

# The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

## Sunday 13 December 2020

### Welcome

Now is the time to wake out of sleep,  
for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

*Romans 13.11*

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
be with you  
**and also with you**

We meet in the name of God;  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

### An Advent prayer

God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts, and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

### Saying sorry

A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'  
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

*cf John 1.23*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations  
into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament  
to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory  
with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### **Receiving Forgiveness**

May Christ who came into the world to save sinners,  
bring us his pardon and his peace,  
now and forever.

**Amen**

### **Collect for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the  
way of your Son; give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and  
to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Song – Hills of the North, Rejoice

- 1 Hills of the North, rejoice  
River and mountain-spring  
Hark to the advent voice  
Valley and lowland sing  
Christ comes in righteousness and love  
He brings salvation from above
  
- 2 Isles of the Southern seas  
Sing to the listening earth  
Carry on every breeze  
Hope of a world's new birth  
In Christ shall all be made anew  
His word is sure, His promise true
  
- 3 Lands of the East, arise  
He is your brightest morn  
Greet Him with joyous eyes  
Praise shall His path adorn  
The God whom you have longed to know  
In Christ draws near and calls you now
  
- 4 Shores of the utmost West  
Lands of the setting sun  
Welcome the heavenly guest  
In whom the dawn has come  
He brings a never-ending light  
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night
  
- 5 Shout, as you journey home  
Songs be in every mouth  
Lo, from the north they come  
From east and west and south  
In Jesus all shall find their rest  
In Him the universe be blest

## Readings

### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup> 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.

<sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup> John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

## Talk – Sid Mitchell (LLM in training)

### Song – Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*Chorus This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

## **Affirming our Faith – 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,  
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

*The prayers conclude with*

Merciful Father

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As the Lord has taught us, let us say together the Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Song – Make Way

1            Make way, make way, for Christ the King  
              in splendour arrives;  
              fling wide the gates and welcome him  
              into your lives.

*Chorus    Make way, make way, for the King of kings;  
              make way, make way, and let his kingdom in!*

2            He comes the broken hearts to heal,  
              the pris'ners to free;  
              the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,  
              the blind shall see.

3            And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
              who weep and sigh,  
              with laughter, joy and royal crown  
              he'll beautify.

4            We call you now to worship him  
              as Lord of all,  
              to have no gods before him  
              their thrones must fall!

## Blessing

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,  
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

**Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in power,  
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

**Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,  
joyful in hope and constant in love.

**Amen.**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the  
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.**

**Amen.**

## Ending

We are called and loved by God the Father  
and kept safe by Jesus Christ.

May mercy, peace and love be ours in abundance,  
from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**