

Evening Prayer

Second Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

(adapted from the *Book of Alternative Services*, pages 66-71)

Opening Sentence of Scripture: I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to his word. *Luke 1.38*

Officiant God our Father,
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary
that she was to be the mother of your Son.
Though Mary was afraid,
she responded to your call with joy.
Help us, whom you call to serve you,
to share like her in your great work
of bringing to our world your love and healing.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
People Amen.

Opening Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven

1 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

2 'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever
say
'Most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

Text: S. Baring-Gould (translator)
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

The Proclamation of the Word

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am

living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

ROMANS 16:25-27

ADVENT ANTIPHON: *O CLAVIS DAVID*

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

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

Luke 1.46-55 Music: Russian Chant.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; *
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

AMEN.

ADVENT ANTIPHON: O CLAVIS DAVID

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!***

The congregation may stand or sit for a Gospel reading. The reader may say,

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to . . .

People Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then at the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the

servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

LUKE 1:26-38

Sermon : *The Obedience of Faith: The Key of the House of David.*

A sermon or other comment on the readings is appropriate at principal services on Sundays and at other major gatherings of the Christian community. A silence for reflection may follow.

Affirmation of Faith

Apostle's Creed

The celebrant may invite the people, in these or similar words, to join in the recitation of the creed.

Celebrant Let us confess our faith, as we say,

All **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.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

**In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying,
"Lord Jesus, come soon."**

For the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church throughout the world. Fill it with all truth, and peace. Guide all bishops, clergy, and people by the light of your word, especially our Bishop Bruce, ; our Metropolitan, Archbishop Ron Cutler; National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop Mark MacDonald; our Primate Archbishop Linda Nicholls; the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby.

In our Diocesan Fellowship of prayer, we pray for St. John, Brookbury; St. Paul, Bury; and St. Peter, Cookshire

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world.

O Wisdom from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

For our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, that her heart may incline to your will and she may know whose servant she is. For our Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, our premier François Legault and for all the local authorities that they may seek the good and wellbeing of all people.

O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arms and ransom us. **Lord Jesus, come soon!.**

In our ecumenical cycle of prayer we pray for in the Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Christian faith communities in Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan. We pray for:

- an end to repression of people and to threats of military confrontation, especially on the Korean peninsula
- the reunification of Korea, that peace and justice might prevail
- peaceful resolution of the many disputed claims to islands in the South China Sea by Taiwan and its neighbours and for greater understanding and cooperation between Taiwan and mainland China.
- women and other marginalized groups, and the inequalities they experience
- greater acceptance of immigrants that they might make a positive contribution
- new hope and meaning for the young, amid pressures of competition and consumerism.

We pray also for the people of Yemen, that a way to peace and safety might be found.

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all people will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

For all those who are suffering the anxieties of loneliness and separation, for all those who are faced with homelessness and unsafe living conditions – grant comfort, solace, and shelter. To all those in our midst who are suffering from illness and anxiety (*whom we name aloud or in the silence of our heart*)

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison. **Lord Jesus, come soon!.**

Finally we pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. In our community we remember especially Neil Huntington. Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, **And May light perpetual shine upon them!.**

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Lord Jesus, come soon!.

The Collect of the Day:

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,
to be the mother of our
Lord and Saviour,
now fill us with your grace,
that we in all things may embrace your will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: People Look East, The Time is Near!
Common Praise 91

Dismissal

Then may be said or sung,

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost, Alleluia is added to the

dismissal and the people's response

May the Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.