

Welcome to
St. John's Episcopal Church
Chula Vista, CA

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020
9:00 am

Livestreamed worship service

*No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here*



Prelude

Opening Hymn

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

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.

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living God.

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

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

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.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

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.

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter

2 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.

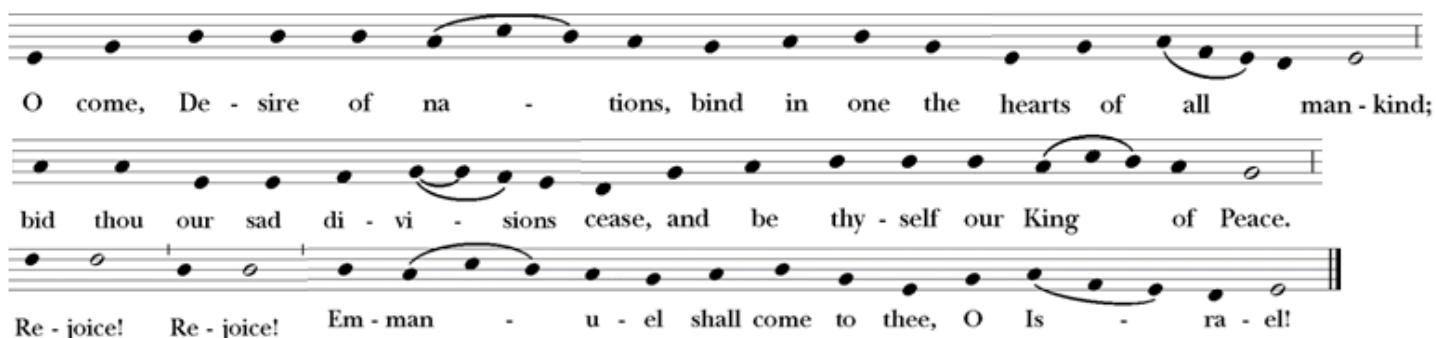
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Hymnal 56



O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the hearts of all man - kind;
bid thou our sad di - vi - sions cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

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,

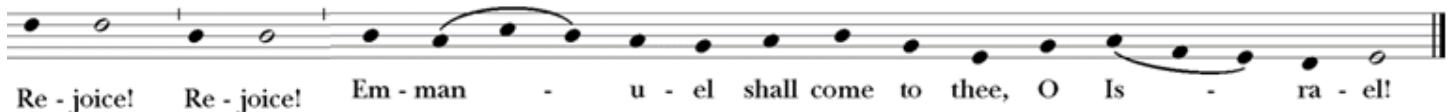
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.



Sermon

The Nicene Creed

*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

We pray for the holy Church of God in all places;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you with love;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, and all who minister with joy;

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 the grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

We pray that those who suffer from any grief or trouble may find a sense of hope; especially those on our parish prayer list;

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.

We pray together for those serving in the armed forces, first responders, medical professionals, essential workers and their families

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces, first responders, medical professionals, essential workers and their families. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and challenges; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider: Almighty and eternal God, hear the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will that we may be ready and waiting when you come to us in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Confession of Sin

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Presider: 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

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Greet one another in the Name of Christ, or name those whom you hold dear in your heart

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

Blessing of Stewardship Pledges

Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true, beautiful and life-giving. These cards represent our sweat, our lives, our dreams. The pledges which we make on them are but tokens of the abundant gifts that have been given to us and they are offered in thanksgiving for all we have received, for all we have been inspired to be, for all we are challenged to become, in this place.

The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*You may offer your gift by mail or stop by the parish office,
Or online by using the "Give Now" button on our St. John's website: www.saint-johns.org*

Offertory Anthem

A General Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.

We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior 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, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Spiritual Communion

Spiritual Communion is an ancient practice of the church. St. Thomas Aquinas (b. 1225) once defined it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and in lovingly embracing Him as if we had actually received Him." So even though we may not receive Communion physically, we may receive Christ spiritually.

Blessed Jesus, I believe that we are fed with the spiritual food of your Body and Blood. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally today, I now desire to receive you into my soul. Unite my heart with those of my community gathered to offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and make us all one with you. May this spiritual communion strengthen my faith and grant me confidence in your loving care now and forever. Amen.

Concluding Collect

God of justice and peace,
From the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness,
that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder
before your marvelous deeds.
Raise our heads in expectation,
that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord
and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Crist,
who lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Presider: May the Son of God, who came among us, bring you the light of his holiness and the blessing of freedom. **Amen.**

May God make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and untiring in love all the days of your life. **Amen.**

May God our redeemer, when he comes again in glory, reward you with endless life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Prepare the Way, O Zion!

Hymnal 65



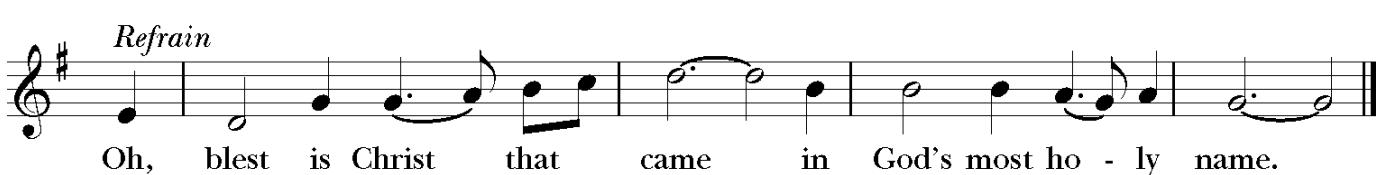
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free-dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Refrain
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Liturgical Leaders

Presider/Preacher	Rev. Roger Haenke
Reader	Tom Brzeczek
Prayers of the People	Tom Brzeczek
Psalmist/Vocalist	Jane Ferguson
Organist	Cheryl Seppala
Livestream and Sound	Cliff Berkowitz

St. John's Mission Statement

St. John's is a Christian community that intentionally gathers to experience God's love through Episcopal worship, education, fellowship, and ministry to the wider community.

St. John's Prayer Lists

Today and every day include some time for prayer, for yourself, for your church family, and for those in need.

For Our Military

Matt Jensen, Drew Shorkey, Cody Crossland, Cameron Ronie, Chariti Paden, Mark Stanfield, Sean Robinson, Jonathan Martinez, TK Nguyen, Christopher Lindshield, Timothy Lindshield, Jeremy Colton, David Sanchez, Jonathan Baldera, Nick Wyatt, Jamal Warner, Matt Hernandez, Daniel Getreu, Jocelyn Hernandez, Devon Strunk, Taylor Harrold, Jorge Zuazua, Katherine Milam, Sebastian Morales, Richie Lebron and Roberto Johnson.

For Strength in Time of Need

Scott Hunter, Betty Robertson, Marge Moore, Brian Elly, Edward Thomas, Anne Marie Mackay, Bernie Duignan, Jeff Walker, Christy Gollihur, Judith Malear, Gloria Attaway, Dyan Wyatt, Marla Wyatt, the Milam family and Steve Magill.

For the repose of the soul of Debbie Milam.
May light perpetual shine on her.

*(Names are kept on the Prayers List for 4 weeks and should be submitted by Wednesday.
If you wish to add a name, please email Maria Love at: maria@saint-johns.org.)*

We Are Available in Your Time of Need

If you have a pastoral emergency when the parish offices are closed, please call Rev. Roger at 619-301-0724 or email revroger@saint-johns.org

St. John's Clergy	St. John's Vestry
The Rev. Roger Haenke, <i>Rector</i> The Rev. Cathey Dowdle	David Dennehy, <i>Senior Warden</i> (619) 840-9994 masterfrog@att.net
	Terry Farrelly, <i>Treasurer</i> Diane Gustafson, <i>Clerk</i> Pamela Brittain Tom Brzeczek Ray Contreras Muriel Kulikowski Jim McDevitt Judy McKay Lynn Young

St. John's Episcopal Church
760 First Avenue Chula Vista, CA 91910-6012
(619) 422-4141
Email: maria@saint-johns.org
www.saint-johns.org