

Sunday 10th December 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

Reading 1: 2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a

Gospel: Mark 1: 1 - 8

Advent Candle 2:

God our Father,
you spoke to the prophets of old
of a Saviour who would bring peace.
You helped them to spread the joyful message
of his coming kingdom.
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
to share with those around us
the good news of your power and love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

Watch at all times, praying for the strength
to stand with confidence before the Son of Man

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us be glad in it.

Psalm: 85: 1 – 2, 8 - end

LORD, you were favourable to your land
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
² You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.
⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
¹² The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
¹³ Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

Song: (click link) Christ be our Light <https://youtu.be/wiNLT8BJTU>

Invitation to Confession

Christ, the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In His light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Confession:

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 neighbour 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:

May the God of love and power
Forgive us and free us from our sins,
Heal and strengthen us by His Spirit,
And raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading1: 2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a

⁸ But 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² 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? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Gospel: Mark 1: 1 – 8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”,

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Talk: Rev’d. Ken https://youtu.be/_if2t31_79M

The Creed

We say together in faith:

Holy, Holy, Holy
Is the Lord God Almighty,
Who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:
for by His will they were created
and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:
For with His blood,
He purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
the Spirit and the Bride say “Come!”
even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

(Please add in names and circumstances known to you in the appropriate place)

United in the company of the faithful
and looking for the coming of the Kingdom
let us offer our prayers to God,
the source of all Holiness.

Merciful Lord,
strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit,
that we may live as a royal priesthood and a Holy nation
to the praise of Jesus Christ our saviour.
Lord, have mercy.

Bless Guli, Adam and Roger, our bishops
and all who minister in your church,
that by faithful proclamation of your word
we may be built on the foundation of the
apostles and prophets
into a Holy temple in the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Empower us by the gift of your Holy and life giving Spirit,
that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ
from glory to glory
Lord, have mercy

Give to the world and its peoples
the peace that comes from above,
that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life.
Lord, have mercy.

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the service of the poor and needy;
all who minister to the sick and dying;
and all who bring light to those in darkness
Lord, have mercy.

Touch and heal all those whose lives are scarred by sin or disfigured by pain,
that, raised from death to life in Christ,
their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy.
Lord, have mercy.

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us,
who have been well pleasing to you from eternity;
preserve in your faith your servants on earth,
guide us to your kingdom
and grant us peace at all times.
Lord, have mercy.

Hasten the day when many will come
from east and west, from north and south,
and sit at your table in your kingdom.
Lord, have mercy.

Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour and power,
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Collect:

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

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
and 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 forever. Amen.

*Usually, at this point in the service, we take up our offering;
let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God
and give Him thanks.*

Song: (click link) O Come all ye Faithful <https://youtu.be/zw-FAqx9kpw>

Blessing:

May God Himself, the God of peace,
make us perfect and Holy;
and keep us all safe and blameless, in spirit, mind and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.....

...and the blessing of God almighty
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us, and all those whom we love,
this day and always. Amen

As we come to the end of this service we can remember each other as we have tea, coffee and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.

Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.