



A Liturgy of the Word - Second Sunday in Advent

Date: 10 December 2023

The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.

Processional Hymn

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake, and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.**

Author: C Coffin

Call to Worship

Comfort, O comfort my people!
We welcome God's tender words to us today.

Prepare the way for your God!
We gather for worship to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming.

Christ is coming! The glory of God will be revealed!
Thanks be to God for this good news!

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Introductory Rite

The Lighting of the Second Candle of Advent: The candle of Peace

We gather around the Advent wreath today knowing that we are not perfect—
that we all make mistakes and do bad things.
But Christ Jesus helps us to live as God wants us to live. He gives us peace.



Isaiah 9:6-7 says:

For a child has been born for us, an heir given to us. Authority rests upon the shoulders of the One who is named Wonderful - Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, whose authority shall grow continually; and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and for David's kingdom, established and upheld with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

Lighting of the Advent Candle 

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is peace, for Christ is called the "Prince of Peace."

The presence of Christ with us gives us peace day by day. The colour of this candle is purple— symbolizing the majesty of Christ, whose throne will endure forever

Let us pray:

Eternal God, we thank you that through all the years you have given peace to your people. Help us to have your peace in our lives. We pray that, in this Advent season, we may, by what we do, show your presence to the sick, to the hungry, and to the lonely, so that they too may have peace. **Amen!**

The Collect for Purity 

**Almighty God
to whom all hearts are open
all desires known
and from whom 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**

The Penitence 

John the Baptist, that wild man in the wilderness, proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Together, let us confess our sins and turn to God.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father
in penitence we confess
that we have sinned against you
through our own fault
in thought, word, and deed
and in what we have left undone.
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.**



Absolution

The writer from 2 Peter reminds us not to forget this one fact. 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, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. Believe the Good News; in Jesus Christ you are forgiven. **Amen**

The Collect

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation: make us ready for the message that prepares the way so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your son, Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Word of God

Readings:

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel Reading

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Sermon

Sermon: The Revd Matthew Wright

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in the words of the Apostles' creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
And born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come to judge the living and the dead.**



**I believe in the Holy Spirit
the Holy Catholic Church
the Communion of Saints
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession



John the Baptist calls us again to prepare for the Lord's coming. With keen Advent hope, let us pray for the church and for our waiting world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

Lord our God, in this Advent season we pray for your church throughout the world. We pray that she will indeed be a proclaimer of good tidings, speaking in a strong voice of your glory revealed in Jesus Christ. In our Anglican communion we pray for Archbishop Thabo and for our Diocesan bishop Steve and all religious leaders that they might effectively prepare the way of the Lord in the hearts of everyone in their care. We hold up in prayer those who have been ordained to the diaconate yesterday. Michael Klinck, Nonku Mudau, Angela Odame and Justin Strydom-Ipworth. We ask that you bless them, that they may know true humility and be faithful in their service for you.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we thank you for the witness of John the Baptist, who did not seek power and glory for himself, but rather prepared the way for the Messiah with faith and humility. We pray for all the nations of the world and their leaders. We pray that in all the uneven, rough, and unjust places of the world, especially, Palestine, Israel and Ukraine, the way may be prepared for you to bring peace, healing and justice to all your people.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Lord of every land, we bring our beautiful country South Africa before you and the many challenges we are facing. We pray for people and businesses suffering financial losses due to increasing blackouts. We pray for fresh innovations for our country's electrical infrastructure. We pray for a quick reversal of the collapse and deterioration of our ports and railways infrastructure and in this rainy season we ask for your protection from flooding and heat-waves. We pray that you will be our driving force as we move forward.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Lord our God, we pray for the communities in which we live, work and worship and for the friendship, community activities and groups that enrich our lives. We praise and thank you for our church community here at St Michaels Bryanston and everyone who works to make it thrive and for the things that help to give it its identity. We pray for fr Dave our interim rector and for all who serve in various other positions. We pray that we may all benefit from various gifts that we all have to offer in the service of Christ.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Jesus our healer, we pray for all those in need who are weak and vulnerable. We remember especially before you any who are suffering from any form of illness. We pray that they will be touched by your gentle tenderness bringing them comfort and strength. And in our own hearts we bring to you our concerns for the needs of those we know and love. (*name the sick*). Let your loving and gentle kindness surround them all.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Lord our God, we remember before you the lives of those who are now with you in your eternal Kingdom where one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. We give you thanks for those whose years mind occur at this time. (N ...). We pray also for those who are missing them still, especially at this time as we prepare for Christmas.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Lord our God we bring our prayers to you, trusting in your great faithfulness and compassion. As we look forward to celebrating once again the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, help us also to look forward to the time of his coming



again and to prepare ourselves for that day when your kingdom will at last be established on earth.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father *accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Prayer for Offerings



With joy and gratitude for all we have been given, let us offer our gifts to God.

Generous God, you have provided for us in ways we cannot even imagine. As we return to you a portion of your many gifts, we give you thanks and praise. Bless these gifts and our lives, we pray. May they witness to the way we prepare anew for the coming birth of Christ, so that everyone will know his peace and every heart experience the comfort he brings. This we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer



As Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your Name
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen**

Final Hymn



**Thy kingdom come, O God,
thy rule, O Christ, begin;
Break with thine iron rod
the tyrannies of sin.**

**Where is thy rule of peace
and purity, and love?
When shall all hatred cease,
as in the realms above?**

**When comes the promised time
that war shall be no more,
and lust, oppression, crime
shall flee thy face before?**

**We pray thee, Lord, arise,
and come in thy great might;
revive our longing eyes,
which languish for thy sight.**

**Men scorn thy sacred name,
and wolves devour thy fold;
by many deeds of shame
we learn that love grows cold.**



O'er lands both near and far
thick darkness broodeth yet:
arise, O morning star,
arise, and never set.

Author: L. Hensley (1824-1905) Harry Emerson Fosdick (1930)

Final Blessing

In this Advent season, let peace live in your heart and share the peace and hope of Christ with all you meet. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Dismissal

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Giving

Thank you for your continued financial contribution to the church at this time so as to enable St Michael's to meet its obligations in mission and ministry.

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