

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, West Roxbury

Online Liturgy for December 5, 2020

The Word of God

Prelude

Celebrant says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures forever.
Amen.

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.*

Kyrie. *Said three times.*

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

Lector **A reading from the Prophet 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 for ever.

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.

Lector. The Word of the Lord.

People. Thanks be to God.

The Psalm is to be led by the Lector, responsively, the people reading the alternate verses

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 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.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Epistle

Lector. A reading from **2 Peter 3:8-15a**

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.

Lector The word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to **Mark 1:1-8**

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

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.”

Celebrant. The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Dialogue Sermon: Everyone is to join the conversation. The Priest will offer some thoughts and listeners may respond with comments or questions.

The Creed or Affirmation of Faith

We believe in the God of life, who creates and loves people, who acts in history and who promises to never leave us alone. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who is our brother, who wants not to be idolized but to be followed. We believe that we dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit, without her we are nothing, filled with her we are able to become creative, loving and free. We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ, a community where we find companions and courage for the struggles of life, where we grow in our understanding of faith, through worship, prayer, nurture and service. We believe that God has a use for us in this time and place, that though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we are called to be instruments of God’s peace. We believe in living, hoping, laughing, and enjoying the good of the earth; We believe that people can change, and that God keeps pulling us to life and to a new world of joy and peace. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Lector reads the prayers, the people respond – Lord, hear our prayer.

In joy at the nearness of the Christ, let us offer our prayers to God, saying: Lord, hear our prayer

May the power of God's holy presence clear a path through the rubble of broken lives and hearts to make our world and all of us a new creation. For this let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

May our gracious God be always for us a shepherd to console and comfort us, to nourish all our deep hungers, and to make us live in peace forever. For this let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

May we come to find in the desert of our lives the gift of forgiveness and the waters of a new Jordan that bring cleansing refreshment. For this let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

May the God of John the Baptist and our God continue to raise up holy prophets in our midst who will tell the good news of saving rescue for all people. For this let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

May those on our parish cycle of prayer find peace and comfort from all adversity, Chris and Carla Reveliotty, Chris' sister Magda, Eric Nyberg, Ken Thelen and Lesley Quinchia and their children, Elaine Vandreuil and all their families, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

May the God who is our comfort hear the cries of all in need. For this let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

Recall us to our baptism, O Lord, and hear our cries for ourselves and for the whole world, for we pray in the name of the one who came, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and 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 says

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

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Celebrant. And now as let us pray as our Lord has taught us:

People

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.*

Communion Prayer in this time of Pandemic

Celebrant

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Spirit through the teaching of your Son Jesus Christ: Make the hearts and minds of your servants ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that we may be filled with the strength of his presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food as yet unseen.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing

Celebrant

May the peace of the Lord which passes all understanding, keeps your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of his son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And may the Blessing of God Almighty, The Father and the son be with us all and ever more. Amen

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Thank you for joining us in prayer and witness today! Join us for virtual coffee hour and hymn singing following the Zoom recording on Saturdays at 5 p.m.