

**A Service of Morning Prayer  
for December 5, 2021  
Second Sunday of Advent**



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

**LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE - The Candle of Peace**

**Voice 1:** In the settle and stir of a burnt-orange sunrise, in the lilting laughter around a table full of friends, in the flash of clarity that turns on the light of insight and leads us towards wisdom, we find the peace that passes all understanding.

**Voice 2:** But there are things we need to understand. Help us hear you in the stories of those who struggle.

**Voice 1:** Peace is what the prophets foretold.

**Voice 2:** Peace is what is sacrificed when profit takes precedence.

**All: We light a candle for peace and pray for the courage to stand up for it.**

*Light two candles.*

**Voice 1:** In this second week of Advent, as the waiting and expectation heighten, deepen our desire for peace.

**Voice 2:** Like the wise called to journey in those early dawning days, may we seek, strive, search for peace. Like the prophets old and new, may we cry out for its coming.

**All: We light a candle for peace. May it light the way.**

**CP 115 Awake O Sinner Rise From Death**

1. Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,  
and Christ shall give you light,  
so learn his love—its length and breadth,  
its fullness, depth, and height.

2. To us on earth he came to bring  
from sin and fear release,  
to give the Spirit's unity,  
the very bond of peace.

3. There is one Body and one hope,  
one Spirit and one call,  
one Lord, one Faith, and one Baptism,  
one Father of us all.

4. Then walk in love as Christ has loved,  
who died that he might save;  
with kind and gentle hearts forgive  
as God in Christ forgave.

5. For us Christ lived, for us he died  
and conquered in the strife.  
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,  
and Christ shall give you life.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 And the love of God,  
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
 Be with you all.

**And also with you.**

May his grace and peace be with you.  
**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Almighty God,  
**To you all hearts are open,  
 All desires known,  
 And from you no secrets are hidden.  
 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.**

The Lord is our refuge and strength: O come, let us worship.

Psalm Luke 1:68-79 *Refrain:* The Lord has done great things for us.

1:68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

1:69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,

1:70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

1:71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

1:72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

1:73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us

1:74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

1:75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

1:76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

1:77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

1:78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

1:79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

A Reading from Malachi 3:1-4

3:1 See, 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.

3:2 But 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;

3:3 he 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.

3:4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **CP 601 God Whose Giving Knows No Ending**

1. God whose giving knows no ending  
From Your rich and endless store  
Nature's wonder Jesus' wisdom  
Costly cross grave's shattered door  
Gifted by You we turn to You  
Offering up ourselves in praise  
Thankful song shall rise forever  
Gracious donor of our days.

2. Skills and time are ours for pressing  
Toward the goals of Christ Your Son  
All at peace in health and freedom  
Races joined the church made one  
Now direct our daily labor  
Lest we strive for self alone  
Born with talents make us servants  
Fit to answer at Your throne.

3. Treasure too You have entrusted  
Gain through powers Your grace  
conferred  
Ours to use for home and kindred  
And to spread the gospel word  
Open wide our hands in sharing  
As we heed Christ's ageless call  
Healing teaching and reclaiming  
Serving You by loving all.

### **A Reading from Philippians 1:3-11**

1:3 I thank my God every time I remember you,

1:4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,

1:5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

1:6 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.

1:7 It 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.

1:8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

1:9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight

1:10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,

1:11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

**CP 102 Prepare the Way, O Zion**

1. Prepare the way O Zion  
 Your Christ is drawing near  
 Let ev'ry hill and valley  
 A level way appear  
 Greet One who comes in glory  
 Foretold in sacred story.

***Chorus***

***O blest is Christ who came  
 In God's most holy name.***

3. Fling wide your gates O Zion  
 Your Saviour's rule embrace  
 His tidings of salvation  
 Proclaim in ev'ry place  
 All lands will bow before Him  
 Their voices will adore Him.

***Chorus...***

2. He brings God's rule O Zion  
 He comes from heav'n above  
 His rule is peace and freedom  
 And justice, truth, and love  
 Lift high your praise resounding  
 For grace and joy abounding.

***Chorus...*****The Gospel**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Luke 3:1-6**

3:1 In 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,

3:2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

3:3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

3:4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

3:5 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;

3:6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

The Gospel of Christ

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

**Sermon** by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

**CCLI 2789819 Prepare the Way**

1. Our swords will be plowshares  
And our knives will be spades  
As we till the vineyard of the King.

2. All colors will hold hands  
As is done in God's rainbow  
And our song will be free on that day  
For He shall come.

***Chorus***  
***Prepare the way***  
***Prepare the way***  
***Prepare the way for the Lord (for the Lord)***  
***For He shall come.***

3. So level the mountains  
Let valleys be filled  
Make straight the path for the Lord  
For He shall come.

**Affirmation of Faith** (The Apostles' Creed)

**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** led and compiled by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

The prophet John the Baptist preached a repentance which would bear fruit in the lives of those who heard him. In penitence and faith, let us offer to God our prayer for all people, saying, we pray to the Lord, Lord Jesus come soon.

**Lord Jesus come soon**

We pray for the church throughout the world, remembering especially our sisters and brothers in:

- The Anglican Church of Burundi
- the Diocese of Saskatoon: the Rt. Rev. Chris Harper, Bishop.

- All Saints' Cathedral, Edmonton: Alexandra Meek, Rector and Dean; Ruth Sesink Bott, Vicar; Robin Gibbons, International Ecumenical Canon; Fr. Michael Lapsley, Honorary Canon for Healing and Reconciliation; Scott Sharman, Canon Theologian in Mission; Gwen Bright, Alan Perry, Honorary Assistants; John Gee, Honorary Vocational Deacon; Sara Kate Edwards-Smith, Executive Assistant and all their families.

- Our parish of St. Peter's, our ministry team, our music ministry, our vestry and vestry clerk, our Covid Crew, our wardens, our building and maintenance volunteers and all those other ministries that enable us to be a community of faith here in Edmonton.

- the Buyé Diocese, Mbaba Parish: Jeremy Ndikumana, catechist.

- All our First Nations brothers and sisters of Treaty 6.

That in our many and diverse vocations we may serve to the glory of God, we pray to the Lord,

### **Lord Jesus come soon**

We pray for this nation, and for all nations of the world, remembering especially those who are victims of political or social injustice. For those who are struggling with natural disasters and those suffering from the many effects of living through a global pandemic. We pray for those whom we have elected to political office and for political leaders everywhere. That they may administer the tasks of government with compassion, courage, and equity, we pray to the Lord,

### **Lord Jesus come soon**

We pray for those of us who are sick, elderly, homeless, addicted, anxious, lonely, unemployed, all who are in some way broken. Today we offer up to you Sandra... Merle..... Mona..... Lois Ward..... Ray and Mary..... Irene ..... Kathryn.....Helen..... Jenifer..... Judy..... Tony and Mary Jean..... Luisa..... Lois Davis..... Stacey..... Evelyn..... Miranda..... Iain..... Diane and Bill....Maxime.....Barry Westervelt..... Geraldine.... Florence..... Joan.....Kathleen..... baby Emelia. That the power of the Holy Spirit may fill us with hope and peace, we pray to the Lord,

### **Lord Jesus come soon**

We pray for those whose earthly journey is nearing its end, that you may give them peace and the assurance of a new life in your kingdom. We pray for those whose journey has ended and who join all the saints in glory, especially we pray for the repose of the soul of **David Page and Willis Scott**. Be with the loved ones who sit and wait and mourn that they may be comforted in the knowledge that you are preparing a room for us all in the new Jerusalem, we pray to the Lord,

### **Lord Jesus come soon**

We pray for this community, for our neighbours and friends, for those with whom we study and work and live; those with whom we worship and pray; those of every gender, every skin colour, every culture, every faith culture. We ask that you strengthen us in our common life. That we may know the gifts of your grace and love, we pray to the Lord,

### **Lord Jesus come soon**

Compassionate God, we thank you for answering our prayers and allowing us to once again, open the doors of St. Peter's to worship in person. The gift of being able to

gather together is truly a blessing to us all and the ability to sing the songs of praise to glorify you is a gift we have missed. We praise and thank you, that as we now gather in person and online we continue to be bound together in love and fellowship by your divine grace and compassion, we pray to the Lord,

### **Lord Jesus come soon**

Lord, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place, and as you prepare the way, making every valley filled and every mountain brought low in blessing and adoration, guide us to Christ our Lord.

### Collect

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. Amen.

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

### CP 109 When the King Shall Come Again

1. When the King shall come again, all his power revealing,  
 splendour shall announce his reign, life and joy and healing;  
 earth no longer in decay, hope no more frustrated,  
 this is God's redemption day longingly awaited.

2. In the desert, trees take root, fresh from God's creation;  
 plants and flowers and sweetest fruit join the celebration;  
 rivers spring up from the earth, barren lands adorning.  
 Valleys, this is your new birth; mountains, greet the morning!

3. Strengthen feeble hands and knees; fainting hearts, be cheerful!  
God, who comes from such as these, seeks and saves the fearful.  
Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues sing away their weeping;  
blind eyes, see the lifeless ones walking, running, leaping!

4. There God's highway shall be seen where no roaring lion,  
nothing evil or unclean, walks the road to Zion:  
ransomed people homeward bound all your praises voicing,  
see your Lord with glory crowned, share in his rejoicing!

### The Dismissal

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

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness  
working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the  
glory for ever and ever, Amen.

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**