

# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Morning Prayer, Rite Two 9 a.m. December 20, 2020

## St. Thomas of Canterbury Church and School

*A Mission of the Diocese of San Diego*

The Right Reverend Susan Brown Snook, *Bishop of San Diego*

The Reverend Julie D Bryant, *Priest-in-charge* The Reverend Dr David Jackson, *Assisting Priest*  
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### Announcements

Christmas Dinner Bags

Stewardship Letter - Time and Talent Pledge Cards

Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Schedule



*Worship Participants include:*

*Jim Bohlin, Mike Bramhall, John Crawford, Tess Crawford, Kathy Foxen,  
Anne Meservey, Warren Rippe, The Reverend Dr David Jackson, The Reverend Julie D Bryant.  
Mr. Dave Weaver joins us as Musician this morning.*

**The Prelude** - 'And The Glory Of The Lord' - from Handel's Messiah

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath - Peace

*From the Sanctuary, the Priest leads*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. *(Luke 1:39-42)*

**Carol** - 'O come, o come Emmanuel' Elaine Hagenberg

Lord, we confess that we are more easily led by fear than by love. We build walls both from concrete and in our hearts: walls to keep ourselves safe, to keep us in and others out. Just as this physical wall separates neighbors, divides families and holds people captive, so our walls of pride, anger and fear separate us from those you have commanded us to love, holding them captive in our stereotypes and assumptions.

Lord Christ, whose death on the cross tore down the barrier between God and God's people, in whom there are no distinctions of nationality, gender or status, break down these walls of hatred, both the physical and emotional, in the power of your spirit and for the furtherance of your kingdom. **Amen.**

*(Prayer shared on FOSNA website)*

*As each candle is lighted*

Our Lord and Savior now draws near.

*People*      **O come, let us adore him.**

**The Opening Hymn - 'Come Thou Long Expected Jesus'**

*The Officiant reads*

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

**The Confession of Sin**

*The Officiant invites repentance*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

**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 Officiant alone says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant*      Lord, open our lips.

*People*      **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as**

**it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

**Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him.**

**Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26**

*Anne Meservey*

Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \***  
**from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.**

For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

‘I will establish your line for ever, \*

and preserve your throne for all generations.”

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*

“I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

I have found David my servant; \*

with my holy oil have I anointed him.

**Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \***  
**from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.**

My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.

No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.

I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.

I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.

He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.”

**Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \***  
**from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.**

**The Lessons**

*Mike Bramhall*

*Lector*      A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel. 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with

any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

### **A Song of Praise** - featuring Dave Weaver

*Lector*      A Reading from the Paul's Letter to the Romans. 16:25-27

*Jim Bohlin*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gradual** - 'Lo, how a Rose e'er Blooming' featuring Dave Weaver

### **The Holy Gospel**

*Officiant*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. 1:26-38

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## The Homily

The Reverend Julie D Bryant

## The Apostles' Creed

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## The Prayers

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Officiant* Show us your mercy, O Lord;

*People* **And grant us your salvation.**

*Officiant* Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

*People* **Let your people sing with joy.**

*Officiant* Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

*People* **For only in you can we live in safety.**

*Officiant* Lord, keep this nation under your care;

*People* **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

*Officiant* Let your way be known upon earth;

*People* **Your saving health among all nations.**

*Officiant* Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

*People* **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

*Officiant* Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
*People* **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Sundays**

*Tess Crawford*

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Peace**

*John Crawford*

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Grace**

*Anne Meservey*

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Guidance**

*Mike Bramhall*

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for Mission**

*Jim Bohlin*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**The Offertory** - featuring Dave Weaver

## The General Thanksgiving

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

### A Prayer of Longing for Community

**Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Altar, and I long to be with the members of my church family to receive the Sacrament. We cannot now receive you sacramentally, so draw comfort in knowing that you live in us and we in you. Never permit us to be separated from you. Amen.**

### The Closing Hymn - 'Angels We Have Heard On High'

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

### The Postlude - 'Waiting For Christmas'- An Advent Song