

# St. John the Divine Anglican Church



Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Service of the Word

We gather on the unceded territory of the Squamish Nation

[www.squamishanglicanchurch.ca](http://www.squamishanglicanchurch.ca) [info@squamishanglicanchurch.ca](mailto:info@squamishanglicanchurch.ca)

1930 Diamond Road, Squamish

Phone number: 604-898-5100



Diocese of New Westminster  
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

*Take a deep breath.  
And again.*

*We light the candle of Love*

**Advent Prayer**

Holy One,  
We thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of daring love. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle – even when we cannot yet see a better day when we will act like the human family we are, ignite the flame of love within us, that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out.

***The Gathering of the Community***

Leader                    Restore us, O Creator of the stars of night;  
**All                         show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Leader                    Will you not give us life again,  
**All                         so that your people may rejoice in you?**

Leader                    Show us your mercy, O God,  
**All                         and grant us your salvation.**

Leader                    Blessed is the Christ who comes in your name!  
**All                         Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Leader                    Dear friends in Christ,  
                                 as we turn our hearts and minds  
                                 to worship almighty God,  
                                 let us confess our sins.  
**All                         Most merciful God,**  
**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.**

Leader Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,  
that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Leader May the Peace of God be with you.

**All And also with you.**

**Act of Praise: People Look East**

CP #91

People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.

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.

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.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 734588-A*

### **The Collect of the Day**

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.

God of hope, you call us from the exile of our sin with the good news of restoration; you build a highway through the wilderness; you come to us and bring us home. Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **The Proclamation of the Word**

#### **First Reading: 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 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.

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,  
**you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.**  
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
**and blotted out all their sins.**  
I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,  
**for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who  
turn their hearts to him.**  
Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,  
**that his glory may dwell in our land.**  
Mercy and truth have met together;  
**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**  
Truth shall spring up from the earth,  
**and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**  
The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,  
**and our land will yield its increase.**  
Righteousness shall go before him,  
**and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

**Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15A**

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

### Wait for the Lord

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and common time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system contains the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second system contains the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taizé Community, 1984  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
© 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

*All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 734588-A*

### Gospel: 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."

### Sermon

## **The Apostle's Creed**

Leader            Let us confess our faith as we say,

**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 of the People**

**Offertory Hymn:** Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

CP #100

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus says your God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness, bowed beneath oppressions 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, the 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 shred abroad; and all flesh shall see the token that  
God's Word is never broken.

*We invite you to make a gift to support the ministry of St. John the Divine. St. John's accepts e-transfers, online donations through the website and mailed cheques. To learn more, go to*

[squamishanglicanchurch.ca/pages/donatetostjohn-the-divine-squamish](http://squamishanglicanchurch.ca/pages/donatetostjohn-the-divine-squamish)

Leader Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,  
All **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 forever. Amen**

Leader Glory to God  
All **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, forever and ever. Amen**

Leader May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power  
of the Holy Spirit.  
All **Amen.**

+++++

### **St. John the Divine Prayers for December 6th, 2020**

#### **The Church**

The Anglican CanAsian Ministry (ACAM) Group

The Deanery of Kingsway – The Reverend Wilmer Toyoken, Regional  
Dean

St. John the Divine – The Reverend Cameron Gutjahr

#### **Immediate Prayer Requests**

Edie, Jessica, Susan, Eleanor, Lori, The Howe Sound Women's Centre, the  
residents of Hilltop House, the residents of Shannon Falls and the  
patients of Squamish General Hospital.



In this time of COVID-19, we pray for all who are sick, for all who are grieving, for health care professionals, researchers and emergency personnel.

+++++

### **A Reflection on Prayer**

by Joanna R.

Some may view my life as ordinary and perhaps it is. Yet, I have much to be grateful for: today notably a new refill for my pen, homemade pizza for supper and freshly ironed sheets on the bed. Perhaps it's all perspective? It rained most of today and my dog is ill.

I think thankfulness, gratitude, and prayer are dear friends.

As I cook I'm grateful for the provision of ingredients, invariably that leads me to think of the farmers growing my food but also pray for those who are hungry as they fall asleep. Gratitude / thankfulness and prayer, once again, hand in hand. As I walk, I'm grateful my shoes are comfy. I find myself admiring the greens in the trees, the white and grey of the passing clouds over the freshly fallen snow.

"What is so special about a rainy day?" an acquaintance once said to me. For those that can't see, or with failing eye sight, seeing a rainy day is a wished-for joy. Thus, I am humbled by God's goodness, and thankful that I can see the many trees, and the torrential rain splashing on the street.

As we navigate Advent and Christmas, which will be a different experience to bygone years, let us not wish away the time, longing-for-it-to-end, but instead extract the happiness from the common, ordinary, things.

We have an opportunity to pray for those around us, and share our gratitude, even when we can't meet: a kind note, a text, a letter in the post, or a phone call.

How will you pray this Advent?

What are you grateful for?

