



## Worship with Communion

# The Second Sunday of Advent

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 10AM on December 6  
[go.mysjec.com/facebook](https://go.mysjec.com/facebook) or [go.mysjec.com/youtube](https://go.mysjec.com/youtube)

*You can watch the videos at any time after their premier.*

**Welcome! We're glad you chose to worship with us today!**

### ♪ **Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.

"Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.

To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!

Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over."

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.

O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.

Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,

and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Words: Johanes Olearius, 1671; trnsf Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt Music: *GENEVAN 42*, Genevan Psalter, 1551

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

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

*Celebrant* 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.

*People* **AMEN!**

## Trisagion (Thrice-Holy)

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

*Trisagion*, from the Greek meaning "thrice holy". Setting: version *Hymnal 1982*, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924).

*Celebrant* God be with you.

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

*Celebrant* 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.

*People* **AMEN!**

## Old Testament

*Reader 1* A reading of Isaiah chapter 40, verses 1 through 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.

*Reader 1* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **Unison Reading**

*Reader 1* Let us read in unison Psalm 85, verses 1 through 2 and 8 through 13.

*All* You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob. You have forgiven all the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

I will listen to what you, Lord God, are saying, for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you. Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your 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. Lord, you will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness shall go before you, and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

## **Epistle**

*Reader 2* A reading of Second Peter chapter 3, verses 8 through 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.

*Reader 2* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

Mark 1. 1-8

*Celebrant* 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."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

### Nicene Creed

*Celebrant* Let us join in the words of the Nicene Creed.

*All* 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

*adapted from The Episcopal Diocese of Newark*

*Reader 3* Stirred to keep watch and keep awake, that we may see the coming of the Lord, let us call all of God's people to watchful and wakeful prayer.

For the holy churches of God in every place, especially for Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Matt our Bishop, for all lay leaders and clergy, and for the unity of all, we pray:

*All* **Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

*Reader 3* As we watch and wait and heed the Baptist's cry to "Prepare!", may you form us anew in this season of Advent. That we may be prepared to behold your coming at Bethlehem, in our lives, and in glory, we pray:

**All Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

*Reader 3* For the world and its leaders, especially for Donald, our President, Joe, our President-elect, Tony our Governor, Justin our Mayor; and for our nation and its people, we pray:

**All Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

*Reader 3* For all those who are suffering during this pandemic, for all victims of COVID-19, for all who are sick, and for those who are dying, we pray:

**All Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

*Reader 3* For all those providing care at this time, for doctors, nurses, staff, technicians, social workers, counselors, therapists, first responders, and essential workers, that you may safeguard them as they work on our behalf, we pray:

**All Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

*Reader 3* For research scientists and lab technicians; for all those seeking a vaccine for this virus and those seeking enhanced treatments for this illness; for healing and restoration; we pray:

**All Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

*Reader 3* For all who suffer from violence and discrimination rooted in white supremacy and racial injustice; for all those who benefit from systems of oppression, whether by intention or by circumstance. That all may be called to the vision of reconciliation and love that heals wounds of division and hatred, we pray:

**All Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

*Reader 3* For all victims of violence, for those in danger and need, for the oppressed; for all those who face these concerns, now magnified; for those who suffer for any reason, and for all other illnesses, we pray:

**All Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

*Reader 3* For all the blessings of this life and for all those we love, we pray:

**All Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

*Reader 3* For all those who mourn, for those who grieve, separated at the last hour from their loved one; for those who face death without the consolation of family at their side; for all those who have died, we pray:

**All Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

*Reader 3* Come, Lord God: change us and we shall be changed. Come, increase our awareness of your presence, strengthen our love for you, and fill our hearts with holiness. Come, awaken us to be ready and watchful for your coming. Come, Lord God: change us and we shall be changed; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*All* **AMEN!**

*Reader 3* Let us confess our sins to God.

*All* **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. AMEN!**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

*All* **AMEN!**

*Celebrant* Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their birthdays.

*All* **O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN!**

*Celebrant* Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their anniversaries.

*All* **O God, you teach us through the example of Jesus that love is the fulfilment of the Law; help those couples celebrating anniversaries to persevere in love, to grow in mutual understanding, and to deepen their trust in each other; that in wisdom, patience and courage, their life together may be a source of happiness to all with whom they share it. AMEN!**

*Celebrant* To all of you celebrating milestones: May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you to guide and protect you and all those you love, today and always!

*All* **AMEN!**

## **Passing the Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

## **Invitation to Communion**

*from the Iona Community, Scotland*

*Celebrant* The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

## **♪ Lord, We Long for Words of Comfort**

Lord, we long for words of comfort, for a gentle, healing word —

That our suffering is ended, that our penalty is served.

For the sins of generations have compounded till our day;

God, the hope of all the nations, give us good news now, we pray!

Lord, we long for words of promise when we suffer for our sins,

When it seems that hate is endless, when it seems that trouble wins.

Can we see, in desert places, that there's hope for your new day?

Will we listen to a prophet showing us a better way?

May we look to John the Baptist, to the prophet you once sent,

For he calls us to be honest, and he calls us to repent.

May we turn our eyes to Jesus, to the one that John proclaimed.

May we see how love can heal us; may we trust in Jesus' name.



May we turn from what divides us, from the ways of hate and fear!  
 May your peace and justice guide us; may your love direct us here!  
 God, we pray that, in preparing, we'll find peace and challenge, too.  
 May we find a new direction as we wait to welcome you.

Words: based on Isaiah 40.1-11 & Mark 1.1-8, ©2017 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Music: *BEACH SPRING*, 1844.

## Offering Our Gifts

*Celebrant* Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church, dropped off in the church mail slot, or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at [mySJEC.com/donate](http://mySJEC.com/donate). We are grateful for your continued financial support of our ministry and mission.

*Celebrant* Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

*People* **Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.**

## Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer 3*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

## ♪ **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**

Setting: from *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (b 1937).

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

*Celebrant* Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take... Eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection, and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*All* **Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

*Celebrant* Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*All* **Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN!**

*Celebrant* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*All* **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. AMEN!**

## **Breaking Bread**

*Celebrant* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*All* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

## **♪ Lamb of God**

*Setting: from New Plainsong, David Hurd (b 1950).*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The Celebrant gives the invitation to spiritual communion to all participating near and far.*

*People* In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. AMEN!

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN!

## **Seasonal Blessing for Advent**

*Celebrant* May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

*All* **AMEN!**

*Celebrant* May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

*All* **AMEN!**

*Celebrant* May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

*All* **AMEN!**

*Celebrant* And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

*All* **AMEN!**

## ♪ **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charley Wesley, 1744. Music: *HYFRYDOL*, RH Prichard, 1830; harm. R Vaughan Williams, 1906.

## **Sending**

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, alleluia!

*All* Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

**St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220**

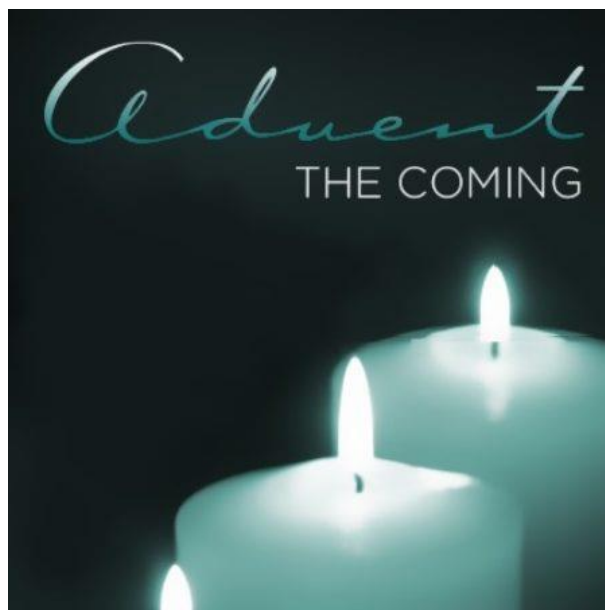
If you have any questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please call The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector: 920.860.5152

*Thank you for your support! Gifts may be mailed to the church or sent through your bank.*

*There are also online giving options on our web site at [mySJEC.com/donate](http://mySJEC.com/donate).*

*December's special offering supports the Rector's Discretionary Fund—please label accordingly.*

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# WAY OF LOVE 2020 ADVENT CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29 Worship</b> <b>Advent 1</b> What word or words from worship today have found a home in your heart? Share these words with a friend or family member.	<b>30 Go</b> Take time to listen closely to someone you may not ordinarily take seriously or someone with a different perspective than you. Pray that you hear this person as God does.	<b>1 Learn</b> Read Luke 1:30. What are you afraid of that keeps you from saying "yes" to God?	<b>2 Pray</b> Set a timer for three minutes. Silently repeat this prayer – "Here I am, God" – until time is up.	<b>3 Bless</b> The angel blessed Mary with the gift of presence. To whom can you give the gift of presence this week?	<b>4 Turn</b> In giving generously, St. Nicholas turned from a sense of scarcity to a posture of abundance. From what do you need to turn in order to be generous of heart?	<b>5 Rest</b> From what could you rest in order to receive renewed life? Find that rest today, and do it for as long as you are able.
<b>6 Worship</b> <b>Advent 2</b> What part of gathering for worship fills your heart with hope?	<b>7 Go</b> Read or watch your local news. Where is reconciliation needed? Pray for healing.	<b>8 Learn</b> Read Luke 1:45. Consider how your faith is a blessing. Share your faith story with a friend.	<b>9 Pray</b> Offer a prayer of thanks for each person you encounter – both stranger and friend – silently or aloud.	<b>10 Bless</b> Call or write a family member with whom you desire a closer relationship. Share with this person how they are a blessing.	<b>11 Turn</b> Reflect: Where have I fallen short this week? How can I make amends? Give thanks for the gift of fresh starts that we have through God's grace.	<b>12 Rest</b> Set aside 30 minutes to rest, pause, and breathe deeply with a friend or family member. Give thanks for the restorative power of love in relationship.
<b>13 Worship</b> <b>Advent 3</b> Pray for each person as they receive Communion. Imagine whom you would like to see at church next week. Invite that person to join you.	<b>14 Go</b> Today, choose to take a different route to work, to school, or to play. Whom or what did you encounter differently?	<b>15 Learn</b> Read Luke 1:64. When Zechariah could finally speak, he began by praising God. For what can you praise God? Share on social media or with a friend.	<b>16 Pray</b> Keep a lookout for anyone who might seem lonely, stressed, or sad. Offer this simple invitation: "May I pray for you?" Then offer prayers – silently or aloud – on the person's behalf as you move through your day.	<b>17 Bless</b> Identify a blessing you have that you could give away. Share this blessing with your church, a local ministry, or your community.	<b>18 Turn</b> Turn away from the busyness of the week and turn toward someone who gives you life or to whom you give life. Give thanks.	<b>19 Rest</b> In Genesis 1-2, God calls the creation "good" and rests. What can you proclaim to be "good" instead of "not enough" as a witness to God's love for the world today?
<b>20 Worship</b> <b>Advent 4</b> Linger before leaving worship today. Ask God to prepare and send you on a journey into the world to witness to God's love.	<b>21 Go</b> Go out into your neighborhood today. Where do you see God at work? What attributes of God's love are visible? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate and join in that love.	<b>22 Learn</b> Read Luke 2:8-10. When has God surprised you? Share with a friend.	<b>23 Pray</b> Set aside a time today to pray for others. Include three minutes of intentional silence, asking God to speak to you.	<b>24 Bless</b> If you are gathering with others today, take turns naming a way the person on your right or left has blessed you.	<b>25 Turn</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> Read Luke 1-2. Give thanks for the birth of the Christ-child. Pray that you may follow Christ Jesus on his Way of Love with your whole heart, mind, body, and spirit.	