

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Service of Antecommunion
St. John's Episcopal Church
Ithaca, NY 14850
December 6, 2020 Year B
stjohnsithaca.org

Hymns can be found at the end of the bulletin.

Prelude Three Variations on *Freu dich sehr* (Comfort ye, my people) - Alfred V. Fedak, 1996

Hymn: Comfort, comfort ye my people (*Freu dich sehr*)

Hymnal # 67

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Kyrie

Hymnal S-91

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.*

First 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Epistle

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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel**Mark 1:1-8**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord 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.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon**The Rev. Julie Nelson****The Nicene Creed****BCP 358****Prayers of the People: Form III****BCP 387**

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

For the special needs and concerns of our congregation, and especially for:

Wes	Richard	John	Joyce	Jimmy	Linda
Jean	Dhara	Kathleen	Sue	Ruth	Mary
Susan	Julee	Theodore	Skip	June	James
Joan	Lorraine	Paul	Virginia	Mary	Lisa
CeCe	Edith	Louis	John	Clare	Keith
Elizabeth	Libby	Kay	Mary	Joell	Susan

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:
Nathan Hall, Linn Henry, Jeremiah Miller, Shirley Durfee.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

Hymn: There's a voice in the wilderness crying (Ascension)

Hymnal # 75

Peace

Dismissal

Postlude Final Variation on *Freu dich sehr* (Comfort ye, my people) - Alfred V. Fedak, 1996

67

Advent



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.
 Music: Psalm 42, melody Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)

87. 87. 77. 88

S 91

The Holy Eucharist I

Lord, have mercy upon us *Kyrie*

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Setting: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968)

75

Advent



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 - dur - eth, 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)

1rr.



St. John's Church

210 North Cayuga Street, Ithaca NY (607)-273-6532 ~ www.stjohnsithaca.org office@stjohnsithaca.org

"Like" us on Facebook @ Saint John's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Megan Castellan, Rector

Sara Van Looy, Sr. Warden

AnnMarie Hautaniemi, Parish Administrator

Karen A. Hindenlang, Director of Music/Organist

Matthew Sanaker, Jr. Warden

Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

Crawford R. Thoburn, Assisting Conductor

Office Hours: M-W-F 1pm- 4pm, Tu- Thurs 10am-2pm

Although the office has limited hours* for the duration of the pandemic, e-mail, regular mail and phone messages will be monitored. If you need pastoral assistance, or just want to reach out to Mtr. Megan, please call her at 315-757-0251, or e-mail mtrmegan@stjohnsithaca.org.

Christmas Flower Memorial Donations time is here! Please donate in memory of a loved one- just drop a note to the office. You can also [donate on-line](#), and mark your donation "Christmas Flowers". Please e-mail names to office@stjohnsithaca.org. The names will be published in the Christmas bulletins.

If you would like to contribute to our ministries, you may [make a secure donation here](#). Thank you!

Sign up for our weekly newsletter [The Fledgling](#) by contacting the church office.

Please Join Us

Coffee Hour, today at 11:30 on zoom <https://zoom.us/j/91221585167>

Join us for Morning Prayer weekdays at 9:30 on [FaceBook](#) & [YouTube](#).

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS - Sunday, December 20, at 10:30, our Cyber Choirs and parish musicians offer an online service blending scripture and song in worship as we prepare for the Birth of Jesus.

IMAGES needed — digital photos of local scenes, seasonal artwork, historic sites, natural beauty — to accompany the instrumental music in our worship! If you have graphics that our Director of Music could use, please forward them to the church office; thank you!

One License # A - 724223