

# The Second Sunday of Advent

## December 4, 2022

### 10:00 AM



St. John's Episcopal Church  
12201 Richmond Street  
Chester, Virginia 23831  
804-748-2182 | stjohnschester.com

*A warm welcome to all who come to worship at St. John's this day. We are glad you are here! If you are visiting with us, we would like to get to know you better, so please fill out a visitor's card available from an usher or on the usher's table at the rear in the narthex.*

### The Prelude

### The Word of God

BCP Page 355

*If able, please stand.*

**Hymn 65 Prepare the Way, O Zion**

*Bereden väg för Herron*

### The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

LEM This morning we continue our tradition of lighting the candles of the Advent wreath which shine brightly in the midst of darkness, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world. We welcome Kitty Wells and Jodi Mountfort to light the second candle as we sing the hymn below.

*The Second Advent Candle is lighted as the people sing the verse after it is sung by the choir.*

5 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Prayer is prayed by those who light the candle.*

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love..

People **Amen.**

Celebrant May you, who rejoice in the first advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

People **Amen.**

*Those who lit the candle return to their seats.*

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires 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.

People **Amen.**

**Celebrant and People** BCP Page 356

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**The Collect of the Day** BCP Page 211

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

People **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

## The Lessons

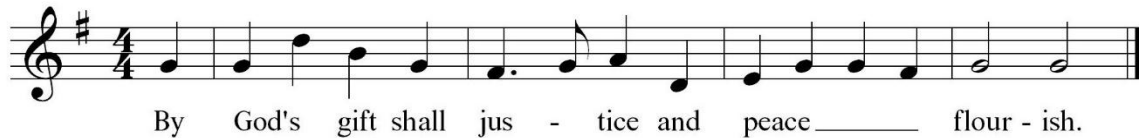
### A Reading from Isaiah 11: 1-10

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

LEM The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 72



Give the king your justice, O God, \*

and your righteousness to the King's Son;

That he may rule your people righteously \*

and the poor with justice;

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*

and the little hills bring righteousness.

**Antiphon**

He shall defend the needy among the people; \*

he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*

from one generation to another.

**Antiphon**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*

like showers that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

He shall rule from sea to sea, \*

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**Antiphon**

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel. \*

who alone does wondrous deeds!

And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*

And may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen.

**Antiphon**

### A Reading from Romans 15: 4-13

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; <sup>10</sup>and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; <sup>11</sup>and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

LEM The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

*If able, please stand.*

**Hymn 76 On Jordan’s banks the Baptist’s cry** (*Verses 1-3*)

*Winchester New*

## **The Gospel**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 3:1-12

**People Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord

**People Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Hymn 76 On Jordan’s banks the Baptist’s cry** (*Verse 4*)

*Winchester New*

*The people are seated.*

## **The Sermon**

*If able, please stand.*

**The Nicene Creed** BCP Page 358

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance**

**with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

LEM Friends, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. Let us come before the Lord praying, “Blessed are you, Lord God; *May the earth be filled with your glory.*” Grant your Church, O God of encouragement, to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that we may glorify you with one voice. Make us a people of repentance and bless us with your Holy Spirit and fire. Blessed are you, Lord God;

**People May the earth be filled with your glory.**

LEM Grant this nation, O God of justice, the will to defend the needy and the poor. May we sincerely hope for that day when hurt and destruction are no more. Blessed are you, Lord God;

**People May the earth be filled with your glory.**

LEM Grant your creation, O God of faithfulness, the hope of renewal. May we who are stewards of this earth, also live at peace with all you have created. Blessed are you, Lord God;

**People May the earth be filled with your glory.**

LEM Grant this city, O God of understanding, prosperity. May all the people know and do justice. We ask that you teach us and our leaders the best ways to meet the needs of all our neighbors. Blessed are you, Lord God;

**People May the earth be filled with your glory.**

LEM Grant all the needy, O God of steadfast love, your mercy. Prove yourself to be a God of righteousness and faithfulness. To all their pain and suffering bring your healing and peace. And with your winnowing fork clear from their lives all the forces of oppression. Blessed you, Lord God;

are **People May the earth be filled with your glory.**

LEM Grant to those who have died, O God of hope, eternal life in you. Bring the departed into your glorious dwelling where all their hope will be fulfilled in your Christ. Blessed are you, Lord God;

**People May the earth be filled with your glory.**

LEM Almighty God, look graciously on the people of St. John’s. Be with us and lead us as we seek the next rector for our church. We ask your direction and guidance for those who shall choose our new spiritual leader that we may receive an upright and faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. Grant us perception, faithfulness and joy, so that we may hear your voice in all our deliberations. Grant us also the desire and the ability to truly hear each other and those who have entrusted us with this process. Give us courage to respond and act as you lead us. Come Holy Spirit. Blessed are you, Lord God;

**People May the earth be filled with your glory.**

LEM Please offer your prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth; Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People Amen.**



archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly\_ Lord God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### People and Celebrant

*If able, please kneel or stand.*

**Celebrant** Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**People** **Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

**Celebrant** We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

**People** **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer BCP Page 364

**Celebrant** And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread and Fraction Anthem

The people sing the antiphon after each verse sung by the Cantor.

*Antiphon*

The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus  
in the break - ing of the bread.

Verses:

1. The bread which we break, Alleluia, is the communion of the Body of Christ.
2. One body are we, Alleluia, for though many we share one bread.

## The Communion

The people are seated.

*We offer Communion to all who are baptized regardless of church tradition. We have wafers for those allergic to gluten, wheat, dairy and corn. Simply ask the celebrant who gives the bread. If it is your tradition to use grape juice, please ask the LEM who follows the celebrant. If it is uncomfortable for you to use the step to the altar railing, please remain at the step to receive the sacrament. Those not receiving Communion are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing; please cross your chest with your arms.*

## Post-Communion Prayer BCP Page 366

If able, please kneel or stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

If able, please stand.

## The Blessing

Hymn 67 **Comfort, comfort ye my people**

*Psalm 42*

## The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## The Postlude