The Second Sunday of Advent

Year B
December 10, 2023



Advent carries two simultaneous visions of our expectations: we await yet again the birth of the babe in the manger, and we also await Christ's coming again to fulfill all things. We often prepare for Advent by "getting ready": planning, organizing, and ordering supplies for various gatherings and worship services. Yet preparing for the coming of Christ is not a matter of having everything under control. Christ's arrival disrupts—disrupts injustice, sin, and brokenness in a society in which we are deeply embedded. A prayer for Christ to come to us is a prayer for a holy disruption of our lives that we cannot control and that we might struggle to accept.

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m., The Holy Eucharist, Rite II
The Rev. William Petersen, Celebrant
Holly Simons, Minister of Music

THE GATHERING ~ The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude Let all mortal flesh keep silence – *arranged by L. Shackley* Choral: Let all mortal flesh keep silence- *arr. Heather Sorensen, 17th c French carol*

Processional Hymn Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus – arr. Dan Forrest



Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

Glory be to God on high! Peace, goodwill to all the earth. Let us sing a joyful song to the Christ, the Living Word. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Collect Of The Day Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

Second Sunday of Advent

This blessing is read when lighting two candles.

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. Amen.

THE WORD ~ God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

Lessons

We hear the Word of God proclaimed.

The First Lesson Isaiah 40:1-11

The first reading is a message of comfort and new hope to God's people. The time of exile in Babylon is coming to an end. A new way is made through the desert, and the mighty Lord comes, bringing peace and pardon to Jerusalem. Though all human powers fail, the Lord's word will stand. Like a shepherd, God will care for the people.

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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 for ever.

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *The reader and people read responsively.*

The psalm both celebrates and prays for the Lord's gracious favor, for God's forgiveness, deliverance, and justice.

You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, * you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people * and blotted out all their sins.

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.

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, * that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together; *

righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth, *

and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, * and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Second Lesson 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This lesson is a reminder that the divine perspective on time can be very different from that of human beings. Many wonder why the Lord seems so slow to fulfill the promises of salvation and judgment. God, however, is patient and has divine purposes. Still, the day of the Lord will come suddenly, bringing a new heaven and earth. Christians must live both in patience and with a zeal for righteousness and peace in readiness for that judgment.

Reader A reading from the second letter of Peter.

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God

The Gospel Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark begins with the ministry of John the Baptist. He is the messenger spoken of in the scriptures, the voice that cries aloud in the wilderness. He is sent to prepare the way of the Lord through his call for repentance and baptism in water for the forgiveness of sins. The people flock to him, but he tells of a mightier one still to come who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

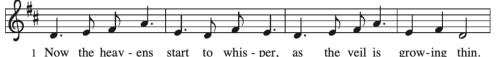
Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Rev. William Petersen

Silence for reflection may be kept. The people stand in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day ACS #901 Now the heavens start to whisper



- 2 Heav y clouds that block the moon-light now be gin to drift a way.
- 3 Christ, e ter nal Sun of jus tice, Christ, the rose of wis-dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with-in: Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com-ing day. come to bless with fire and fra-grance hours of yearn-ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom-ise, deep-ly plant-ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Christ, the morn-ing star of splen-dor, gleams with-in a world grown dim. In the lone-ly, in the strang-er, in the out-cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to wel-come him. Heav-en's em - ber fans to full-ness; hearts grow warm to wel-come him. Child who comes to grace the man-ger, teach our hearts to wel-come you.

Nicene Creed

We profess our faith with the whole church.

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, 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

The leader and people pray responsively.

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

Confession

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Absolution

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

The Peace

We share the gift of Christ's peace and love.

Announcements

We share our life of faith together in community.

The Offering Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give.

For everyone's safety, we will not pass the traditional plate during today's service. Instead, an offering plate is available at the entrances to the worship space, or you may visit wolfesaints.com/donate.

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Eucharistic Prayer B

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift 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 him thanks and praise.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

(sung to the tune "Bring a Torch)

Holy, holy One... God of power, God of might. Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed, blessed is the One Who comes, Blessed! Blessed! In the Name of God.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Lamb of God (sung to the tune "O Come, O Come Emmanuel")

O Lamb of God You take away our sin; have mercy on us, give us Your peace. Prepare us to receive Your grace, and teach us how to follow Your ways. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has come to you, O Israel.

A period of silence is kept.

The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Prayer For Spiritual Communion for those worshipping online

There is a long-standing practice in the Episcopal Church to offer a means for people to receive Holy Communion spiritually when it cannot be received physically.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.

Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Communion Piano Meditation Of the Father's Love Begotten with In the Bleak Midwinter – arr. M. Hayes

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray together:

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sending Blessing

May you trust in whatever sacred thing bubbles up from within you.

May you remember that the Divine takes on flesh and yours is no exception.

May you be a conduit of eternal love, and a moment of grace for a world that waits and longs for hope.

In the name of the one who + creates, saves and sustains you.

Amen.

Sending Hymn *Found on page 13* #59 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace. Keep awake.

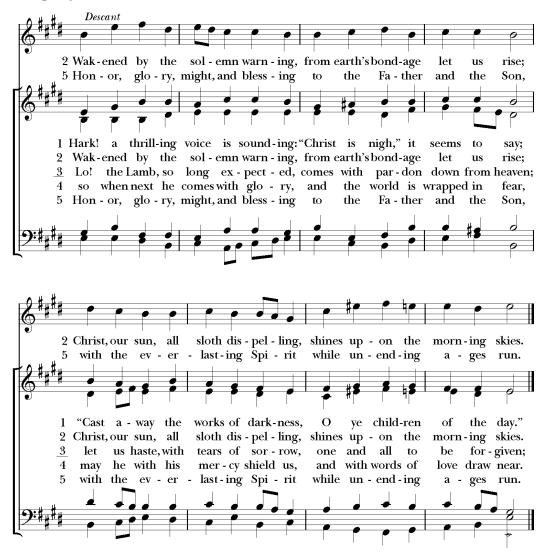
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella – *Traditional French melody/arr. by P.L.*

Harris

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Sending Hymn



ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 10 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

We welcome all who are visiting with us today or who are new in our midst. Please complete a Welcome Card found in the pew racks and sign the guest book in the Narthex. All are invited to join us for coffee hour in the parish hall downstairs immediately following worship.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE TABLE IN NARTHEX.

PLEASE PRAY for:

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Doug Smithwood, Mallory & Dodie Stephens.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Church of Our Saviour in Milford.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

For those who have died:

Our Parish

Howard Blaney, Linda Brown, Jim & Anne Bullitt, Prue Fitts, Felicity Freund, Judy Hess, Louise Graham, Don Johnson, The Jeffers family (Polly, Dave, Rachael), Zell Kellogg, Bhupendra & Judy Khetani, Norma Lunney, Jacqueline McLaughlin, Penny Meyer, Connie Mitchell, Warren Muir, Carol Pearson, Danielle Pierpont, Bree Schuette,

Sebastian Tordonato, Inger Woerheide.

Our Family & Friends

Basil Brown, Rebecca DeNeault, Candy Desrocher, Michael Dowd, Anne Fish, Stephanie Fullam, Ruth Gray, Linda Hall, Susan Belt Hartson, Faye Juul, Jim Lunney, Margie, Tom Southern, Marguerite Truesdale, Peggy Young.

The Altar Flowers are given in the glory of God.

If you wish names added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the Parish Office by phone or email: allsaints@metrocast.net

December Ministry Assignments	10-Advent 2	17-Advent 3
Altar Guild	Ritva Torma Susie Walker	Carolyn Sundquist Gayle Gurney
Usher	Bertsch	Holm
Lectors 10am	Lucy Hancock	Aiden Schuette- Simon
Eucharistic Ministers 8am 10am	Jay Wyman Susan Fuller Linda Brown	Jay Wyman Steve Cloutier Gayle Gurney
Greeters	Volunteer	Volunteer
Flower Guild	Cate McMahon	Sue Adams
Flower Delivery	Arlene Salzgeber	Lynne Slocum
Counting @ 10am	12/12 Deb Hoyt Bill Woodard	12/19 Deb Hoyt Lyn Healy

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 TH. Email allsaints@metrocast.net or drop slip in

the plate or at the office.

Birthdays this week:

Carolyn Hoffmann 12/10 Donna Lehmann 12/11 Sylvia Rollins 12/12 Connie O'Brien 12/15 **About All Saints'** ~ We welcome you to a church that is clear about the Christian faith that stands in the rich tradition of Christian worship that encourages people to grow in the faith they profess, that believes we ought to live so as to make a difference in the world. If you are looking for such a church, then All Saints' Episcopal Church is for you - we invite you into our community of faith.

How to use this Worship Bulletin ~ We follow the order of worship from The Book of Common Prayer as it is printed in this bulletin. Leader parts are in regular print; the congregation parts are in **bold** print. Notes and directions are printed in *italics*. Hymn numbers are noted in this bulletin and can be found in The Hymnal 1982 found in the pew racks.

All are invited to receive Communion in this church.

The Common Cup *as an Option* Following guidance from Bishop +Rob to clergy and discussion with our Worship and Music Team and Vestry, we will offer the option of receiving wine by common cup as we offer the option of gluten free bread during Holy Communion. The Eucharistic Ministers will continue to distribute wine via individual cups and if you desire the common cup*, please ask Pastor Bill (just as you would for gluten free).

*Note: For sanitation concerns and at the direction of our bishop, we will no longer offer the opportunity for Intinction (the dipping of the bread/wafer into the wine. The common cup is only available for drinking from.

Facility Information ~ Handicap accessible restrooms are located downstairs in the hallways exiting the Parish Hall and upstairs in the hallway exiting the sanctuary. A small restroom is located off the narthex lobby at the rear of the worship space. We welcome children in worship, but should you (or they) need, an unstaffed nursery area is located off the narthex lobby.

Seeking a Church Home? ~ If you would like additional information about All Saints', are seeking a faith community to call home, or interested in exploring your faith, please speak with the rector.

Masks are not required in the building at the present time. However, if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, then you are encouraged to do so.

Sharing of the peace will be done from your seat only.

Offering plates are available at entrances to the worship space or giving online @ wolfesaints.com.

Ministers: All the People of All Saints'
Bishop: The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld
Rector: The Rev. William "Bill" Petersen
Priest Associate: The Rev. Elizabeth Preysner
Minister of Music: Holly Simons
Sunday School Teacher: Danielle Pierpont
Parish Administrator: Debra Hoyt
Sexton: Mark McLaughlin

We continue to livestream for those unable to worship in person.

All Saints' Episcopal Church, Wolfeboro PO Box 359, 258 South Main Street, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 (603) 569-3453 www.wolfesaints.com / email: allsaints@meterocast.net