



A Liturgy of the Word - Second Sunday in Advent

5 December 2021



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Sharmain James



Rev. Margaret Place



Rev. Alison Thabethe

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

Processional Hymn

Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day.'

Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

That, when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit
while eternal ages run.



Call to Worship

The Lord gives strength to his people
The Lord blesses his people with peace

Blessed are the peacemakers
For they shall be called children of God

Come, let us sow peace
That we may reap a harvest of righteousness

For the meek shall inherit the land
And delight themselves in abundant peace



Lighting of the Advent Candle

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.

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

Introductory Rite

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Praise the Lord:

Praise God, you servants of the Lord.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessed be God's Name, now and forever.

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 Kyrie

Sung by Ven Moses Thabethe

Kyrie eleison x3

Christe eleison x3

Kyrie eleison x3



The Penitence



The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light. Whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be seen that works have been done in God. Let us come to the light of Christ as we confess our sins.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word, and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be.
That we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

Absolution



Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you: pardon your sins and set you free from them; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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, for ever and ever
Amen**



The Word of God



Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79 - Ukuthula

sung by Ven Moses Thabethe

Ukuthula

Ukuthula! kulomhlaba wezono (Aleluya) igazi likaJesu linyenyez' ukuthula
Usindiso! kulomhlaba wezono (Aleluya) igazi likaJesu linyenyez' usindiso
Ukubonga! kulomhlaba wezono (Aleluya) igazi likaJesu linyenyez' ukubonga
Ukukholwa! kulomhlaba wezono (Aleluya) igazi likaJesu linyenyez' ukukholwa
Ukunqoba! kulomhlaba wezono (Aleluya) igazi likaJesu linyenyez' ukunqoba
Induduzo! kulomhlaba wezono (Aleluya) igazi likaJesu linyenyez' induduzo
Ukuthula



Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel Acclamation

sung by Ven Moses Thabethe

Allelu---ia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Allelu—ia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Open our hearts O Lord
To listen to the word of your Son
Allelu---ia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Allelu—ia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-6

Sermon

by Revd Margaret Place

Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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

As we focus on God's peace this second Sunday in Advent, let us seek to base ourselves once more in the presence of God.





Heavenly Father, at a time when our lives seem to be dictated by our fears, we ask that your peace would flood our hearts. Free us from worry about the future for and help to focus on the present, by worrying, we are robbed of our peace and of the opportunity to live our lives fully.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, as the earth heaves under humanity's excess, and as armed conflicts flare up all over, we ask for your peace to be established on our earth. As a people, we have lost the ability to see the inherent worth and dignity of our fellow human beings. Banish from our hearts all hate and malice and teach us the way of love, humility and peace.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord God, two thousand years ago, you sent your servant John the Baptist ahead of your Son to prepare a way for him. May we too not only prepare our own hearts to receive your Son anew but, like John, also prepare a way for Christ as he comes into the world.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

In proclaiming the advent of your Kingdom, both John and Jesus recognised the shortness of time left to them and their people. May we too appreciate the urgency of our calling and of our need to work for the building of God's kingdom on earth.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for all those working to prevent the spread of COVID19. We give special thanks for our medical researchers and scientists and for their early detection of the Omicron variant. We hope thereby that the fourth wave can be mitigated. Help us all to be vigilant in exercising COVID precautions and may appreciate the importance of achieving immunity through vaccination.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

As the possibility of tighter COVID restrictions looms, we lift up to you all whose financial well-being has been affected by COVID19. Indeed Father, we know there are few who have not been affected in this manner. But we especially pray for those working in tourism and hospitality, those working in events and entertainment, and even for our very own churches, whose livelihoods depend on in-person worship.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

It seems, heavenly Father, that we are living in a state of perpetual flux where we are constantly required to adjust to changing circumstances. As we do so, we ask for the assurance of your presence in our lives. For you are our Rock and Anchor without which we would drift away endlessly.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Finally, Lord, we pray for all who might be suffering at this time, whether due to pain, illness, loss, or loneliness. May you comfort your children in their affliction Father, that they may know the consolation of your love. Protect those who are vulnerable and susceptible to infection of disease. May your hand of protection be upon them.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God of peace, you are restless for a just world. As we offer our prayers, stir us also to act, that we may help put them into effect. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen



Prayer for Offerings

Gracious and giving God, we thank you for your faithfulness toward us in times of leanness and abundance. As we seek to navigate this uncertain period, we place our trust in you, knowing you will continue to provide for us and meet our needs. As an expression of our gratitude and of our trust in you, we offer these tithes and offerings, asking your blessing upon them. May they be used for the work of your ministry and the building of your kingdom. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

sung by St Michael's Choir

**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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**



Prayer for Gratitude

O God, when we have food,
help us to remember the hungry;
When we have work,
help us to remember the jobless;
When we have homes,
help me to remember those who have no home at all;
When we are without pain,
help us to remember those who suffer,
And remembering,
help us to destroy our complacency;
stir up our compassion,
and be concerned enough to help;
By word and deed,
those who cry out for what we take for granted.

Final Blessing

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

In this moment of worship we embrace Your presence again, O God.
And we offer You our love.

In this moment of prayer we proclaim again Your purpose for the world, O Saviour.
And we offer You our resources.



In this moment of giving we hear Your call again, O Lord.

And we offer You ourselves.

Use us – all that we have and all that we are to touch the world with the message of peace.

May blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Final 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.**

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.



E.F.T

St Michael's Church Bank
Standard Bank (051001)
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