

A Liturgy for Sundays

adapted from a liturgy written by the Right Reverend Deon K. Johnson

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

You are invited to prepare a sacred space before worship.

You may want to include: a cross, a bible, candles,

an Advent wreath, or any other additional prayer aids (prayer beads, icons, etc.).

Prelude: Hand Bells

Three for Eight: Promise, Pardon, and Plaint

Raymond H. Herbek

Welcome from the Vicar

Gathering: Liturgy of the Word

The people of God gather together.

A bell rings out. Silence is kept.

Opening Hymn

Blessed Be the God of Israel

WLP 889

1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free and
2. With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call, the
3. My child, as pro - phet of the Lord you will pre - pare the way, to

rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree. So
oath once sworn to A - bra - ham; from foes to save us all; that
tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway. Then



have the prophets long de - clared that with his might - y arm God
 we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise, in
 shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease, to

would turn back our en - e - mies and all that wish us harm.
 ho - li - ness and right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.
 drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Opening Rite: Liturgy of Light

All stand, and the officiant greets the people with these words.

Officiant: Dear friends in the risen Christ, we gather today to celebrate the Lord's day, and for a time to be united in prayer and praise with each other and those who have gone before us. Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because it was on this day that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. As we gather, let us be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.

Silence is kept for a time.

Officiant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation — the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Corinthians 4:5-6

The Advent candles are lit in our homes and in our church as we listen to the song "Light One Candle."

Light one candle for hope,
 one bright candle for hope,
 He brings hope to ev'ry heart,
 He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace,
 one bright candle for peace,
 He brings peace to ev'ry heart,
 He comes! He comes!

The Confession

As we worship we ask God's forgiveness for things done and things left undone and things done on our behalf so that we are reconciled to God and each other.

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is kept for a time.

Officiant: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

People: **We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

Officiant: For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

People: **That we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

Opening Acclamation

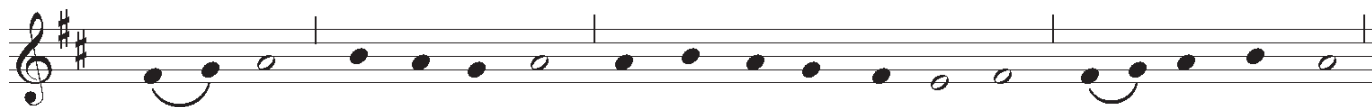
Officiant: Our Savior now draws near.

People: **Come, let us adore him.**

Officiant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are 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. **Amen.**



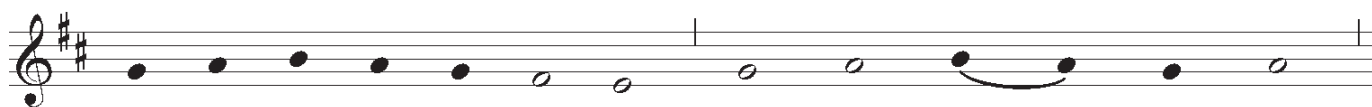
1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



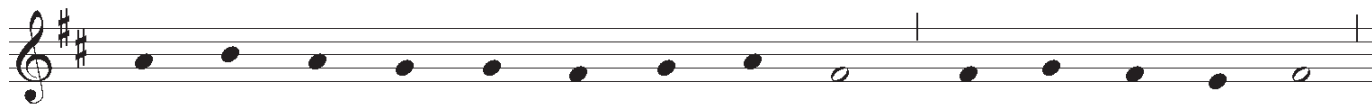
2. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you,



we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



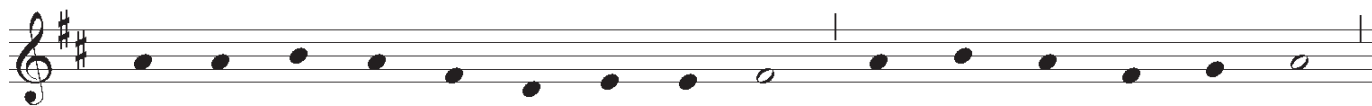
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



4. you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us;



5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant: God is with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Officiant continues with the prayer appointed for the day called the collect. The collect is written to go along with both the season of the church year and the readings of the day. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scripture of the day.

Officiant: 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. **Amen.**

The Readings

We hear the stories of the experience of God from our spiritual ancestors. Reading and commenting on scripture goes back to the earliest services of Christianity. Following the pattern of Jewish synagogue worship, readings follow a set pattern for what will be read when.

Reader: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

40:1-11

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: The Word of the Lord.
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm of the Day

Psalm 85

S 410

The psalms are a part of the poetry of the Hebrew people. They express joy and sadness, loneliness and thanksgiving as part of the human longing to be united with God. Please join in singing with the vocalist.

Robert Knox Kennedy
 (b. 1945)



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O / Lord,
 you have restored the good fortune of / Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your / people
 and blotted out all their / sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is / saying,
 for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
 and to those who turn their hearts to / him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who / fear him,
 that his glory may dwell in our / land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met to/gether;
 righteousness and peace have kissed each / other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the / earth,
and righteousness shall look down from / heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed grant pros/perity,
and our land will yield its / increase.

13 Righteousness shall go be/fore him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his / feet.

The Second Reading

Reader: A reading from the second Letter of Peter.

3:8-15a

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: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

H 75



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a____
2 O____ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
3 but the word of our God____ en - du - reth, the____



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst____ of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 flowers of the field they per - ish, like
 feed his flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our God may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way;
 lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (b. 1904) Copyright ©1938, Henry Hugh Bancroft. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The Gospel

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

1:1-8

People: **Glory to you, O 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Laurie Anzilotti

Having someone comment on the Scriptures goes back to the earliest days of Christianity and to the Jewish Synagogue worship which preceded it.

Affirmation of Faith

Originally the entire service was viewed as our confession of faith. However, since the Sixth Century, the church has recited either the Nicene Creed or the Apostle's Creed at the Eucharist. The word creed comes from the Latin credo for "I believe" or "I lend my heart to."

Officiant: Let us affirm our faith.

Do you believe in God?

People: **We believe in God the Father the almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

Officiant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: **We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the power of 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 God. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Officiant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: **We 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.**

The Prayers of the People

Prayer changes people. Prayer is not about changing God but about changing us more into the likeness of God. Collectively and individually we offer the hopes and desires of our hearts to God.

Officiant: In hopefulness as we await the coming of Christ, let us offer our thanksgivings and biddings to God, saying: Shine in our hearts.

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to our humble calling to be the church of Christ in the world. Empower all bishops, priests and deacons to proclaim justice and truth as they care for your holy people. We pray for the people and ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Charles, and Tamsen their rector and Betty their deacon; and for the Bishop of Lui and Archbishop of Amadi Steven Dokolo. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the needs and wants of the nations of the world. Enlighten the leaders of the nations to attend to the needs of the lowest and the least, the last and the left-out, that justice and peace may be our strength and equity our common good. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the needs of the sick and suffering. Embolden our love that we may care with compassion for those in need especially Noel, Roger, Ernie, Rosie, Paul, Mary, Max, Ann, and the McCart family. May they know of the healing love and power of Jesus. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the needs of friends and strangers. Energize this community of faith to reach out with compassion to transform our neighborhoods and communities to reflect the beloved community of peace. We remember those who have asked for our prayers, Virginia, Nancy, Linda Rose, Fr. Al and Deacon Dayna, Melissa, Tony, and Glenn and Marie. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to those who mourn, those who grieve and those who are despondent or depressed. Enable us to be Christ's hands of healing and wholeness that we may be agents of comfort and hope. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the shortness of our time. Enfold those who have ended their course on earth and have joined the martyrs and saints in the region of light, especially parishioners Darla Becker and Jack Doerr, and Lela Deane. May we, in our own time, come to the joys of your eternal reign. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: At this time, I bid your intercessions and prayers of thanksgiving, either silently or aloud.

For all who are viewing virtually, you will be "unmuted" at this time to offer your biddings of joy, concern, or thanksgiving.

Officiant: O God, encourage, embolden and energize your people to keep awake and alert to the coming of Jesus the Christ, that he, at his second Advent, may find us ready to greet him and eager to serve those in need; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

Officiant: God of love, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, and grant us today what we ask of you in faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: Let us pray in the way that Christ taught us.

People: **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 those who 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.**

Officiant: God of all creation, rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

People: **Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the face of Christ in the people with whom we live. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God;**

that we who have celebrated Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Peace

Officiant: We greet one another in the name of God With Us, the Christ.

People: **And also with you.**

We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.

Announcements

Closing Hymn

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

H 76

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

The Sending

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.
People: **Amen.**
Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Lists

Our homebound parishioner: Noel

Our parishioners: Roger, Ernie, Rosie, Paul, Mary, Max, Ann, and McCart family

For those who have asked for prayers: For Virginia, Nancy, Linda Rose, Fr. Al & Deacon Dayna, Melissa, Tony, and Glenn and Marie; first responders, healthcare professionals, and educators who continue to work during this pandemic; medical researchers searching for a vaccine for COVID-19

For those who have died and those who mourn: For parishioners Darla Becker, who died November 16, and Jack Doerr, who died November 27, and for Lela Deane, Jackie Selle's grandmother who died November 17; for those who have suffered loss from natural disasters across our country; for the law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty in 2020 and their families; and for the youth in St. Louis who have suffered directly from gun violence this year and those whose lives were lost and their families

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: For the people and ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Charles, and Tamsen their rector and Betty their deacon

Companion Diocese of Lui, South Sudan: For the Bishop of Lui and Archbishop of Amadi Steven Dokolo

For those committed to our ongoing prayers: Deaconess Anne House interns; those discerning a call to ordained ministry; the ministry of the chaplains, staff, volunteers at Episcopal City Mission, and the youth in detention and their families; patients, families, & communities affected by substance use disorders; those suffering from untreated & undertreated pain and chronic diseases; those who serve in our military; those who are affected by COVID-19

Today's Ministers of Worship

Officiant	The Rev. Laurie Anzilotti, Vicar
Deacon	The Ven. Rebecca Barger
Musician	Cheryl Foster
Hymn Leader	Suzanne Jones
Lector	Joe O'Reilly
Intercessor	Michael Booker
Livestream	Paul Jokerst and Jackie Selle

All music is reproduced under One License # A-707318.