

St. John the Divine Anglican Church



Sunday December 13th, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent
Service of the Word

We gather on the unceded territory of the Squamish Nation

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Diocese of New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

*Take a deep breath.
And again.*

We light the candle of Joy

Advent Prayer

Holy One,
We thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of the depths of joy. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle – even when we are not sure of your presence, ignite the flame of joy within us, that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out. Amen.

The Gathering of the Community

Leader Restore us, O Creator of the stars of night;
All show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Leader Will you not give us life again,
All so that your people may rejoice in you?

Leader Show us your mercy, O God,
All and grant us your salvation.

Leader Blessed is the Christ who comes in your name!
All Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Leader Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds
to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins.

**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 Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Leader May the Peace of God be with you.

All And also with you.

Act of Praise: When the King Shall Come Again

CP #109

When the King Shall Come Again



1. When the King shall come a - gain All his pow'r re -
 2. In the des - ert trees take root Fresh from his cre -
 3. Strength - en fee - ble hands and knees, Faint - ing hearts, be
 4. There God's high - way shall be seen Where no roar - ing



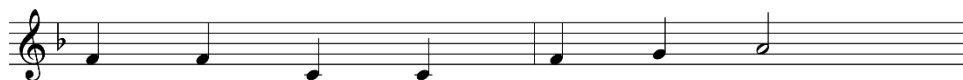
veal - ing, Splen - dor shall an - nounce his reign,
 a - tion; Plants and flow'rs and sweet - est fruit
 cheer - ful! God who comes for such as these
 li - on, Noth - ing e - vil or un - clean



Life and joy and heal - ing; Earth no
 Join the cel - e - bra - tion; Riv - ers
 Seeks and saves the fear - ful; Deaf ears,
 Walks the road to Zi - on: Ran - somed



long - er in de - cay, Hope no more frus - trat - ed;
 spring up from the earth, Bar - ren lands a - dorn - ing;
 hear the si - lent tongues Sing a - way their weep - ing;
 peo - ple home - ward bound All your prais - es voic - ing,



This is God's re - demp - tion day
 Val - leys, this is your new birth,
 Blind eyes, see the life - less ones
 See your Lord with glo - ry crowned,



Long - ing - ly a - wait - ed.
 Moun - tains, greet the morn - ing!
 Walk - ing, run - ning, leap - ing.
 Share in his re - joic - ing!

Text: Isaiah 35; Christopher Idle, b.1938, © 1982, Jubilate Hymns, Ltd. (Administered by Hope Publishing Co.)
 Tune: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, 7 6 7 6 D; Johann Horn, c. 1495-1547

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The Collect of the Day

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.

O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist, through all such faithful ones you proclaim the unfolding of future joy and renewed life. Strengthen our hearts to believe your advent promise that we will walk in the way of Christ, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,

and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.
Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negev.
Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gradual Hymn: Wait for the Lord

CP #94

Wait for the Lord

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Wait for the Lord'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' and 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The second system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taizé Community, 1984
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Sermon

The Apostle's Creed

Leader Let us confess our faith as we say,

**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

Offertory Hymn: Joy Shall Come

CP104

Joy shall come, even to the wilderness,
and the parched land shall then know great gladness;
as the rose, as the rose shall deserts blossom,
deserts like a garden blossom.
For living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow;
for living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow.

Text: Israeli tradition

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Leader Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as 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 forever. Amen**

Leader 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, forever and ever. Amen**

Leader May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power
of the Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

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St. John the Divine Prayers for December 13th, 2020

The Church

The Deanery of Royal City/South Burnaby – The Reverend Gordon Barrett, Regional Dean
The Deanery of Point Grey – The Reverend Christine Rowe, Regional Dean
St. John the Divine – The Reverend Cameron Gutjahr

Immediate Prayer Requests

Edie, Jessica, Susan, Eleanor, Lori, The Howe Sound Women’s Centre, the residents of Hilltop House, the residents of Shannon Falls and the patients of Squamish General Hospital.

We pray for Michael DeJong and his family. Michael died last week.

In this time of COVID-19, we pray for all who are sick, for all who are grieving, for health care professionals, researchers and emergency personnel.

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Rector's Reflection

As part of Advent this year I am participating in #Adventword, an online calendar to help us prepare for Christmas. Each day of Advent is given a word, and there is an option to sign up to receive a daily email. There is also an option to engage by posting a photo every day. This is what I am doing! You can see my daily pictures and reflections on our [Facebook page](#) (it will also be updated periodically on the website).

Here is my picture and reflection from Tuesday December 8th.

Do you know how long it takes a tree to decompose? Decades. Centuries. It's hard to imagine that this small, delicate fungus can be a part of the total transformation of something as giant, solid and enduring as this tree, but it can. It's amazing. It just takes time. I wonder if that's kinda like how we might participate in the advent of the Kingdom.

O God, it's hard to imagine how something as small and delicate as us can be involved in something as big as the transformation of the whole world - there is so much that seems too hard, too enduring to break down, to change. Give us eyes to see the difference we make in the greater story. Give us patience in our work. [#patient #adventword](#)

