

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF GEORGIA

Morning Prayer
The Second Sunday of Advent



A livestream liturgy from

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Savannah, Georgia

The Second Sunday of Advent

Directions are shown in red with the responses in bold face type

A note about the Diocese of Georgia's worship in Advent

The four Sundays leading to the Feast of the Nativity are a time of anticipation as we look to the Second Coming even as we prepare to celebrate Emmanuel, God with us, in Jesus at his first advent in Bethlehem. Our worship in this season is designed to be more contemplative. The text of these services use Morning Prayer in *Enriching Our Worship I* together with the Book of Common Prayer. While not replacing the Prayer Book, *Enriching Our Worship* was offered in 1997 to expand the language, images and metaphors used in worship. The Prayers of the People were crafted by Bishop Logue drawing on the scripture we read on this Sunday.

Prelude - Devotion - Ms. Beryl Dandy, St. Matthew's, Savannah

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*The Rev. Canon Joshua Varner will tell a portion of a Godly Play story
that builds toward the Feast of the Nativity,
followed by lighting the first candle of the Advent Wreath.*

Hymn - O Come, O Come Emmanuel - A Diocesan Staff Virtual Quartet

Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt. Words © The Church Pension Fund Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-730938. All rights reserved.

Officiant Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. *Isaiah 45:8*

The Confession

The Officiant says to the people

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together

God of all mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,**

and the evil done on our behalf.

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,**

**that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Priest alone stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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 O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People **And your glory all the day long.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant Our God and Savior now draws near:

All **O come let us worship.**

Morning Psalm

Psalm 67:1-5 *Deus misereatur*

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

The Lessons

A Reading from Isaiah

(Isaiah 40:1-11)

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Canticle - A Song of Jerusalem Our Mother *Isaiah 66:10-14*

Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her *
all you who love her,

Rejoice, rejoice with her, *
all you who mourn over her,

That you may drink deeply with delight *
from her comforting breast.

For thus says our God, *
“I will extend peace to her like a river,
the wealth of nations like an overflowing stream.

“You shall nurse and be carried on her arm,
and you shall nestle in her lap.

“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; *
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

“You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice, *
you shall flourish like the grass of the fields.”

Hymn - On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry - A St. Matthew's, Savannah, Virtual Choir
Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.
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A Reading from the Gospel of Mark

(Mark 1:1-8)

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.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

The Rev. Canon Loren Lasch
Canon to the Ordinary

Hymn - *Better be ready* - A St. Matthew's, Savannah, Virtual Choir
Traditional song. Public domain.

The Apostles' Creed

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 Hear our cry, O God.
People And listen to our prayer.
Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

Officiant: John the Baptist cried out in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord.” As we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ first advent in Bethlehem, we prepare for his second coming in glory. Making room in our hearts for him to come more fully, let us pray for ourselves, for one another, and all in need.

Officiant: The grass withers, the flower fades; but your Word stands for ever. Assist your church to so proclaim and live out your teaching that all may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Scatter the darkness with the light of your love, we pray.
Silence

Officiant: That all in authority in this and every nation may speak peace to their people that all may flourish and the land will yield its increase. Scatter the darkness with the light of your love, we pray.
Silence

Officiant: For the many cities and towns of the Diocese of Georgia and all who live in them, that we may be found by him at peace. Scatter the darkness with the light of your love, we pray.
Silence

Officiant: That the many people who call on the one name of our Lord Jesus Christ yet live divided by that same faith may be gathered together as lambs in his arms that there will be one flock and one shepherd. Scatter the darkness with the light of your love, we pray.
Silence

Officiant: That the homeless, the jobless, the friendless, and all who live in want may find the wholeness that comes from your peace alone, and that the sick, the suffering, and the dying may be assured by your comforting presence. Scatter the darkness with the light of your love, we pray.
Silence

Officiant: That all the faithful departed may know the joy of the new heaven and a new earth where righteousness is at home. Scatter the darkness with the light of your love, we pray.
Silence

Officiant: The prayers and thanksgivings of the congregation gathered here online may be offered either silently or aloud.
Scatter the darkness with the light of your love, we pray.
Silence

Officiant: Merciful God, as we prepare for your coming, we offer these prayers and praises trusting in your mercy and goodness that you will answer the cries of our hearts not as we wish, but as you know to be best for us, and for all for whom we pray. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn - Ubi Caritas - The Rev. Guillermo Arboleda

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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.**

The Blessing

Officiant then concludes with the following

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Officiant then concludes with the following

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:
Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.
Amen. *Ephesians 3:20,21*

Postlude - Sortie - Ms. Beryl Dandy, St. Matthew's, Savannah

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Serving in the Liturgy

Officiant

The Rt. Rev. Frank S. Logue, Bishop of Georgia

Preacher

The Rev. Canon Loren Lasch, Canon to the Ordinary

Godly Play Storyteller

The Rev. Canon Joshua Varner, Canon for Children and Youth

Reader

Ms. Margaret Pearson, St. Matthew's, Savannah

Musicians

Ms. Beryl Dandy, Organist, St. Matthew's, Savannah

The Rev. Guillermo Arboleda, Rector, St. Matthew's, Savannah