

The 3rd Sunday of Advent

13 December 2020

The Archbishop has again directed that in order to minimise the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19, there should be no congregational singing in Anglican churches in the Diocese of Adelaide until further notice.

The Archbishop has undertaken to maintain a watching brief on advice about singing by SA Health with a view to announcing when it is possible to resume congregational singing.

When familiar chants are used, the congregation may wish to make the offering their own by humming or vocalising quietly, as may be found helpful or devotional.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jcv68hxiA2E>

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is at hand.
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

Prayers at the Advent Wreath

We light the third Advent Candle as a sign of joy — a testimony to the Light of God coming into our world that will shatter the darkness and bring healing to all who suffer and mourn.

The third candle is lit, and the Priest says:

Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your word. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Greeting

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The grace and peace of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

The Priest may briefly introduce the Mass of the day.

Penitential Act

The choir sings

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TelqMzmBO4k>

The priest, deacon, or another minister says

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness,
and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Silence

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All say

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The priest says:

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon ✠ you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

Let us pray.

Eternal God,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son:
grant us wisdom to see your purpose
and openness to hear your will,
that we too may prepare the way for Christ
who is coming in power and glory
to establish his rule of peace and justice;
through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 61.1–4, 8–11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the LORD said: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined

cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 126

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xZkCG1w5mI>

When the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion : then were we like unto them that dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter : and our tongue with joy.

3 Then said they among the heathen : The Lord hath done great things for them.

4 Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already : whereof we rejoice.

5 Turn our captivity O Lord : as the rivers in the south.

6 They that sow in tear : shall ' reap in joy.

7 He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth good seed : shall doubtless come again with joy and bring his sheaves with him.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5.16–24

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

John 1.6–8, 19–28

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

✠ Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Fr Graeme Kaines

Silence may be kept.

Profession of Faith

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**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 worshipped 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 for the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

As we move closer to our celebration of Jesus' arrival in our midst
let us hold the world and her inhabitants and the earth itself in our prayers.
And as you respond in hope, I wonder if it would be possible to say 'Let there be joy',
and imagine that joy in the hearts, on the faces, in the trees, in the earth herself.

Let us pray.

For those who are broken of heart
who in this year of turmoil have lost their jobs
or who have struggled with lockdowns and the limited ways of being connected
Lord, let there be joy.

For those who find themselves bound,
either captive physically in prison or detention
or captive in a situation
as a refugee
or in a relationship that is abusive
or in poverty
Lord, let there be joy.

For those at this time who might be fatigued or disheartened
especially for those in healthcare
for those who are working in difficult circumstances across the globe
with COVID
within war ravaged countries
within poverty-stricken environments
Lord, let there be joy.

For those who are seeking justice for the lives of every human to matter equally
no matter their race or colour
their wealth
their disability
their need
Lord, let there be joy.

For those in our church
and in every place of faith
where deep care and effort abound
Lord, let there be joy.

For those who are mourning at this time
mourning the loss of someone they love
or the grief of not being with someone they love
or the grief of not being who they want to be in their lives

the grief of unfulfilled potential
Lord, let there be joy.

And for the earth and all her bounty
flora, fauna, the oceans, the lands
Lord, let there be joy.

Come, O come Emmanuel.
Fulfil in us your vision.
Give us voices to sing praise and to be joyful.

Amen

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.
God's Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

During the preparation of the gifts, the chant is sung. Please note that there will be no Collection taken up: offerings of money can be left in the Collection plates at the front and rear of the pews.

** may be sung as a canon*

Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,
and all peo-ple will see the sal - va-tion of our God.

Jacques Berthier 1923-94

When all is prepared, the priest says,

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

**May the Lord accept our sacrifice
for the praise and glory of God's name,
for our good, and the good of all God's holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

God of hope
renew in us the joy of your salvation
and make us a living sacrifice to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Dawn and evening celebrate your glory
till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son
the life of heaven and earth were joined,
sealing the promise of a new creation,
given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit,
we who bear your threefold likeness
look for the City of Peace
in whose light we are transfigured
and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose
who await the coming of your Son,
we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you,
most loving Father.

In Jesus you showed us yourself.

Our hope is built on him,
the first, the last, the living one.

Obedient, even to accepting death,
He opened the gate of glory
and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
alight with the vision of a feast
that heralded a kingdom yet to come,
at supper with his disciples

he took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying:
"Take, eat.
This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup,
he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying:
"Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters
living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end. Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence to the Father
in the words our Saviour gave us:

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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

The Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the bread, saying

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

While the bread is broken Agnus Dei is said.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

or

The gifts of God for the people of God.

May we who share these gifts be found in Christ, and Christ in us.

All receive Holy Communion.

Communion will be administered in one kind only.

Communicants are asked to approach the priest in single file, maintaining physical distance, returning to their places via the side aisles.

Those who are not to receive the Blessed Sacrament are invited to unite themselves with Jesus by making a Spiritual Communion.

Act of Spiritual Communion

St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Music for Reflection

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJS3Xsdqb7E>

*Thou didst shine as a light, O John, enlightened by God,
manifesting unto all the glory of the Father.*

by Wouter van Belle b.1964

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Isaiah 35.4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.
Merciful God,
may this eucharist free us from our sins,
fill us with unending joy,
and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The priest, deacon, or another minister says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.