



Christ Episcopal Church
1521 N. Patterson St.
Valdosta, GA



December 6, 2020

10:00 AM

Second Sunday of Advent

Rite II

Welcome to Christ Church!

For this Service we will use the Red Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and the Blue Hymnal

THE WORD

Opening Hymn – *There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying*

Hymnal 75

Opening Salutation:

BCP 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Response: ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.***

Collect for Purity

BCP 355

Trisagion

Hymnal S102

Collect of the Day

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.***

Lesson

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.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

(Unison)

BCP 708

Benedixisti, Domine

- 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 together;
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 prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.**
- 13 **Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

Second Lesson

2 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.

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

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 Sermon – The Rev. Dave Johnson

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People, Form IV

BCP 388

Please join in saying the Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

The Peace
Announcements

BCP 360

Doxology

Hymnal 380 vs. 3

THE EUCHARIST

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

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| Sanctus (spoken) | BCP 362 |
| The Lord's Prayer | BCP 364 |
| Fraction Anthem (spoken) | BCP 364 |
| The Communion | BCP 338 |

Spiritual Communion

When we are unable to receive the Bread and Wine of the Holy Sacrament because of extreme sickness, physical disability, or, as in our present cause, the cancelation of public service to prevent the spread of infection, we can be assured that all the benefits of Communion are received. The follow prayer from the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, or some other prayer, may be said.

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

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| Prayer of Thanksgiving | BCP 365 |
| Hymn – <i>Prepare the Way O Zion</i> | Hymnal 65 |
| Dismissal | |
| Response: <i>Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!</i> | |
| Postlude – <i>Comfort, Comfort Now My People</i> | Raymond H. Haan |