

Prepare the Way of the Lord
Making Room for God This Advent



Advent Hymn

People Look East! The Time is Near

(CP 91)

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.



The Lighting of the Advent Candles

All We light this candle as a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another.
For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
A righteous Branch will spring up for David;
and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the Land.
Come, Lord Jesus, come!



Opening Hymn *Lo, He Come with Clouds Descending* (CP 114)

Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.

Now redemption, long expected, see in solemn pomp appear;
all his saints, on earth rejected, thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! See the day of God appear!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly! Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!



The Collect

Officiant Together, let us pray.

All God of power and mercy,
you call us once again
to celebrate the coming of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes,
he may find us waiting in awe and wonder
for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.



Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 146:4-9

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

Officiant Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God;

All **Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever;**

Officiant Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

All **The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**

Officiant The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

All **The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**



Reading

James 5:7-10

Reader A reading from the Letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Reader

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me."



Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Reader

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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 The Rev. Molly Finlay



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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

(CP 89)

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. **[Refrain]**

O come, O Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. **[Refrain]**



The Dismissal

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

All Thanks be to God.

