

Sunday 4th December 2022 2nd Sunday of Advent

Hymn 1 Hark! A herald voice is calling

1 Hark, a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is near,' it seems to say,
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
waken, children of the day!'

2 Wakened by the solemn warning
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling
shines upon the morning skies.

3 Lo, the Lamb, so long expected
comes with pardon down from heav'n;
let us meet him with repentance,
pray that we may be forgiv'n.

4 So when love comes forth in judgment,
debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,
faithful may he find his servants
watching till the dawn appear.

1st Reading Isaiah 11.1-10

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord .
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord .
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Psalm 72.1-7, 72.18-21

¹ Give the king your judgement, O God:
and your righteousness to the son of a king,

² That he may judge your people rightly:
and the poor of the land with equity.

³ Let the mountains be laden with peace
because of his righteousness:
and the hills also with prosperity for his people.

⁴ May he give justice to the poor among the people:
and rescue the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor.

⁵ May he live while the sun endures:
and while the moon gives light,
throughout all generations.

⁶ May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:
and as showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his time shall righteousness flourish:
and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸ Let his name live for ever:
and endure as long as the sun.

¹⁹ Let all peoples use his name in blessing:
and all nations call him blessed.

²⁰ Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel:
who alone does great wonders.

²¹ Blessed be his glorious name for ever:
and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.
Amen, Amen.

2nd Reading Romans 15.4-13

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,

⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,
⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name’;
¹⁰ and again he says,
‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;
¹¹ and again,
‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him’;
¹² and again Isaiah says,
‘The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.’
¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Matthew 3.1-12

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
² ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’
³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.”’
⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.
⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan,
⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them,
‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance.
⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
¹¹ ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

Hymn 2

The voice of God goes out to all the world

1. The voice of God goes out to all the world;
his glory speaks across the universe.

The great King's herald cries from star to star:
"With power, with justice, he will walk his way!"

2. The Lord has said, "Receive my messenger,
my promise to the world, my pledge made fresh,
a lamp to every nation, light from light:
with power, with justice, he will walk his way!"

3. "The broken reed he will not trample down,
nor set his heel upon the dying flame.
he binds the wounds, and health in his hand:
with power, with justice, he will walk his way!"

4. "His touch will bless the eyes that darkness held,
the lame shall run, the halting tongue shall sing,
and prisoners laugh in light and liberty:
with power, with justice, he will walk his way!"

Hymn 3 There's a light upon

There's a light upon the mountains, and the day is at the spring,
When our eyes shall see the beauty and the glory of the King;
Weary was our heart with waiting, and the night-watch seemed so long,
But His triumph-day is breaking, and we hail it with a song.

In the fading of the starlight we can see the coming morn;
And the lights of men are paling in the splendors of the dawn;
For the eastern skies are glowing with lights of hidden fire,
And the hearts of men are stirring with the throb of deep desire.

There's a hush of expectation, and a quiet in the air;
And the breath of God is moving in the fervent breath of prayer;
For the suffering, dying Jesus is the Christ upon the throne,
And the travail of our spirit is the travail of His own.

He is breaking down the barriers, He is casting up the way;
He is calling for His angels to build up the gates of day;
But His angels here are human, no the shining hosts above,
For the drum-beats of His army are the heart-beats of our love.

Hark! we hear a distant music, and it comes with fuller swell;
'Tis the triumph song of Jesus, of our King Emmanuel;
Zion, go ye forth to meet Him, and my soul, be swift to bring
All thy sweetest and thy dearest for the triumph of our King.