

The Parish Church of ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

2175 1st Street, WBL | 651.429.5351 | www.stjohnwilderness.org



Pray.Grow.Serve

First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021

A Brief History of Advent and Its Traditions

The tradition of keeping Advent probably began in the 4th Century as a longer period of 40 days, similar to Lent, with fasting and other acts of self-denial. Some churches use purple and others blue for the season of Advent. St. John in the Wilderness uses blue to reflect the change in season and to emphasize Advent as a season of joyous expectation.

The primary symbol of Advent is the Advent wreath, a wreath with three blue (or purple) candles, and one pink candle. Some churches assign a Christian ideal such as faith, hope and love to each candle, to serve as a reminder of how we are to live our lives as faithful Christians. The traditional significance of four candles is simply in their countdown to the Advent of Christ. Each Sunday in Advent a candle is lit (lighting the pink candle on the third Sunday).

The third Sunday in Advent, often called Gaudete Sunday, is set aside to be more of a celebratory time, a break from the solemnity of Advent, and so its color is rose with the “rose” candle and (sometimes) rose vestments. The name Gaudete Sunday comes from the opening words of the Latin introit antiphon for the day: Gaudete in Domino semper, iterum dico, Gaudete. (Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice.) Some Advent wreaths will also have a white pillar candle in the middle. The white candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and symbolizes the light of Christ that has come into the world.

While no one is exactly sure where the tradition of the Advent wreath came from, it was most likely a pagan custom in Germany. The circular wreath may have represented the sun, which is seen in that part of the world only for a very brief period each day; the candles in the wreath providing the precious light that is so dim during the long northern European winters. We now think of the circular wreath as representing God without beginning or end and the lit candles as the light of Christ which grows brighter as we edge closer to Christmas.

A nice family tradition in Advent is to have a brief candle lighting ceremony or ritual before dinner on Sunday evening with a reading from the Gospel and a prayer, followed by the lighting of the candles. Children especially love and need rituals, and lighting the candles becomes a particularly popular part of the home devotion. You can find the Advent prayers on pages 211-212 in the Book of Common Prayer.

St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church
White Bear Lake, Minnesota

The Holy Eucharist

*The Episcopal Church uses a number of resources in our worship. While this bulletin contains most of what you need to participate fully, our music is found in the blue hymnals in the pew racks. **Hymns are sung in 10:30 worship only.** We encourage all worshippers to acquaint themselves with all our worship resources: red copies of the Book of Common Prayer and black copies of the Holy Bible are also found in the pew racks. Feel free to find the prayers and the scripture readings in these books.*

Prelude

Ringing of the bell

Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn: *Richmond* Hymnal, no. 72 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes

The Advent candles are lighted.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

The Collect for Purity

BCP, p. 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Gloria BCP, p. 356; or Hymnal, no. S 278

Together let us say (sing),

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

BCP, p. 211

Presider God be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The People may be seated for the reading of the lessons.

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Holy Bible, p. 645

Reader A reading from Jeremiah:

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of God for the People of God.
People Thanks be to God.

The Response: Psalm 25:1-9 *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

BCP, p. 614

Reader Let us read the appointed portion of the Psalm responsively by whole verse.

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Holy Bible, p. 960

Reader A reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians:

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader The Word of God for the People of God.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn: Aberystwyth

Hymnal, no. 640

Watchman, tell us of the night

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise
2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high - er yet that star a -
3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to

are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -
scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its
dawn. Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray
course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone
are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it
gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav-eler, a - ges
hie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav-eler, lo! the

brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.
are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

Two groups may sing antiphonally, alternating by sentences.

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ
 according to Luke

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon The Rev. Margaret Thor, Deacon

Please stand as you are able.

The Nicene Creed BCP, p. 358

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.
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 and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped 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.

The Prayers of the People

Deacon Our Lord Jesus calls us to watch and pray,
so let's do that now, responding to *Lord, in your mercy* with **come and save your people.**

Lord Jesus, thank you for coming in the flesh at Bethlehem, and for coming to us whenever we gather in your name. Keep us alert and watchful through the dark night of this world, and give us confidence as we wait for your coming in glory.

Lord, in your mercy, come and save your people.

We pray for your church—its people and pastors. Keep us alert and watchful in support of one another, guard us from everything false and untrue, and shine on us with the light of your holy word.

Lord, in your mercy, come and save your people.

We pray for the people of the world. Wake all people up to your just judgment and to your saving blood. Keep us alert and watchful as your witnesses in the world.

Lord, in your mercy, come and save your people.

We pray for the nations. Lift the eyes of those in authority to their duty to govern wisely and well, for the good of all. Curb all terror and replace it with peace. Keep us alert and watchful to serve you by giving good service to others in our daily lives.

Lord, in your mercy, come and save your people.

Thank you for providing us with everything we need for daily living. Bring relief to all those affected by drought and poverty. Keep us alert and watchful to the needs of others, and move us to give generously to appeals at Christmas time.

Lord, in your mercy, come and save your people.

Lord, stand by those who wake or watch or weep. Rest those who are weary. Soothe those who suffer. Shield those who prosper. And come to those we know in particular need and whom we now name silently in our hearts or aloud with our lips.

(We invite you to add your own petitions.)

Lord, in your mercy, come and save your people.

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on our Allies who have fled Afghanistan in fear and danger. Bless Episcopal Migration Ministries, the Minnesota Council of Churches, and all who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide all your people towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, come and save your people.

Presider

Lord Jesus, we do not know the day or the hour that you will come with great power and glory. Keep us always alert and watchful so we may welcome you with joy. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins to God. *Silence may be kept.*

People God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says,

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem: Steal Away

Traditional Spiritual

*Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus!
Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here!
My Lord calls me, He calls me by the thunder;
the trumpet sounds within-a my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.
Green trees are bending, poor sinner stand a-trembling;
the trumpet sounds within-a my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.*

The Liturgy of the Table

*During Advent the Eucharistic Prayer is drawn from Enriching Our Worship.
Please stand as you are able.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.
From before time you made ready the creation.
Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being:
sun, moon, and stars;
earth, winds, and waters;
and every living thing.
You made us in your image,
and taught us to walk in your ways.
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;
and yet, as a mother cares for her children,
you would not forget us.
Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

The Sanctus BCP, p. 362; or Hymnal, no. S 124

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues,

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death

and to reveal the riches of your grace,

you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,

that she might conceive and bear a son,

Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,

healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

He yearned to draw all the world to himself

yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross

the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it,
or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup,
to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel
containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us,

Jesus was at table with his friends.

He took bread, gave thanks to you,

broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.

Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,

which is poured out for you and for all

for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,

do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,

and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,

who was and is and is to come,

we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,

and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts

that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth

and make us your new creation,

the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,

with Saint John all your saints,

from every tribe and language and people and nation,

to feast at the banquet prepared

from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

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

The Breaking of the Bread BCP, p. 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation:

The table of bread and wine is now made ready.
It is the table of company with Jesus and all those who love him.
So come to this table you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been to this table often,
and you who have not been for a long time;
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed.
Come, it is Christ who invites you
to meet him here.
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

O come, O come, Emmanuel



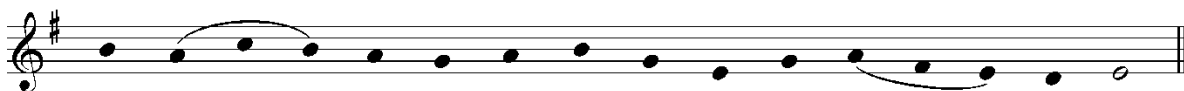
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Please stand as you are able.

Postcommunion Prayer

All: God of abundance,
 you have fed us
 with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
 you have united us

with Christ and one another;
 and you have made us one
 with all your people in heaven and on earth.
 Now send us forth
 in the power of your Spirit,
 that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
 and continue for ever
 in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Hymn for the Seventy: *St. Thomas*

Hymnal, no. 58

Lo! he comes with clouds descending

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for our sal -
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in dread - ful
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his daz - zling
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -

va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him,
 bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;

swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ia!
 pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing,
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture,
 claim the king - dom for thine own: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Dismissal

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Altar flowers are given today to the Glory of God in thanksgiving for St. John in the Wilderness by Shelley and Graydon Page.

Service Participants

Celebrants	The Gathered People of God
Ushers	Emily Brunner (8:00) John & Nell Allen (10:30)
Verger	Bryan DeSmet
Lectors	Gretchen Brunner (8:00); Mark Sears (10:30)
Eucharistic Ministers	Janet Waller (8:00); Andrew McClaren (10:30)
Music Minister	Michael Ferguson
Deacon	The Rev. Rick Todd
Deacon	The Rev. Margaret Thor
Presider	The Rev. Kate Maxwell, Curate
Celebrant	The Rev. Arthur Hancock, Rector

Giving

Thank you for supporting the mission of St. John in the Wilderness as a place where we can Pray, Grow, and Serve together. We are excited to provide an additional way to give via a QR reader. Please give it a try and let us know how it works for you.

