

**Holy Trinity Church**  
**446 Hamilton St. Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550**  
*A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts*

## **The Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 6, 2020**

*9:30 a.m. Worship Service*

*The Rev. Richard Signore, Celebrant & Preacher*  
*Anne Bouvier-Monroe, Organist; Joe DiSalvatore, Clarinet*  
*Josh Spooner, Reader*

**Prelude:** *Clarinet Music, Joe DiSalvatore*

**Processional Hymn: WLP #724 People, look East**      *Words: Eleanor Farjeon; Music: John Hooker*

**People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look East and sing today; Love the guest is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there; give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish. People, look East and sing today; Love the rose is on the way.**

**Advent Candle Lighting: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**      *Clarinet Music, Joe DiSalvatore*

**\* Collect** *(said by all)*

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 Reading**

Reader    A reading from the book of Isaiah

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.

*Isaiah 64:1-9*

Reader The Word of the Lord

**People Thanks be to God**

**Silence**

**PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13**

*said by all, in unison*

**BCP, p. 708**

**You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, \***  
**you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.**  
**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \***  
**and blotted out all their sins.**

**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.**

**Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \***  
**that his glory may dwell in our land.**

**Mercy and truth have met together; \***  
**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

**Truth shall spring up from the earth, \***  
**and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

**The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \***  
**and our land will yield its increase.**

**Righteousness shall go before him, \***  
**and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

**Holy Gospel Mark 1:1-8**

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ

**People 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.”

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord **People Praise to you Lord Christ**

**Sermon**

**Fr. Richard Signore**

**Prayers of the People IV, BCP, p. 388 RESONSE: Hear our prayer.**

**Prayer for the Parish**

**O everlasting source of love, in whom our faith resides, guide us surely ever forward on our lifelong journey. Not so fast that we miss the beauty that surrounds us on the way, nor miss your grace so freely given that teaches us how to grow. But with a steady presence felt and a sense of gratitude may we find our place amidst the jungle of life within the kingdom of heaven on earth. Amen**

**Confession & Absolution**

**BCP, p. 360**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

**The Peace** (*no handshaking or hugging please – solemn bow or wave only*)

## **The Liturgy of the Table**

**Offertory:** *Clarinet Music, Joe DiSalvatore*

**\*The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A**

**BCP, p. 361**

**Sanctus** (*said by all*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Prayer Book, p. 364**

**Fraction Anthem** (*said by all*) *Words: Gary James*

**Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread. The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ. Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread. One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread. Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

**Communion:** *Clarinet Music, Joe DiSalvatore*

**Prayer** *(said by those at home)* *My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)*

**The Post Communion Prayer** *(Said by all worshiping in person)*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son and 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.**

**Blessing**

**Dismissal**      Let us bless the Lord.      **Thanks be to God.**

**Recessional Hymn: WLP #779 The Church of Christ in Every Age**      *Words: Fred Pratt Green; Music: Vernon Griffiths*

**The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but spirit led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.**

**Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry for shelter and for bread to eat and never live until they die.**

**Postlude:** *Tune: "Herald, Sound" Robert Powell ( Hymn number 70) organ instrumental*

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