

Holy Eucharist

December 5, 2021

Zoom link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

Advent 2C

Prelude

Announcements

All stand as they are able

Opening Hymn

Hymnal 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

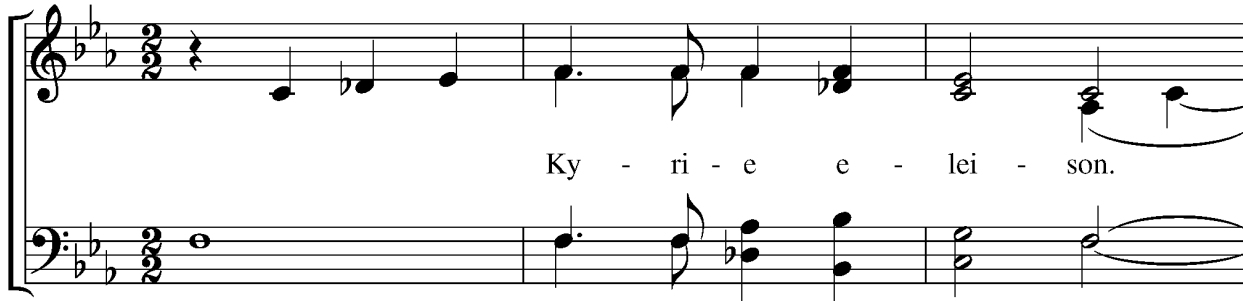
1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

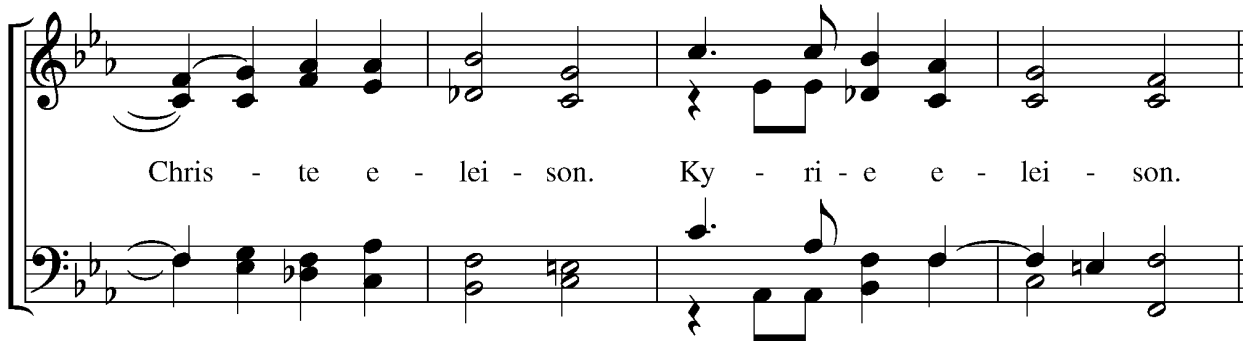
People **And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Presider begins the Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: **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.**



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Collect of

the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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.**

All sit.

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-7

A Reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

¹See, 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. ²But 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; ³he 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. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. ⁷Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, "How shall we return?"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated

Canticle 16:

Hymnal 444

Blessed be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
2 He from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
3 On pri - son - ers of dark-ness the sun be - gins to rise,



he vis - its and re - deems us, he grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sa - vior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The pro - phets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes his her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
He guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill his prom - ise and bring his peo - ple peace. —
 the pro - phet of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of Day. —
 O bless our God and Sa - vior, with songs that nev - er cease. —

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I 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. ⁷It 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 defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from

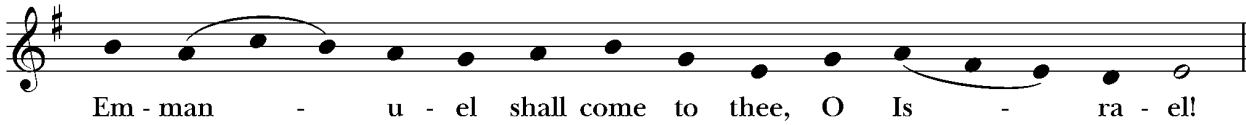


1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!

3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

¹In 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, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. valley shall be filled, every mountain and hill shall be made low, the crooked shall be made straight, the rough ways made smooth; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "



prophet
 "The
⁵Every
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 and
 and
⁶and

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Nicene Creed

All stand as they are able.

Presider Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.
 We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,**

true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

All remain standing as they are able.

Presider: 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. Prepare your hearts for his arrival, praying, "Fill the valleys, make low the hills; come, great Redeemer, come."

Intercessor Merciful God, increase our love to overflowing. Make your Church pure and blameless that we may greet with joy the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill the valleys, make low the hills; **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

Silence is kept.

Merciful God, we long for the light of hope to break into our world, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide us into the way of peace. Fill the valleys, make low the hills; **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

Silence is kept.

Merciful God, give us grace to heed the warnings of those calling us to be better stewards of your creation. We thank you for all you have made, especially those things that sustain and better our lives. Fill the valleys, make low the hills; **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

Silence is kept.

Merciful God, you lead us with joy; you delight in our joy. You clothe us in beauty. We give you thanks for [_____] and for all your tender care.

Merciful God, you remember your children. You do not leave us in sorrow or affliction. Crown your children with glory; clothe them with righteousness. Give your grace, healing, and presence to [_____] and to all your people.

Merciful God, you have raised up for us salvation through your Son. Keep [_____] and us, with all your saints, in the eternal life of Christ. Fill the valleys, make low the hills; **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

Presider: Come, O Lord, in peace. Visit us with your salvation, that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

A Minister says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept.

Minister and People

**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.**

A Priest stands and says

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.**

Prayers for those celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries

Those who will be celebrating their birthday or anniversary in December are invited to the front of the church.

Prayer for a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants, Cynthia, Mike, and Robert, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for an Anniversary

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon [all couples]. Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may continue to grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. **Amen.**

Peace

All stand as they are able.

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

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The People then are seated.

Holy Communion

The Presider then says

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

How the Holy Communion is prepared

The Presider, other Eucharistic Ministers, and any participating Acolytes must wash their hands, or use hand sanitizer, before celebrating and before distribution. Gloves will not be used.

The Presider alone will bring the bread and wine from the credence table to the Altar at the time of the offertory. All of the elements for Holy Communion will be placed on the Altar for the Eucharistic Prayer. The Presider alone stands at the altar, with others 6 feet or more away.

The **priest's wafer and chalice** will be uncovered in front of the Presider during the Eucharistic Prayer. They **are for the Presider alone**. They are consumed entirely by the Presider, or appropriately disposed of after the service.

The priest's wafer and the people's wafers will be kept separate at all times. The **people's wafers will be a container** on the Altar, which will remain covered throughout the Eucharistic Prayer.

During consecration, the Presider will touch the container, not the wafers.

The **distribution** of consecrated wine is not permitted at this time (as of June 19, 2020 Diocese of Michigan directive).

How the Holy Communion will be distributed

Everyone distributing communion will use hand sanitizer before they begin distribution. Gloves will not be used.

Communicants will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before receiving. Hand sanitizer will be available at the service.

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The people will come to the Altar rail as they are able. The Minister will place the bread in the hand. The distribution will happen without directly touching the hand of the person receiving. Hand-to-mouth distribution is not permitted. If hand-to-hand contact happens, the minister will re-sanitize.

If a blessing is preferred, the blessing will be given without touch.

The people stand as they are able as a minister brings forward the alms basin.

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The people remain standing.

Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Constant God, with you a thousand years are like one day.

We thank and praise you, because you have not been slow about your promise, but have patiently waited that all might come to repentance.

In John the Baptist, you sent a herald who embodied the prophecies of your chosen people, and announced the coming of your Son Jesus Christ.

Through baptism, you offer us the forgiveness of sins and, after the water of cleansing, you clothe us anew in your Spirit. You invite us into the heritage of your prophets and the destiny of your saints.

In your Son's death you lay down your life for us, and in raising him from the tomb, you inaugurate your eternal kingdom of peace.

And so we join angels and archangels and the company of heaven, singing forever of your glory.

Sanctus

Hymnal S-129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

The people continue to stand, or kneel, as they are able.

The Presider continues

Holy God, you call your people to wait for and hasten the day of your coming.

We long to open wide the gates and spread apart the everlasting doors that you, our king of glory, may enter among us, and we may say, "Here is our God."

Fulfill our hopes and send now your gracious Spirit on your people and on these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Gentle God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your lambs in your arms. Speak tenderly to all who linger under the shadow of exile, imprisonment, exclusion, or rejection.

Give your children the joy of knowing that they have served their term, that their penalty is paid, that they shall receive back from your hand double for all that they have ached to lose.

Where your people are isolated on a mountain top, cry to them that their mountain will be laid low; where they are in the valley of despair, whisper to them that they shall be exalted.

God of our weary years. God of our silent tears, hasten the coming of our new day begun, when we shall see the wonder of your tender face, when the grass never withers and the flower never fades because you are all in all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



The Presider then continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.
Breaking of the Bread**

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

These are the Gifts of God.
And we are the people of God.

And in union and solidarity with your faithful people
who are not able to be present at this table, we pray together:
**Strengthen and sustain us with your grace, Lord Christ,
and let us never be separated from you.**

Come spiritually into all of our hearts, Lord Christ.

May we live in you, and you in us, in this life, and in the life to come. Amen.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;**

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

A priest blesses the people, saying

God of hope, when Christ your Son appears may he not find us asleep or idle,
but active in his service.

And may the blessing of the Holy One who made you,

✠Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you today and always. **Amen.**

Concluding Hymn

WLP 724

People, look East



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is



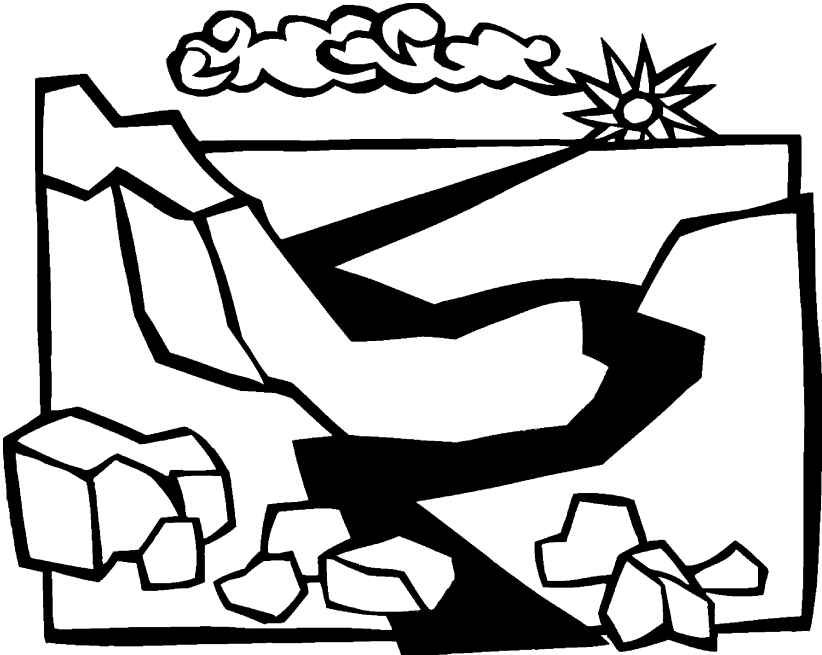
1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
 4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
 5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

Dismissal

Minister My brothers and my sisters, let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



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All Donations for our FIA Christmas Family are due today!! This applies both to gifts purchased and funds donated. Contact Jan S or Sarah S if you have questions or concerns. Many thanks to all our generous contributors!!

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Faith in Action continues to provide leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive at the church is December 19**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

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Compline will be prayed together on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Use this link, or the phone-in information to join your siblings in Christ in this quiet and brief service:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86179980160?pwd=YVhPR2FWMDhsOEpsUkhBZ3RuYXV1Zz09> Meeting ID: 861 7998 0160 Passcode: 046006

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A reminder that our Social Time is still active every Tuesday evening from 7:00-7:30 on Zoom! The link can be found on the church web site calendar, and also here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86367804283?pwd=eW9jelFKTTdaaUlXR0ZxMEc1NlM3Zz09>
Meeting ID: 863 6780 4283, Passcode: 894503

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Upcoming Commemorations

- December 5 Clement of Alexandria, Priest and Theologian, c.210
- 6 Nicholas of Myra, Bishop, c. 342
- 7 Ambrose of Milan, Bishop and Theologian, 397
- 8 Richard Baxter: Pastor and Writer, 1691
- 10 Karl Barth: Pastor and Theologian, 1968; and,
Thomas Merton: Contemplative and Writer, 1968

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Advent 2C December 5, 2021

Malachi 3:1-7; Canticle 16; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

During Advent and Christmas, we will be using study prompts and other activities tied to the sermon for the week. Read the sermon aloud and follow-up with spoken responses to the two questions at the end. Find our full sermon compilation for individual, small group, or congregational use, *Sermons for Advent and Christmas 2021* at www.sermonsthatwork.org.

Prepare the Way

by the Rev. Lucy Strandlund

There's a method of calling to a crowd and catching its attention in which a speaker says, "If you can hear the sound of my voice, clap once." Usually, in a gathered group, only a few closest to the speaker hear the instruction and clap. The unexpected sound of several people clapping once, however, catches the attention of a few more. The speaker then says, "If you can hear the sound of my voice, clap twice." And a few more people catch on. It continues until the crowd is hushed as more and more people clap in unison, three times, then four times. It's an effective way to gather the attention of a crowd without having to be the loudest one in the room, but it only works with the participation of more and more people. The speaker might talk in vain at an unresponsive, noisy crowd all day if the following of their instructions doesn't spread throughout the group.

While the prophets of scripture may have felt at times that they were speaking in vain, they caught enough attention that we continue to hear their words reverberate today. "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God," we hear from Micah 6:8. "Comfort, O comfort my people" encourages Isaiah 40:1. What was it about them that captured the attention of the people around them? Was there some kind of magnetic quality about them? Was it a fierce or wild look in their eyes? Or were their words from God simply so true in times so desperate that listening to them felt like solid ground in a shifting time?

We know theirs were not the only voices people could listen to. While the prophets were encouraging people to return to God, to care for the vulnerable, to be restored in relationship with one another, there were surely then, as now, competing voices for the people's attention—voices of power, greed, despair, or complacency that were louder than the prophets' call. And yet the prophets were heard through the generations.

The words of Isaiah were resonating so powerfully that John the Baptizer picked them up and echoed them centuries later: "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.'" John heeded Isaiah and lived these words, calling those who heard him to repent and to begin anew, to prepare the way. In so doing, he invited more and more people to live Isaiah's words with him. Yet John's voice was not the only one people heard.

Today's passage from Luke begins with some of the other voices that competed for the attention of the crowds in the region near Judea and Galilee in the first century: Emperor Tiberius, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip the ruler of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias the ruler of Abilene. And yet amid these rulers' claims to power and voice, people were drawn to John the Baptizer. John, who heard the word of God in the wilderness and went around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John, who answers in Luke 3:10 when the crowds ask, "What then should we do?" by saying, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." John, who showed them that valleys are filled and the mountains and hills made low when those with plenty share with those in need. They heard something they knew to be true in his words and the crowds flocked to him, hushing as they approached and listening. In his words, they heard restoration, justice, and hope.

But John was not the source of the words. Nor was Isaiah the source of the words. Isaiah and then John were like the ones standing nearby who hear the sound of the speaker's voice and clap in response. Because of their clapping, more and more people can identify and heed the speaker's voice. They, too,

can join in the clapping to draw attention to the speaker, so that more and more people in turn can hear the words.

The voice to which they draw our attention may not be the loudest in the room, but it is steady. It is persistent. It is the voice of God who continually invites us all to return, to care for the vulnerable, to be in relationship with one another.

After all, prophets' words are not an end unto themselves; they point us back to God. They show the way when we've gotten a little turned around. They draw our attention when we've been distracted by the clamoring of other voices. Prophets tell the truth about things as they are and remind us that there is a better way. Prophets call us to notice where we've gotten off the path and call us to return to relationship with God and with one another—to share a coat when we have two, to share food when we have extra. Prophets are channels for the words of God so that we might hear those words, live them, and be channels too.

Listening to them can help us live the words of God in our own time, as they endeavored to do in theirs. Across the generations, we participate in the call to return to God, to care for the vulnerable, to restore relationship with one another. And we are called to trust that none of this is done in vain, but rather prepares the way.

When we attune our ears to and live the words shared by the prophets, we are able to better recognize the One who is to come, the Word who is restoration, justice, and hope. We are able to recognize the Christ who reconciles us and for whom we wait in this season of Advent with hopeful expectation. So, today, let us focus our attention and allow a hush to fall over us so that we may hear the voice calling from the wilderness: "Prepare the way."

This study was written by Lucy Strandlun

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December 5, 2021 – Advent 2 C

Second Week of Advent: Journeying with Family and Friends

As we continue our Advent walk, we invite you to see the Way of Love as a journey that can expand to include family and friends. Mary said “yes” to

the call to birth Jesus, God’s Word, into the world and immediately went in haste to share her good news with her cousin, Elizabeth—a four-day journey into the Judean hills. Isn’t that what happens when we hear good news? We are driven to go and tell others. The Way of Love is good news that demands to be shared.



For more Advent resources related to the Way of Love, visit episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove. There, you’ll find links to the full Advent curriculum-- *Journeying the Way of Love*-- as well as *Living the Way of Love in Community*, a nine-session curriculum for use anytime.

Sunday, December 5

WORSHIP

Read Luke 3:1-6. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?

Monday, December 6

GO

Read or watch your local news. Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.

Tuesday, December 7

LEARN

Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week. It can be someone you have known for a while who has not heard the faith part of your story.

Wednesday, December 8

PRAY

Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 211 of *The Book of Common Prayer*. As you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass. Ask God to bless them in their lives and work. See how this changes the way you go about your week.

Thursday, December 9

BLESS

Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship. Make plans in the new year to chat on the phone or meet over Zoom or in person. Let them know how much you love them and look forward to knowing them better.

Friday, December 10

TURN

Where did you struggle this week? Do you have amends or apologies or adjustments you need to make? Ask God to open your heart and mind to those opportunities for reconciliation and growth. Thank God for the gifts of mercy and love, and the courage to make the changes necessary. And then do your best, with God's help, to make those changes.

Saturday, December 11

REST

Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. Sure, it may feel a little weird to be silent on the phone, or while sitting next to each other on the couch or across the table. Just give it a try. Make sure to set aside time after your silence to pray for each other and to say thanks for the time of rest.

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Eucharistic prayer from Wells, Samuel and Abigail Kocher. *Eucharistic prayers*. Grand Rapids MI: Eerdmans, 2016, pp.44-45.

Amen by Marty Haugen, *Mass of Creation*. Copyright © 2010 GIA Publications.

Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



St Barnabas Episcopal Church

20500 W Old US-12
Chelsea MI 48118
stbarnabaschelsea.org