

2<sup>nd</sup> Advent, Dec. 6



A Thrill of Hope

## Gathering

If you look closely there are remnants of St Nicholas of Myra in Santa Claus' red robes. But the great 4<sup>th</sup> century bishop is softened and blurred beneath a plush velvety suit and a grandfatherly twinkle. Nicholas of Myra confronted injustice, fed the poor, and witnessed to the light of faith in dark times. Even the legends that surround him –children saved from sausageing and slavery- are not about magic or myth, but the power to change lives when faith comes alive in acts of love.

St Nicholas has morphed into 'Santa Claus' in infinite and sometimes silly variations. How can we see through what society makes of 'Santa' for its own ends, to see and walk the faith of Nicholas? Pray that the church may walk in the generosity and faith of Nicholas.

*A time for prayer and preparation.*

KYRIE

O Lord, have mercy and come to us. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

O Wisdom, proceeding from the heart of the Most High, guiding creation with power and love:  
**Come and teach us the way of knowledge.**

O Adonai and Ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush  
and gave the Law:  
**Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.**

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute,  
to whom the nations will come in homage:  
**Come quickly to deliver us.**

O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver, the anointed of the nations and their Savior:  
**Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

O Lord, have mercy and come to us. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

*The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of our Baptism.*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit.  
**and blessed be His kingdom, now and forever!**

As we look to the advent of Christ, let us draw near to God with willing hearts,  
confessing our sin before God and one other.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

We confess we are distracted, anxious and weary.  
**Yet we have not made time to seek your peace and light.**  
**We have failed to do justice; we have not been Christ to one another.**

We confess our sin and need to you, Lord, and we pray:  
**Have mercy! Open our hearts to your advent in our lives,**  
**Strengthen us to walk in hope,**  
**seek justice and peace for our families, our community,**  
**and the world. Come, Lord Jesus!**

In the mercy of almighty God, and by his authority, I tell you your sins are forgiven. May you know joy in  
the Savior's coming, in the Name of the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray... O God of justice and light,  
As we light the second candle of our Advent wreath,  
open our hearts to Jesus, your Son  
that we may walk in the example of Nicholas of Myra  
who loved the poor, the weak and the young,  
and who gave what he had to enrich those who had little.  
Lift our weary hearts, and strengthen our hope in Jesus Christ,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen!**

## The Word

The first reading is from Isaiah, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.  
And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's  
den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of  
the LORD as the waters cover the sea. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** (Isaiah 11:1-9)

### *Silence for Reflection*

Psalm 145 is read responsively by verse:

I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.  
**<sup>2</sup>Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**  
**<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.**  
**<sup>4</sup>One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.**  
**<sup>5</sup>On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.**  
**<sup>6</sup>They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.**  
**<sup>7</sup>They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. Amen.**

### *Silence for Reflection*

The second reading is from first John, the fourth chapter.  
Beloved friends, let us love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God  
and knows God. The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. This is how the love  
of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is  
love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. **The Word of the Lord:** Thanks be to God. (1 John 4:7-14)

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
**The glory of our God shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the tenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>3</sup> People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, "Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. <sup>15</sup> I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup> Then he hugged the children and blessed them.

The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Mark 10:13-16)

Teaching the Word (Sermon)

*Hearing the Word is followed by a time for reflection and meditation.*

HYMN

## CREED & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

In confidence and hope, let us confess our faith:

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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 Church

Looking forward to Christ's coming with hope, we pray for church and community, and for all weary hearts awaiting justice, wholeness and peace.

### *Silence for Reflection*

For all the baptized, that like Nicholas our hearts make a home for the Word, that our eyes are opened to the needs of our neighbor: God of peace and mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all who do not know Christ, that our faith may show in love and generosity, and be a witness to Christ's power and presence: God of peace and mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For our littlest brothers and sisters, awaiting Santa Claus. May we tell and bring alive the story of St. Nicholas, that this season of peace may point to Christ. God of peace and mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For those who are sick and for those recovering from illness, for all those needs and names in our hearts today, whom we life before you now, O Lord. People of God, for what else shall we pray? *Silence ...* That they may know the healing love of Christ: Healing God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God give life to those who live in fear, whose strength is fading, who long for wholeness. Draw near to weary hearts as we pray for:

- all in need of healing care, and those who cannot find the care they need;
- those who are struggling to meet the needs of home and work and family;
- all weary and stressed by trying to make ends meet, by financial fears...
- those working in healing professions to provide hands on care, support or research...

*Other petitions may be added, and may conclude with:*

...in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

In thankfulness for St Nicholas, and for our loved ones and all who have gone before us, that we will join them in the great heavenly feast in God's kingdom: God of peace and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God hear the prayers we make that this weary world rejoice in the Name of Jesus, our Emmanuel, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

**And also with you!**

*Please offer peace to those with you, in your heart or across Social Media. Offerings can be made online by going to the website, using the QR code with your smartphone or mailed. We are grateful for your continuing support of our mission and ministry! Then continue:*



Let us pray: All we call our own are gifts of Your mercy and love.

**May the offering we make be a symbol of our whole lives,  
given with grateful hearts to become a blessing to others.**

**Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need  
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Emmanuel. Amen.**

## Sending

GOSPEL CANTICLE: *The Benedictus, the Song of Zachariah.*

Blessed are you Lord, the God of Israel;  
you have come to your people and set them free.  
**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old  
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,  
to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.  
**This was the oath you swore to our ancestors Sarah and Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship you without fear,  
holy and righteous in your sight, all the days of our lives.**

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**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**

## Announcements

*Announcements were sent earlier in the week by USPS and email. Pastor or the worship leaders may choose to call attention to one or more, or share announcements that were not included.*

## Dismissal

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now let your your servant go in peace  
according to Your word.

**For mine eyes have seen Your salvation;  
Which you have prepared before the face of all people;**

A light to reveal You to the nations,  
And the glory of Your people Israel.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, amen!**

## Blessing and Benediction

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
enlighten weary hearts, and guard your hearts and your minds through faith in Christ Jesus;  
in the Name of God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

### HYMN

Dwell in peace, serve the Lord.   **Thanks be to God.**

### THE POSTLUDE

