

# The Second Sunday of Advent

## 10:00 AM + December 10, 2023

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Welcome! You are invited to participate fully in our worship. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey of faith, welcome! Please contact the church office ([aschurch@allsaintschelmsford.org](mailto:aschurch@allsaintschelmsford.org)) if you would like to receive our weekly e-bulletin..

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### The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

### The Word of God

**PRELUDE:** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*Cathy Moglebust*

**HYMN:** *Comfort, comfort ye my people*

*Blue Hymnal 67*

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

*Celebrant* Collect for Purity

**Kyrie:** Lord, have mercy

Blue Hymnal S-91

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant :* Together let us pray.

**Collect**

Said in unison

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.

#### A Reading from the Book of 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 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.

*People’s response after the reading*

**Thanks be to God.**

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

Robert Knox Kennedy  
(b. 1945)



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.

### A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter 3:8-15a

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.

*People's response after the reading*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** *There's a voice in the wilderness crying*

*Blue Hymnal 75*

### The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:1-8

*People Said before the reading*

**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.”

*People Said after the reading*

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Reverend Sean Maloney

The Nicene Creed

*Spoken by all, standing.*

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified. He 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— Form III

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

### **Confession**

*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.**

*The Bishop, when present, or the 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.*

### **The Peace**

*All stand*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**Announcements:**

## **The Holy Communion**

**Offertory:** *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*

*James E. Moore (1951-2022)*

**Eucharistic Prayer 2**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift 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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

*Celebrant and People*

*The Celebrant continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

**The Lord's Prayer**

BCP p. 364

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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**

**Fraction Anthem:** *O Lamb of God*

*Blue Hymnal S-158*

**The Gifts** *You are invited as you feel moved to join us for Communion today. Simply move into the aisle as the Ushers assist you.*

**Communion Music:**

*The desert shall rejoice*

*Joy F. Patterson (1931-)*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

**Hymn:** *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

*Blue Hymnal 76*

**The Dismissal**

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of the Lord

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

**Postlude:** *On Jordan's Bank*

*Malcolm Archer (1952-)*



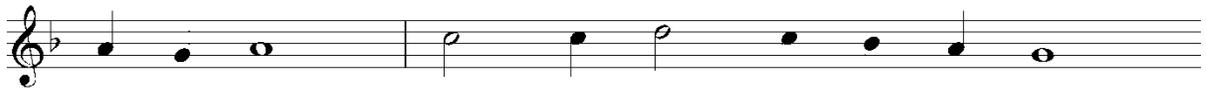
1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



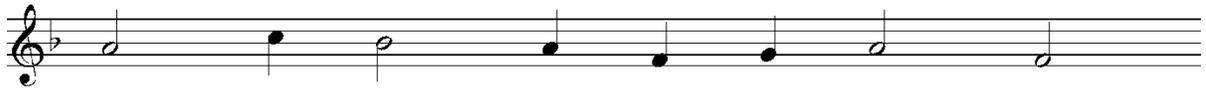
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -  
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
 let the val - leys rise to meet him  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
 and the hills bow down to greet him.  
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Hymn: *There's a voice in the wilderness crying*

Blue Hymnal 75



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee  
3 but the word of our God en - du - reth, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The  
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the  
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
flowers of the field they per - ish, like  
feed his flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of  
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our God may go!  
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way;  
lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

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  
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
 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  
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
 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.  
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.