastoral emergencies call:**

(587) 334-2130

@StEdmonton

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**St. Paul’s Vestry:**

 Paul Dowie, *Rector’s Warden*

Margot Byer, *People’s Warden*

David Heritage, *Treasurer*

Barb Dixon, *Vestry Member*

John Green, *Vestry Member*

Deanna Kalles, *Vestry Member*

David Parker, *Vestry Member*

Carol Rudat, *Vestry Member*

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday: 9:00AM-12:00PM

Closed: Fri/Sat/Sun and Stat Holidays

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**St. Paul’s Staff:**

 *Rector:* The Rev. Myron B. Penner
*Community Outreach:* Michelle Schurek

*Youth Leader:* Abigail Harding

*Office Administrator:* RJ Chambers