



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

NOVEMBER 29, 2009
AT FOUR O'CLOCK PM

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

Edie Ching, reader
Toby Halvarson, reader
Joyce McCannon, reader
Ken Myrie, reader
M. Elizabeth Tidball, reader
The Reverend Canon Stephen Huber, homilist
The Choir of Men and Girls
Cathedral Voices

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

WELCOME

Dean Lloyd

The people stand as the choir sings.

INTROIT

The Truth from Above

The Choir of Men and Girls

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love, therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all both rich and poor. The first thing which I do relate is that God did man create; the next thing which to you I'll tell, woman was made with man to dwell. Thus we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose; and so a promise soon did run that he would redeem us by his Son. And at that season of the year our blest Redeemer did appear; he here did live, and here did preach, and many thousands he did teach. Thus he in love to us behaved, to show us how we must be saved; and if you want to know the way, be pleased to hear what he did say.

OPENING HYMN - 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Sung by all.

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

OPENING SENTENCES

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Comfort my people, comfort them; my salvation shall not be delayed. I have swept away your offenses like a cloud; fear not, for I will save you. I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Redeemer. Thus says the Lord. Come and save us, O Lord of hosts.
Come, O Lord, and save us.

ADVENT BIDDING

As we enter, eager and expectant, into the season of Advent, let us in prayer and praise, thanksgiving and song, give voice to the hope set forth in the Scriptures, that Christ's reign of love and light will indeed come among us. Let us offer ourselves anew as witnesses to the advent of Christ's glory, seeking to bring Christ's light and love to those who sit in darkness.
Come, O long expected Jesus, come.

The people are seated.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

In which God's people are comforted.

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 forever. 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.

Silence follows the reading; then, as the officiant stands, the people also stand.

COLLECT

O God of hope: You console us in our grief; you strengthen us in our weakness; you restore us when we feel empty. Help us to love others as you love us—tenderly and without restraint—so that our human relationships may be a reflection of the one we share with you. In Jesus' Name we pray.
Amen.

The people are seated.

ANTHEM

The Choir of Men and Girls

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

HYMN 66

Sung by all, standing.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Stuttgart

The people are seated.

SECOND LESSON

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 6-12

In which life-giving water flows forth from the temple.

Then the Lord God brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. Then the

Lord brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and the water was coming out on the south side. The Lord God said to me, "Mortal, have you seen this?" Then the Lord led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. The Lord said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region; and when it enters the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea from Engedi to Eneglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

Silence follows the reading; then, as the officiant stands, the people also stand.

COLLECT

O God of life-giving water: In your sanctuaries, we find refreshment. You revive our parched souls. In the space of our worship, give us the understanding that you sustain us. As we go beyond these doors, may your love, moving in us, so stir up the stagnant places in our world that your healing ways may bud forth. In Jesus' Name we pray. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

ANTHEM

Cathedral Voices

Keep Your Lamps!

André Thomas (b. 1952)

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh. Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done. Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

Traditional Spiritual

HYMN 61

Sung by all, standing.

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us

Wachet auf

The people are seated.

THIRD LESSON

Baruch 4:36-5:9

In which Jerusalem is assured of help

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God. Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under the heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from God.

Silence follows the reading; then, as the officiant stands, the people also stand.

COLLECT

O God of mercy: You call us home from the exile of oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing. Make us strong, that we may join you in your holy work, as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

ANTHEM

The Choir of Men and Girls

A spotless Rose

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

A spotless Rose is blowing, sprung from a tender root, of ancient seers' foreshowing, of Jesse promised fruit; its fairest bud unfolds to light amid the cold, cold winter, and in the dark midnight. The Rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said, is from its sweet root springing in Mary, purest Maid; for, through our God's great love and might, the blessed Babe she bare us in a cold, cold winter's night.

*German, fifteenth century
trans. C. Winkworth*

HYMN 76

Sung by all, standing.

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

The people are seated.

FOURTH LESSON

Mark 1:1-15

In which John the Baptist proclaims the One who is to come.

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." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "This time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news."

Silence follows the reading; then, as the officiant stands, the people also stand.

COLLECT

O God of promise: By the fire of your Spirit and the water of your life you recreate those who turn to you. Open our hearts to the message of the one who prepares the way, that we may live in watchfulness for the coming of Jesus Christ, who shall judge the world and all its works. Make straight the paths that lead to you, and smooth the rough ways of our world, that in our day we might bring forth your compassion for all humanity. In Jesus' Name we pray. **Amen.**

The people are seated. During the anthem an offering is received to support the ministries of the Cathedral.

ANTHEM*The Choir of Men and Girls**Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

Anthony Piccolo (b. 1946)

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green: the tree of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell, the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have brought: I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile: under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

*from "Divine Hymns of Spiritual Songs"***FIFTH LESSON**

Luke 1:26-38

In which the birth of Jesus is foretold.

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.

*Silence follows the reading; then, as the officiant stands, the people also stand.***COLLECT**

O God of possibility: You give us the fresh air of new beginnings and unexpected opportunities, but we often turn away in fear. Help us to see that you always shine a light to guide our way, and that the light will illuminate the strange, winding roads we travel. Give us strength to embrace the changes of this world, knowing that you will lead us to a place more glorious than we could ever imagine. In Jesus' Name we pray. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.***MEDITATION**

Canon Huber

During the anthem, the candles are lighted from the light of the Advent Wreath. To pass the light, please hold lighted tapers upright and allow others to light their wicks from the flame. As always, we ask individuals to be mindful of their own safety, and that of others, when holding lighted candles.

ANTHEM*The Choir of Men and Girls and Cathedral Voices**Benedictus in C*

Charles V. Stanford (1852-1924)

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he hath visited and redeemed his people; and hath raised up a mighty salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, and to remember his holy covenant; to perform the oath which he swore to our forefather Abraham, that he would give us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, for thou

shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; to give knowledge of salvation unto his people for the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us; to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

The people stand for the prayers.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Following each petition,

Come and save us, O Lord of Hosts.

Come, O Lord of Hosts, and save us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Said by all.

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.

CONCLUDING PRAYER AND BLESSING OF ADVENT

May Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN 57

Sung by all.

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

Helmsley

DISMISSAL

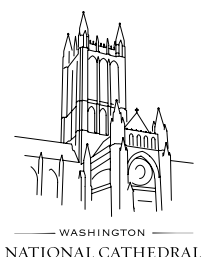
Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"

Andrew Carter (b. 1939)



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