



Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 10, 2023

*Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly with God -
Micah 6:8*



"Saint John the Baptist" by Alvise Vivarini

#10 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Advent Candle - Peace

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.

Call to Worship

(Inspired by Zechariah 3:6)

We come to prepare the way;

The way for Christ –

the hope of Christ, the peace of Christ –
to enter our world, to enter our hearts.

We cry out together in the wilderness:

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

We come to be part of the light–

the light that shines in the darkness.

Welcoming Prayer

Welcome, welcome, welcome.

I welcome everything that comes to me in this moment because
I know it is for my healing.

I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations,
and conditions.

I let go of my desire for security. I let go of my desire for
approval. I let go of my desire for control. I let go of my desire
to change any situation, condition, person, or myself.

I open to the love and presence of God and God's healing action
and grace within.

Confession

Most merciful God, we acknowledge our need for rescue, healing, and liberation from all that seeks to separate us from You. In the security of your loving embrace, we confess our sins and the sin of the world which we participate in. Too often we do not place our complete trust in your provision and act selfishly out of fear rather than love. Too often we rely on our own insufficient strength and are unable to resist being formed by the fallen systems of the world.

**Loving God, we turn to you
For forgiveness, healing, and liberation.
Set us free to serve you in the world,
And share the Love of Christ
Through acts of compassion and justice. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved children of God, know that you are forgiven through Jesus Christ who came not to condemn the world but to save the world. Christ is at work liberating the world from all the forces of bondage and oppression. Christ is making all things new, hallelujah!

**By God's grace, we are forgiven.
By God's grace, we are being made whole.
By God's grace, we are equipped to serve others.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#77 Go Tell it on the Mountain

Mark 1:1-4 ¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. ²As 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,’” ⁴so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

#119 What Child is This?

Mark 1:5-8 ⁵And the whole Judean region 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 strap of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

#3 Down by the Riverside

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

⁸Let 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.

⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

¹²The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

Announcements

(See back of bulletin)

First Coming

Madeleine L'Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Silent Contemplation

Prayers of The People

With all our heart and all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "**Lord, have mercy,**" followed by a time to offer our prayers aloud.

- * For peace and justice in the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the flourishing of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

(Specific prayers for peace and justice may be offered aloud)

- * For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

(Specific prayers for those experiencing oppression may be offered aloud)

- * For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

(Specific prayers for those experiencing sickness and suffering may be offered aloud)

- * For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, for seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

(Specific prayers for the care of creation may be offered aloud)

- * For the many blessings God has given us, for life-giving relationships, for our talents and abilities, and for all the ways God has provided for our needs, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, we give you thanks.

(Specific prayers of thanksgiving may be offered aloud)

God our Mother we know you hear our prayers and long to gather us under your wings like a mother hen. By your Spirit you are at work in our lives for us and with us and in us. We thank You for your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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,
let us not fall into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen

Homily

Discussion

- * Share something that stood out to you from the service.
- * Reflect on any of the new parts of the liturgy.
- * Is there a line from the poem that stands out to you?
- * What are some practical ways you can practice opening up space for God to work?
- * Are there opportunities in your life to be a witness to what God is doing?

Communion

(Gluten-free Bread & Grape Juice - All Are Welcome)

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One
Amen

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Thanks be to God

#48 Hallelujah I'm Ready

Announcements

- Midweek Gathering - Wed. 12/13 5:30 @ Sacred Heart
- Christmas Eve Service (12/24) 5pm - Lessons and Carols
- No Service on New Years Eve (12/31)
- Heart + Hub Diaper program is in need of diapers (any size)
- You can give online at sacredheartbloomington.org