

The Second Sunday of Advent • December 6, 2020 • 11:00 A.M.



Services now available online through

Facebook Live: [Facebook.com/StJohnSouthampton](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnSouthampton)

Sunday Services

8:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 A.M. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:00 A.M. – Morning Prayer, Rite I

Weekday Services

Monday – Friday
8:10 A.M. – Morning Prayer, Rite I
6:00 P.M. – Evening Prayer, Rite I

Cover: *The Preaching of St. John the Baptist* by Pieter Bruegel the Elder in the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest

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Opening Hymn 65

Prepare the way, O Zion



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

Opening sentence and invitatory

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

People **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

Officiant Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

People **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Officiant The earth is the Lord's for he made it

People **O come, let us adore him.**

Venite Psalm 95:1-7; 96:9, 13

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; *

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, *

and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth, *

and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his and he made it, *

and his hands prepared the dry land.

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O come, let us worship and fall down *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God, *
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, *
and with righteousness to judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Benedixisti, Domine

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.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

A Lesson from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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;

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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.

Here endeth the Lesson

Benedictus es, Domine

**Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou for the Name of thy Majesty; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths,
and dwellest between the Cherubim; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A Lesson from the second letter of Saint Peter to the Corinthians

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

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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.

Here endeth the Lesson

Jubilate Deo Psalm 100

O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God;
it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; *
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving
and into his courts with praise; *
be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name.
For the Lord is gracious;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,

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the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and 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.**

Suffrages A

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

R. **And grant us thy salvation.**

V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

R. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. **For only in thee can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let thy way be known upon earth;

R. **Thy saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. **And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.**

Intercessions

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Collect of the Day

Merciful God, who sent thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

O God, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord: Grant us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy favor; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, who didst stretch out thine arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of thy saving embrace: So clothe us in thy Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know thee to the knowledge and love of thee; for the honor of thy Name. **Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People:

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.**

**We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

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A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Officiant

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Officiant

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20, 21

Announcements

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Sermon Hymn 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

A Lesson from the Gospel according to Saint Mark

Mark 1:1-8

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;

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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.”

Sermon

The Rev. W. Patrick Edwards

The Offertory

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

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Retiring Hymn 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are arranged in five numbered stanzas, with the first line of each stanza corresponding to the vocal line. The lyrics are: 1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose 1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en, 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre - 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther 1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings. 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come. 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay. 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more. 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Blessed, hallowed, worshiped, and adored be our Lord Jesus Christ on His throne in Heaven, on the altars of His churches, and in the hearts of His faithful people. And may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercies of God rest in peace.

Officiant and People

And may Light Perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

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Dedications

The candles on the altar this month , and the flowers on the altar this week, are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Derek J. Roessle-Meerman by his family and also given in loving memory of Elosie Warner by her daughter, Joan Zaluski.



Verse of the Week

“They have left the straight road and have gone astray, following the road of Balaam son of Bosor, who loved the wages of doing wrong.”

2 Peter 2:15

“ *Quote of the Week* ”



“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.”

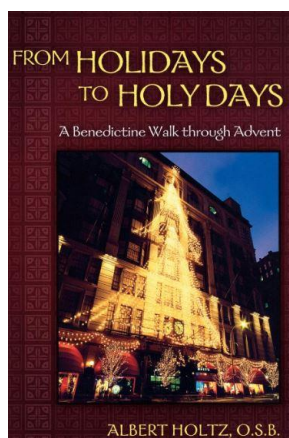
St Ambrose of Milan

Bishop of Milan, theologian, and one of the most influential ecclesiastical figures of the 4th century, d. 4 April 397

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Advent, 2020

at Saint John's Episcopal Church, Southampton
Study and Reflections with Brother Albert Holtz, OSB's book
From Holidays to Holy Days: A Benedictine Walk through Advent



Fr Patrick will read from these meditations and offer reflections and discussions for each evening in the season of Advent through New Year's during the night office of compline.

These can be seen on St John's Facebook page (StJohnSouthampton) and Fr Patrick's YouTube channel, found by searching for Fr. W. Patrick Edwards from that Web Site.

Each year, just before Thanksgiving, the “holidays” begin: Santa Claus figures and candy canes appear in store windows, wreaths and Christmas trees begin to brighten bank lobbies, and milling crowds start filling shopping malls. Then, with Christmas and New Year's Day, the holidays come to an abrupt end. But, just at the moment that merchants and shoppers begin their hectic preparations for Christmas, the Church begins a period of quiet reflection in joyful anticipation of that same event.

As far back as the fourth century, Christians have been observing Advent as a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

The frantic activity of shopping and getting ready for the “holidays” provides a striking contrast to the quiet reflection and joyful, patient waiting that mark the “holy days” of Advent.

How can we Christians hold on to the deeper spiritual meaning of our religious feasts during this busy time? One answer lies in the nature of Advent itself as a time for quiet reflection and contemplation.

Brother Holtz defines contemplation as “a long, loving look at the real,” and he melds this idea with the theology of Saint Benedict of Nursia, the ancient founder of his order, and Benedict's two fundamental principles: that God is present everywhere, and that Christ is present in every single person we meet.

Holtz believes that if we are trying to maintain a deep and meaningful spirituality of Advent and Christmas, while at the same time living in the hectic round of Christmas shopping and decorating, why not devote some of our Advent reflections to taking a long, loving look at the realities of the holiday season? He asserts that we should be able to find in the trappings of the “holidays” some good spiritual insights into the mysteries of Advent and Christmas.

The book is a series of brief meditations based on the author's walks around his native Newark, New Jersey during the holiday season, one for each day from the first Sunday of Advent through January 1. Each day's reflection is based on some familiar aspect of the holidays, such as Christmas shopping, welcoming guests, or putting up lights. The reader is invited to walk beside the monk and share in his reflections as he watches the city prepare for and then celebrate the holidays. On the bustling sidewalks, he introduces us to Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Jesus himself, all speaking their ancient Advent and Christmas messages of peace and hope and good will.

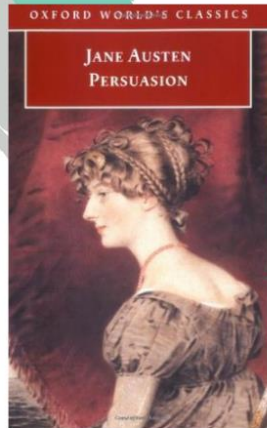
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Book Club Meeting

Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 PM



St. John's Episcopal Church
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Please message us or contact
Deborah Edwards or Sandra J. Klemuk
for more information.

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