

Darkness to Light

Expecting God in Advent



Welcome and Gathering of the Community



Advent Hymn

People Look East! The Time is Near

(CP 91)

Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.



The Lighting of the Advent Candles

All We light this candle as a symbol of the purity of heart only God can bring. For he shall purify his people like gold and silver, until they shine forth his righteousness!
Come, Lord Jesus, come!



Opening Hymn *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

(CP 100)

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace: thus saith our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load;
speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them:
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark! The herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for Christ a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble as befits Messiah's reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's Word is never broken.



The Collect

Officiant Together, let us pray.

All **Almighty God,
who sent your servant John the Baptist
to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah,
inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth,
to turn our disobedient hearts to you,
that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge,
we may stand with confidence before his glory;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**



Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

Reader A reading from the Book of Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**



The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)

*Please join on the alternating
bolded verses of the psalm*

- Officiant* Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free.
- All* **He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David.**
- Officiant* Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.
- All* **He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.**
- Officiant* This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
- All* **You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**
- Officiant* 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.



Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-6

Reader

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, -as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; -and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.



Homily: The Rev. Molly Finlay



The Nicene Creed

Officiant Let us confess our faith as we say,

All **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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**



The Nicene Creed

All 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He 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.



Invitation to Christian Stewardship

We at St John the Baptist Norway give regularly to God's work through offerings and other gifts. Our offerings support the life of the parish, as well as the work we do in the world, both locally and globally.

We invite you to contribute financially as you are able to the life and ministry of the parish. Instructions for submitting contributions can be found on our website.

Officiant Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All Amen.



Prayers of the People, Led by Yohan Dumpala



The Confession

Officiant Beloved in Christ, Jesus the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.
Most merciful God,

All **We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name.
Amen.



The Absolution

Officiant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

Officiant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

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, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**



The Blessing

Announcements



Closing Hymn

On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry

(CP 103)

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.

For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away, like flowers that wither and decay.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore.



The Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

