

**A SIMPLE EVENING LITURGY
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Sunday, December 13, 2020



St. Columba's Episcopal Church
Boothbay Harbor, Maine



CELTIC EVENING PRAYER

In this time of the Pandemic, we are changing and being changed.

What once was urgent in our daily lives is now put on pause.

Other more immediate ways of living and dying are transforming us.

As we contemplate and experience our collective living and dying,
we pray that we can be even more unified as One in God's Love all across the world.

There is great hope in all that is happening in this world, we embrace it all.

Now in these unprecedented times, our world is hushed . . .

In the quiet and the chaos,
we're witnessing the wellspring of new life, even in the midst of death.

All the world is now, perhaps for the first time ever,
singularly focused on the healing of one another
and the healing of "this fragile Earth, our island home."

Almost since time began,
this is also the spirit in which our evenings always have begun.
At this holy hour of twilight, we are hushed throughout all time,
breathing in more deeply, lighting our candles, pausing at the end of the day
together to pray into the love of God's welcoming embrace.

In this widened space at the end of the day,
our prayers encircle the world continuously.
We rest into the power of quietness and the healing touch of God.
As were all those who have gone before us, we too are comforted and calmed
at this hour of twilight by candlelight, music and prayer.

The Celtic tradition holds that we find God in Christ in our hearts,
in each other, and in all creation.

As always, we welcome all to join with us in these timeless prayers.

So come as you are, let down your burdens,
find your rest in God's expansive Love.
This love is sweeping over you and all of Creation,
sweeping 'round and 'round the world
throughout all time and in all places.

Let us pray, this prayer offered up by our friends in Virginia,

Almighty God: Our times are in your hand. We call upon you in this hour of our need, when we are lonely and must stand apart. Be our strength, O Loving God, our calm in the midst of raging seas, our refuge and our dwelling place. Sanctify to us this time drawn away from others, even as your Son, O God of All Creation, drew away to a lonely place for prayer. Deepen our need of you, dear God, that every breath may be a whisper of the Spirit's prompting, a renewed searching of the deep things of God. Stir up in us the great act of intercession, that we may spend our time apart in prayer for the world you created and sustain. Bless us in our turning toward you, and make us a blessing to those who stand in need of you, the whole fragile earth. All this we ask in the name of great Physician our healer, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<https://mailchi.mp/vts/a-prayer-and-worship-resource-pack-from-vts-2615050>

With God's help, our gifts become the blessings we seek for the world.

A SIMPLE EVENING LITURGY

Welcome

The Rev. Maria J. Hoecker

Lighting of the third Advent Candle

Reader: O Key of David, Jesus Christ,
the gates of heaven open at your command,

People: ***come and show us the way to salvation.***

(To the tune of "Away in a Manger")

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

(A short period of silence will be kept.)

Opening Responses

Iona Abbey Worship Book pg. 141

Leader: Peace on each one who comes in need,
All: Peace on each one who comes in joy.

Leader: Peace on each one who offers prayers,
All: Peace on each one who offers song.

Leader: Peace of the Maker, Peace of the Son,
All: Peace of the Spirit the Triune One.

Opening Collect of the Day

Leader: God be with you.
All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray,

Leader: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Hymn #75 "There's a voice in the wilderness crying"

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a —
 2 O ——— Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 but the word of our God ——— en - du - reth, the ———

call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst — of

high - way, a high - way for our God! The —
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 flowers of the field they — per - ish, like
 feed his ——— flock like a shep - herd, the

lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll

pla - ces where the Lord our — God — may go!
 na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way;
 lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876–1961), alt.

Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (b. 1904)

Prayer

Leader: O God, for your love for us, warm and brooding,
which has brought us to birth and opened our eyes
to the wonder and beauty of creation,

All: *We give You thanks.*

Leader: For your love for us, wild and freeing,
which has awakened us to the energy of creation:
to the sap that flows,
the blood that pulses,
the heart that sings,

All: *We give You thanks.*

Leader: For your love for us, compassionate and patient,
which has carried us through our pain,
wept beside us in our sin,
and waited with us in our confusion.

All: *We give You thanks.*

Leader: For your love for us, strong and challenging,
which has called us to risk for you,
asked for the best in us,
and shown us how to serve.

All: *We give You thanks.*

Leader: O God we come to celebrate
that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us,
and at the heart of all life.
For us when we forget your gift of love
made known to us in Jesus,
and draw us into your presence.

THE WORD OF GOD

Gospel for the Day John 1:6-8,19-28

The Message

The Life-Light

There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light.

Thunder in the Desert

When Jews from Jerusalem sent a group of priests and officials to ask John who he was, he was completely honest. He didn't evade the question. He told the plain truth: "I am not the Messiah."

They pressed him, "Who, then? Elijah?"

"I am not."

"The Prophet?"

"No."

Exasperated, they said, "Who, then? We need an answer for those who sent us. Tell us something—anything!—about yourself."

"I'm thunder in the desert: 'Make the road straight for God!' I'm doing what the prophet Isaiah preached."

Those sent to question him were from the Pharisee party. Now they had a question of their own: "If you're neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet, why do you baptize?"

John answered, "I only baptize using water. A person you don't recognize has taken his stand in your midst. He comes after me, but he is not in second place to me. I'm not even worthy to hold his coat for him."

These conversations took place in Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing at the time.

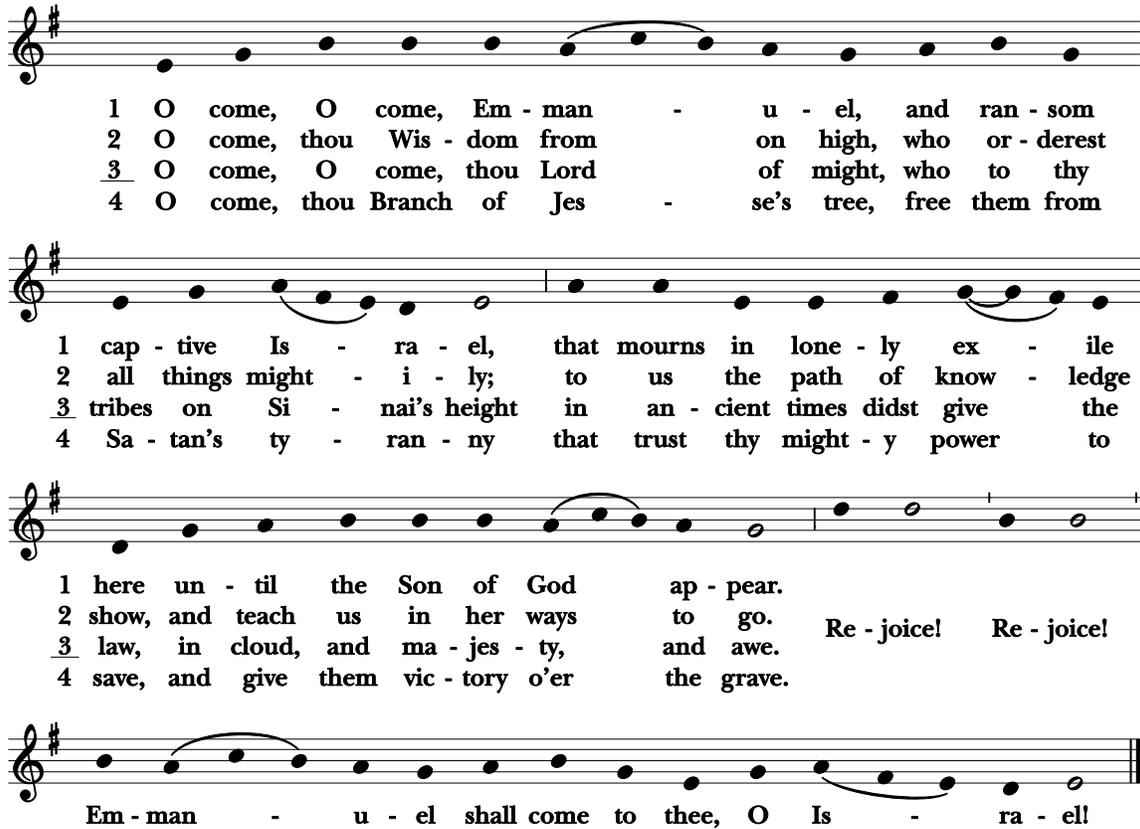
Here ends the reading.

Response

All are invited to reflect on the readings with a symbolic action to declare their engagement with their prayers of thanksgiving and concern; be it lighting a candle, meditating, placing stones in sand, ringing a bell, planting seeds, drawing or writing.

a period of silence follows

Hymn #56 “O come, O come, Emmanuel” (st. 1-4)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from

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

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.

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

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811–1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Prayer

(Here is opportunity for prayers of concern, spoken or unspoken, each prayer being followed by silence.)

We bring to God
 someone whom we have met or remembered today
 and for whom we want to pray

(Silence)

We bring to God
 someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer

(Silence)

We bring to God
 a troubled situation in our world tonight

(Silence)

We bring to God, silently,
 someone whom we find hard to forgive or trust

(Silence)

We bring ourselves to God
 that we might grow in generosity of spirit,
 clarity of mind,
 and warmth of affection.

(Silence)

Hymn #539 "O Zion haste"

O Zi - on, haste, thy mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
 Pro - claim to ev - ery peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
 Send her - alds forth to bear the mes - sage glo - rious;
 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere thou meet him,

to tell to all the world that God is Light;
 that God, in whom they live and move, is Love:
 give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;
 make known to ev - ery heart his sav - ing grace;

that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
 tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion,
 pour out thy soul for them in prayer vic - to - rious
 let none whom he hath ran - somed fail to greet him,

one soul should fail to know his love and might.
 and died on earth that all might live a - bove.
 till God shall bring his king - dom's joy - ful day.
 through thy ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain

Pub - lish glad ti - dings: ti - dings of peace,
 ti - dings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion and re - lease.

Words: Mary Ann Thomson (1834–1923), alt.

Music: *Tidings*, James Walch (1837–1901)

Closing Responses

Leader: O Trinity of Love,
You have been with us at the world's beginning,

All: *Be with us till the world's end.*

Leader: You have been with us at our life's shaping,

All: *Be with us at our life's end.*

Leader: You have been with us at the sun's rising,

All: *Be with us till the day's end.*

Amen.

The Blessing

Traces of Glory pg. 12

Rejoice in the Lord: pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances. Do not quench the Spirit. Hold fast to what is good, abstain from all evil; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



*Please note that during this time of pandemic
St. Columba's building is closed until further notice.
Donations can be sent to St. Columba's Episcopal Church
32 Emery Lane, Boothbay Harbor ME 04538*

NEW! DIOCESE OF MAINE "FAITH IN MAINE" PODCASTS BY PHONE

The Diocese of Maine "Faith in Maine" podcast (always the most recent episode) is now accessible by telephone!

The permanent phone number to listen to Faith in Maine podcasts is: **207-223-6402**



*Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown
Bishop of The Diocese of Maine*

*Officiant: The Rev. Maria J. Hoecker,
Rector of St. Columba's Episcopal Church*

*Musician, IT, and Sound Engineer: Guy Scott
Bulletin Preparation: Gretchen Feblau*

All prayers from the Iona Abbey Worship Book. 2001.
All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked *The Message* or MSG are taken from
THE MESSAGE, copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson.
Used by permission of NavPress. All rights reserved.
Represented by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service
obtained from OneLicense with license #A-700276. All rights reserved.

If you would like to contribute to our online and community ministries, your special gift can be
sent to: St. Columba's Church
32 Emery Lane
Boothbay Harbor ME 04538

Or you can directly send us an online donation through the link on the Episcopal Diocese of Maine
home page: <https://www.episcopalmaine.org/about-us/about-us-for-everyone/giving-online>

St. Columba's Church
32 Emery Lane
Boothbay Harbor ME 04538

All Saints by-the-Sea Chapel
All Saints Road
Southport ME 04576