

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise**, **welcome,** and **serve**:
· to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
· to **praise** God in all things,
· to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
· to **serve** the needs of one another and of those
on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Pastor Elaine Hewes, preaching
Connie Mayo, Music Director

Morning Prayer
Third Sunday in Advent
December 13, 2020

Prelude: *What is the crying at Jordan?* Irish Melody arr. Ana Hernández

Performed by The Miserable Offenders

A brief silence

Leader: In this season of Advent, we, like the watchman, strain to glimpse the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the manifestations of darkness – selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression – shall be no more.

Congregation: **Lord, by your presence,**
light up the past that we might learn from it with thankfulness.
Light up the present that we might live in it with love.
Light up the future that we might prepare for it in hope.
As we watch and wait and pray, may we be always ready to encounter the Lord who is already and always with us. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Leader: We light this candle for all God's messengers, preparing the way for change, signs pointing to a new age to come.

Congregation: **God, as we strain forward waiting for your promise, give light, give hope.**

All are invited to light their Advent candles at home.



Sing three times

Confession of Sin

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Congregation: **Most Holy God,**
in the midst of this season of new life, we confess:
We have resisted the light of your love;
we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and
we have not treasured the gifts of others around us.
We stand in need of your love.
Holy Father, make us holy.
Holy Jesus, make us holy.
Holy Spirit, make us holy.
Holy God, make us whole. Amen.

Leader: May God forgive us and help us to continue the journey.
As a woman is delivered from the pain of her labor to the joy of cradling her child,
may we be delivered into God's grace.

Congregation: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn 76 *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (Verses 1 and 2, in back of the bulletin)*

The Invitatory

Leader: Our God and Savior now draws near:
Congregation: **O come, let us worship.**
Leader: Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
Congregation: **as it was in the beginning, is now,**
and shall be for ever. Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 61

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks,
foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines;
but you shall be called priests of the LORD,
you shall be named ministers of our God;
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations,
and in their riches you shall glory.
Because their shame was double,
and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,
Therefore they shall possess a double portion;
everlasting joy shall be theirs.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 126 BCP version

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.
Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negev.
Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

Leader: The Gospel according to John
Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon Pastor Elaine Hewes

A brief silence

Affirmation

We believe in God, Creator of all:
The two-legged, the four-legged,
the winged ones, and those that crawl upon the earth and swim in the waters.

We believe in God, One Who Walked with Us:
Our Brother Jesus born in humility,
who lived and died for us and
who will come again to bring us to glory.
We believe in God, Spirit with Us:
Ever present and ever guiding, upholding us and
showing us the principles to live by.
We hear God's voice through the prophets.
Creator, One Who Walked with Us, Spirit with Us, Holy One:
We are named in the waters of baptism as your own,
all of us related, all of us your children.
We watch for signs of your homecoming
and thank you for this sacred circle of life. Amen.

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be always with you,
Congregation: **And also with you.**

You are invited to exchange the peace

The Prayers

Leader: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.

Advent Prayer based on the Lord's Prayer

Emmanuel, God with us—holy be your name.
In us, through us, and around us, your kingdom come.
Bread of life, feed us with your truth.
For our indifference to the wonder of your coming, forgive us.
Protect us from dangers and temptations we face each day.
You come to us now, and You will come to us again in glory,
when we will join all heaven and earth in giving you
blessing, honor and glory forever! Amen.

The Collect of the Day
Leader: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.
Congregation: **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: O Holy One, in this season of Advent we wait and pray that you will fill our hearts with joyful anticipation of your coming. May our waiting help prepare the way of the Lord.

Creator of the world you are the potter and we are the clay. Shape our spirits by your love that especially in this season of waiting we may discern your call to be peacemakers and justice seekers.
Congregation: **May we prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: God of compassion in these difficult times of crisis in our world our waiting is often filled with fear and anxiety. We seek your help and guidance as we pray for ourselves and all those who are suffering from anxiety or any form of physical or mental illness. We pray for our willingness to journey together to find common ground.
Congregation: **May we prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: God of hope our waiting expresses a deep longing for a better world. We pray for courage and persistence during this season of Advent, to work for the day when our paths will be made straight and our valleys will be filled in, when our nation and its leaders will embrace the common good for all humanity and for all of creation.
Congregation: **May we prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: Light of the World we pray that as we wait for the fulfillment of your Incarnation we may be bearers of your light to others in our community, our neighbors, who are in need of comfort, connection, hope or simply basic necessities of food, health care, housing, and meaningful work.
Congregation: **May we prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: Please offer your own prayers at this time

All are invited to add their own prayers here.

Congregation: **God of hope, you call us from our exile with the good news of restoration;**
you build a highway through the wilderness;
you come to us to bring us home.
Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power,
made known in Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Benediction

Sending Hymn 64 *O heavenly Word, eternal Light (Verses 1, 2 and 4, in back of the bulletin)*

Postlude: *The King shall come when morning dawns* Healey Willan

Announcements

Dismissal

You are invited to stay for Virtual Coffee Hour

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Advent

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Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.

Music: *Winchester New,* melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch,* 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

LM

64 Advent



Words: Latin, ca. 7th cent.; tr. *Hymnal 1982*
Music: *O Heiland, reiss*, melody from *Rheinfelsisches Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch*, 1666 LM