

A Service of Morning Prayer
December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent



THE CANDLES OF ADVENT

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY

INTROIT O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

VOICE Today is the third Sunday of Advent - the Sunday of Joy.

VOICE Our joy is in God and in his son Jesus Christ. Like peace, joy is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done and what he has promised to do.

VOICE We light this candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming, so that all people might have a rich and abundant life. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, and for the joy he pours into our hearts.

Light the First, Second, and Third Candle

VOICE Let us pray -- O God of Joy, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing. Fix our hearts and our minds upon those things you have done and those you have promised to do that we may have the joy you have promised. As we worship you, strengthen us so that we may always do your will and so bless you and the world you have made.

Amen.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has
anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted. *Isaiah 61.1*

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.**

Psalm 146:5-10

Refrain Come, O Lord, and save us.

146:5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,

146:6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

146:7 who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

146:8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

146:9 The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

146:10 The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

A Reading from Isaiah 35:1-10

35:1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus

35:2 it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

35:3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

35:4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

35:6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

35:7 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

35:8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

35:9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

35:10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 90 How the World Longs for Your Birth (vss.1, 2, & 3)

1 How the world longs for your birth,
bearing news of human worth;
to our labour bring your mirth:
Maranatha, come, Lord, come.

3 How we ache to know your peace;
wars and weapons still increase;
bid our fears and hate to cease:
Maranatha, come, Lord, come.

2 How the earth awaits your seed,
parched and barren from our greed;
now to hallow it we need:
Maranatha, come, Lord, come.

A Reading from James 5:7-10

5:7 Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

5:8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

5:9 Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!

5:10 As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 90 How the World Longs for Your Birth (vss.4, 5, & 6)

4 How our minds for healing long,
broken bodies to be strong,
wounded hearts to learn your song:
Maranatha, come, Lord, come.

6 To our darkness bring your light;
fill our longing eyes with sight.
In our lives shine ever bright:
Maranatha, come, Lord, come.

5 God, who sets your people free,
God, who comes, our flesh to be,
now we wait, your reign to see:
Maranatha, come, Lord, come.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Matthew 11:2-11

11:2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples

11:3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

11:4 Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:

11:5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

11:6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

11:7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

11:8 What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

11:9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

11:10 This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

11:11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of Christ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon by the Rev. Alison WesterveltCCLI 7036288 Even So Come

1 All of creation all of the earth
 Make straight a highway a path for the Lord
 Jesus is coming soon

2 Call back the sinner wake up the saint
 Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame
 Jesus is coming soon

Chorus 1

**Like a bride waiting for her groom
 We'll be a Church ready for You
 Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
 Even so come Lord Jesus come
 Even so come Lord Jesus come**

3 There will be justice all will be new
 Your name forever faithful and true
 Jesus is coming soon

Bridge: So we wait we wait for You
 God we wait You're coming soon
 So we wait we wait for You
 God we wait You're coming soon

Chorus 2

**Like a bride waiting for her groom
 We'll be a Church ready for You
 Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
 Like a bride waiting for her groom
 We'll be a Church ready for You
 Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
 Even so come Lord Jesus come
 Even so come Lord Jesus come**

Bridge: God we wait we wait for You
 God we wait You're coming soon
 (REPEAT)

God we wait we wait for You
 Yes we wait You're coming soon

God we wait You're coming soon oh

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 compiled and led by Lesley Lambert

Loving Father, we give thanks for the chance to spend time with You today as we offer our humble intercessions to You. Allow us to be quiet and allow You into our hearts, as we ask You to hear our prayers and grant our desires as is best for us and for those for whom we pray.

We pray for Your holy church:

- The Anglican Church of Kenya
- The Diocese of Kootenay: The Most Rev. Lynne McNaughton, Archbishop (Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon).
- All lay people in parishes throughout the Diocese of Edmonton and all their various ministries.
- All lay people in parishes throughout the Diocese of Buyé.
- The Kehewin Cree Nation.
- Our Bishop Steven and our ministry, Heather and Alison who have cared for us so well over these last challenging years. Grant Heather Your blessings as she starts out on a new voyage in her ministry. Be with her and those for whom she will be a shepherd in the New Year. May she always know how much she will remain in our hearts here at St. Peter's and bless our parish family as we enter a new phase of our spiritual journey.

We pray for the people of Ukraine as winter sets in and they are without essential infrastructure as bombing continues. Speak to those who would prosecute war and violence and give world leaders the strength to press for peaceful solutions. Keep under Your loving care all those in our city of Edmonton who face the challenges of hunger, homelessness, lack of employment and financial security. Bless those who are addicted or afflicted in mind, body or spirit and those for whom this time of year is most especially difficult. We commend to You our health workers and those who feed and clothe the many who have nowhere to go and make them welcome.

We ask Your blessing on those for whom we pray in silence, those whose names are known to You alone, and those for whom our prayers have been requested today: Sandra... Merle..... Mona..... Mary..... Irene Kathryn..... Helen..... Jenifer..... Tony and Mary Jean..... Luisa..... Miranda..... Bill..... Maxime..... Geraldine.... Florence..... Joan..... Shirley and Cyril..... Mark and Blake..... Lisa..... Marijke..... Chrissie, Cathy, and the family..... Diane..... Janelle...

Let us pray for those whom we love and see no longer, remembering today our friend Diane Thompson and the gift of her most beautiful voice.

Lord, in this season of joyful expectation make our hearts open to You. Make us worthy of the gift of the little baby born in a manger whose life and teachings we must strive to follow today, tomorrow and every day of our lives. In His name we pray. Amen.

Collect

**God of power and mercy,
you call us once again
to celebrate the coming of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes,
he may find us waiting in awe and wonder
for him who lives 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 115 Awake O Sleeper 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 Dismissal

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has
anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted. *Isaiah 61.1*

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Let us depart in peace and take with us the certain knowledge that
God is always coming into the world.

May the blessing of Christmas make us a blessing to others.

May the joy of the season pervade all that we do.

Let us go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.

Thanks be to God.