



**ST. DAVID'S ON-THE-HILL  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Liturgy of the Word of God  
December 6, 2020**

**The Reverend Jennifer Kezirian West, Priest**

**The Lighting of the Advent Wreath:**

**Celebrant:** People of God: be glad!

Your God delights in you, giving you joy for sadness and turning the dark to light. Be strong in hope therefore; for your God comes to save. You are God's children.

**Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and forever.  
Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: Prepare the way, O Zion**

**H 65**

1 Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy Name.

2 He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding

“Oh, blest in Christ that came in God's most holy name.

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.

His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.

“Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy Name.

**Liturgy of the Word (adapted from the Anglican Church of England)**

**Celebrant:** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**Celebrant:** When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ 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 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.**

**Celebrant:** 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.**

**All:** Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

**Collect of the Day:** 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 forever. **Amen.**

## **The Lesson**

### **First Reading**

#### **A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah**

##### **Isaiah 40: 1-11**

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 forever. 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.

**Celebrant:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God

**Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13**

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

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

8 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.

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

10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.

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

## **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark**

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

**Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8**

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.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**Homily: Mother Jennifer**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer. Saying, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness, we remember our service members: Jake Knight, Elizabeth Butler, Matthew Paiva and George Frank, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, we remember those who are sick especially Diane, John, Carol, Bob, Wayne, Jim, Vincent, Martha, Michael, Richard, Lauren, David, Frank, Bob, MJ, Brad, Paul, Ronnie, Donald, Elanor and any you wish to name silently or aloud...(pause)...We commend to your protection our first responders who are on the front lines during this COVID Pandemic, Lynne Schoer, Cheryl Boscia and Lyndsey Bain, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world. We pray for William Sprows, Ben's Father who died recently, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

We give exuberant thanks for Rosalee Malaby's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday today in whose honor the altar greens are given by the people of St. David's and for the birth of her great granddaughter and the granddaughter of Grace and Fred Malaby, Daisy Grace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant Rosalee, as she begins another year. Grant that she may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen her trust in your goodness, all the days of her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father: (Silence is kept.)

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. **Amen.**

**Let us say the Lord's Prayer together:**

**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.***

*Peace:*

**Advent Blessing**

**Dismissal**

Celebrant: “As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

**People: “In the name of Christ, Amen.”**

**Closing Anthem: Advent Alleluia**

**by Keith Christopher**

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