

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT

PLEASE STAND

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of our redemption: vouchsafe that as we joyfully receive Thine only begotten Son for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him when He shall come to be our Judge, even Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord: Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

ALL: Amen.

Offertory Hymn # 114

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

THE CLOSING PRAYER

Bless O Lord the work of this Church which is called by the name of Thy beloved martyr, and grant that love of peace and all sound learning may ever grow and prosper here, to Thy honour and glory, and to the good of Thy people, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

ALL: Amen.

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet Him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

ALL: Amen.



Saint George's-in-the-Pines

Diocese of Calgary • Anglican Church of Canada

A SERVICE FOR ADVENT WITH CAROLS
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2010

ADVENT

The season of Advent is traditionally a time of preparation for Christmas, and its observance dates from the sixth century in Gaul. It stretched from St. Martin's Day (11th November) to Christmas Eve, and was known as 'The Lent of St. Martin'. This title suggests the parallel between Advent and the Lenten fast. Meditations on the themes of judgment and our ultimate destiny were developed for each of the four Sundays of Advent.

The ancient people of God, the Jews, looked forward to the coming of God's Kingdom when there would be a new order of justice and righteousness. The early Church saw that the Kingdom had been anticipated and experienced through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, but still prayed 'Thy Kingdom come', looking forward to a second coming and the final consummation of all things.

The pattern of this Advent service (in its four sections) reflects the season's growing anticipation, both of the first coming of Christ and of the Day when the prayer 'Thy Kingdom come' is finally and fully answered.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional Hymn # 89 – PLEASE STAND

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

THE BIDDING PRAYER

REMAIN STANDING

Beloved in Christ, the season of Advent bids us prepare ourselves both for the celebration of Christ's nativity as also for the Day when He shall come to judge the hearts of us all. So, in sorrow and penitence, let us confess our failures and shortcomings, and renew in ourselves the vision of God's perfect kingdom, which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of God's loving purposes for us.

In word and music we will give voice to the hope set forth in the scriptures, that God's kingdom will come; and, with John the Baptist and the blessed virgin Mary, we will prepare for its coming, celebrating its dawning in the birth, life and death of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

But first let us pray for those who, by reason of their adversity, yearn especially for its coming; the hungry and the homeless, the sick and the sorrowful, the lonely and unloved; those who sit in the darkness of despair or who walk in the shadow of death. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and all who strive for the establishment of justice, righteousness and peace; and, that it may bear witness to this hope in a world divided by wrath and sorrow, let us pray for the well-being and unity of Christ's body, the Church.

Let us then pray for the coming of God's kingdom, in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

ALL: Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done, in 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. Amen.

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting. *Amen*

Hymn # 98

Hark the Glad Sound

I THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT

Collect

REMAIN STANDING

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

FIRST LESSON – PLEASE BE SEATED

A reading from Isaiah chapter 11

The prophet speaks of the righteous Judge who will come from the line of David

Then a branch will grow from the stock of Jesse, and a shoot will spring from his roots. On him the spirit of the Lord will rest: a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord; and in the fear of the Lord will be his delight. He will not judge by outward appearances or decide a

SEVENTH LESSON – PLEASE BE SEATED

A reading from Saint Luke Chapter 1

Mary shares her joyful news with Elizabeth

Soon afterwards Mary set out and hurried away to a town in the uplands of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby stirred in her womb. Then Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed in a loud voice, 'God's blessing is on you above all women, and his blessing is on the fruit of your womb. Who am I that the mother of my Lord should visit me? I tell you, when your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby in my womb leapt for joy. Happy is she who has had faith that the Lord's promise to her would be fulfilled!' And Mary said: 'My soul tells out the greatness of the Lord, my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour; for he has looked with favour on his servant, lowly as she is. From this day forward all generations will count me blessed, for the Mighty God has done great things for me.'

This is the word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 505 – PLEASE STAND

Be Thou My Vision

EIGHTH LESSON – PLEASE BE SEATED

A reading from Saint John chapter 3

Jesus speaks with Nicodemus of the 'birth from above'

One of the Pharisees, called Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish Council, came to Jesus by night. 'Rabbi', he said, 'we know that you are a teacher sent by God; no one could perform these signs of your unless God were with him. Jesus answered, 'In very truth I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he has been born again.' 'But how can someone be born when he is old?' asked Nicodemus. 'Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?' Jesus answered, 'In very truth I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born from water and the spirit. Flesh can only give birth to flesh; it is spirit that gives birth to spirit. You ought not to be astonished when I say, "You must all be born again." The wind blows where it wills; you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born from the spirit.'

This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SIXTH LESSON – PLEASE BE SEATED

A reading from Saint Matthew chapter 3

The proclamation of John the Baptist

In the course of time John the Baptist appeared in the Judean wilderness, proclaiming this message: ‘Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is upon you!’ It was of him that the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘A voice cries in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord; clear a straight path for him,”’ John’s clothing was a rough coat of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Everyone flocked to him from Jerusalem, Judea and the Jordan valley, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, ‘Vipers’ brood! Who warned you to escape from the wrath that is to come? Prove your repentance by the fruit you bear; and do not imagine you can say, “We have Abraham for our father.” I tell you that God can make children for Abraham out of these stones. The axe lies ready at the roots of the trees; every tree that fails to produce good fruit is cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptize you with water, for repentance; but the one who comes after me is mightier than I am, whose sandals I am not worthy to remove. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.’

This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 103 – PLEASE STAND

On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry

IV THE CHRIST-BEARER

Collect REMAIN STANDING

Almighty and everlasting God, Who didst stoop to raise our fallen race by the child-bearing of blessed Mary; Grant that we, who have seen Thy glory manifested in our flesh, and Thy love perfected in our weakness, may daily be renewed in Thine image, and conformed to the likeness of Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

ALL: Amen.

case on hearsay; but with justice he will judge the poor and defend the humble in the land with equity; like a rod his verdict will strike the ruthless, and with his words he will slay the wicked. He will wear the belt of justice, and truth will be his girdle.

This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 117 – Harp REMAIN SEATED

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

SECOND LESSON

A reading from 1 Thessalonians chapter 5

The call to be vigilant in preparation for the coming of the Lord

About dates and times, my friends, there is no need to write to you, for you yourselves know perfectly well that the day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night. While they are saying ‘All is peaceful, all secure,’ destruction is upon them, sudden as the pangs that come on a woman in childbirth; and there will be no escape. But you, friends, are not in the dark; the day will not come upon you like a thief. You are all children of light, children of day. We do not belong to night and darkness, and we must not sleep like the rest, but keep awake and sober. Sleepers sleep at night, and drunkards get drunk at night, but we, who belong to the daylight, must keep sober, armed with the breastplate of faith and love, and the hope of salvation for a helmet. God has not destined us for retribution, but for the full attainment of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that awake or asleep we might live in the company with him. Therefore encourage one another, build one another up – as indeed you do.

This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 48 – PLEASE STAND

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

II THE WORD OF GOD

Collect REMAIN STANDING

Blessed Lord, Who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of Thy Holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen.

THIRD LESSON – PLEASE BE SEATED

A reading from Micah Chapter 4

The prophet's vision of the last days, when the nations will be judged

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house will be established higher than all other mountains, towering above other hills. Peoples will stream towards it; many nations will go, saying, 'Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God, that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in his paths.' For instruction issues from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will be judge between many peoples an arbiter among great and distant nations. They will hammer their swords into mattocks and their spears into pruning knives. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will never again be trained for war. Each man will sit under his own vine or his own fig tree, with none to cause alarm.

The Lord of Hosts himself has spoken.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 112 – Harp REMAIN SEATED

Behold! The Mountain of the Lord

FOURTH LESSON

A reading from Saint Luke chapter 4

The words of the Prophet Isaiah are fulfilled by Jesus Christ

Then Jesus, armed with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee; and reports of him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone sang his praises. He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he regularly did. He stood up to read the lesson and was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the scroll and found the passage which says, 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me; he has sent me to announce good news to the poor, to proclaim release for prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind; let the broken victims go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. He began to address them: 'Today', he said, 'in your hearing this text has come true.'

This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 88 – PLEASE STAND

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

III THE PROPHETIC CALL

Collect REMAIN STANDING

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at Thy first coming didst send Thy Messenger to prepare Thy way before Thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of Thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready Thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at Thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in Thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

ALL: Amen

FIFTH LESSON – PLEASE BE SEATED

A reading from Malachi chapter 3

The day of God's appearing brings judgment and cleansing

I am about to send my messenger to clear a path before me. Suddenly the Lord whom you seek will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight is here, here already, says the Lord of Hosts. Who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand firm when he appears? He is like a refiner's fire, like a fuller's soap; he will take his seat, testing and purifying; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver, and so they will be fit to bring offerings to the Lord. Thus the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as they were in former days, in years long past. I shall appear before you in court, quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers, and perjurers, against those who cheat the hired labourer of his wages, who wrong the widow and the fatherless, who thrust the alien aside and do not fear me, says the Lord of Hosts.

I, the Lord, do not change, and you have not ceased to be children of Jacob. Ever since the days of your forefathers you have been wayward and have not kept my laws. If you return to me, I shall turn back to you, says the Lord of Hosts.

This is the word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 116 – PLEASE STAND

"Your Kingdom Come" – On Bended Knee