ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH

Holetown, St. James, Barbados

TO BE A BEACON RADIATING GOD'S LOVE AMONG ALL PEOPLE

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(YEAR C)
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024





7:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon 9:15 a.m. Sung Holy Eucharist and Sermon

Rector: The Reverend Canon Beverley Sealy-Knight

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LITURGY OF THE WORD	· ·	NOREEN COWARD
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ORGAN PRELUDE

ORGANIST: DR. PHILIP FORDE, ARCM, FRCO

ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY:

WEEK 2: PEACE

CELEBRANT: Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope. Let us light it again to show that our hope continues. (Light the first candle.)

LEADER: John the Baptist called on the people of his day to prepare the path for the coming of the Messiah. He called them to repent, turn around, change their ways. To live in peace with others, we need to repent and change directions. We light this second candle to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He shows us how to share God's peace with others. (**Light the second candle.**)

LEADER: The prayer of St. Francis asks God to help us be peacemakers. Let us say it together:

ALL: Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is sadness, joy; and where there is darkness, light.

Grant that we may seek not so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive, in pardoning that we are pardoned and in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

INTROIT: HYMN 50

- Rejoice, Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear! The evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh; Up, watch in expectation! At midnight comes the cry.
- See that your lamps are burning; replenish them with oil; look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
 The marriage-feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand; rise up, ye heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!
- 3. Our hope and expectation,
 O Jesus, now appear;
 arise, thou Sun so longed for,
 above this darkened sphere!
 With hearts and hands uplifted,
 we plead, O Lord, to see

the day of earth's redemption and ever be with thee!

PRESIDENT

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL:

And blessed be His Kingdom, now and forever. Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The following may be said by the President and people:

THE PRAYER OF INTENT

ALL:

Blessed Lord and Father, we have assembled in your Name and in fellowship with one another. Enable us by your grace to offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; to proclaim and respond to your holy word. Teach us to pray for your world and your Church. Grant that we, confessing our sins, may worthily offer to you our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice and eat and drink of your spiritual food in this Holy Sacrament. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

ALL:

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 KYRIES

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PRESIDENT: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you .

THE COLLECT:

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 for ever. **Amen**.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING: BARUCH 5:1-9

Jerusalem, the personified mother of the nation, has stated that the Exile happened because many Israelites did not obey the Law of Moses, but, she has said, God has noted the people's return to obedience to him, so the time of their return to Jerusalem is imminent.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Book of Baruch, Chapter 5, beginning at the first verse.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,

and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;

put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;

for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east,

and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low

and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The Word of the Lord

The people: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 16 THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH

Luke 1: 68-79

This is a song of thanksgiving and prophecy. The child will be called the prophet of the Most High and will make a way for the Lord.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, * born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies, * from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers * and to remember his holy covenant.

- This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, * to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- Free to worship him without fear, *
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.
- You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- To give his people knowledge of salvation * by the forgiveness of their sins.
- In the tender compassion of our God * the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son:* and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now:* and shall be forever. **Amen**.

THE SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

In the verses following the salutation of the letter, Paul thanks God for the Christians at Philippi, for sharing in the community of faith ever since their conversion. He expresses confidence that God will complete, at the end of the era, the transformation to godliness already begun in them.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in Epistle of Paul to the Philippians, Chapter 1, beginning at the third verse.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord

The people: Thanks be to God.

HYMN FOR THE GRADUAL: 52

- The Advent of our King our prayers must now employ, and we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.
- The Everlasting Son incarnate deigns to be; himself a servant's form puts on, to set his servants free.
- Daughter of Sion, rise to meet thy lowly King; nor let thy faithless heart despise the peace he comes to bring
- 4. As Judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come again, and his true members all unite with him in heaven to reign.
- 5. Before the dawning day let sin's dark deeds be gone; the old man all be put away, the new man all put on.
- All glory to the Son
 who comes to set us free,
 with Father, Spirit, ever One,
 through all eternity.

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 3: 1-6

In language first used in the book of Isaiah to foretell the return of the Israelites from exile, Luke tells us that John the Baptist's mission is to prepare the way for Jesus, by inviting people to make new starts in life, to live ethically from now on.

Gospeler: The Lord be with you All: And also with you

Gospeler: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according

to Luke.

All: Glory to Christ Our Saviour.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

This is the Gospel of Christ

The people: Praise to Christ, our Lord.

(NRSV)

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen or 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, one in 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 was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfilment of 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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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 INTERCESSION:

FORM C

LEADER: With all our heart and all our mind let us pray to the Lord. saying, "Lord, have mercy."

LEADER: For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls: Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER: For the peace and welfare of the world, for the witness and work of the Church, and for the unity of all peoples:

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER: For our Bishops and all ministers of God's Word and Sacraments, that they may be filled with truth and love and be found without fault at the Lord's coming:

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER: For the leaders of the nations and for those in authority among us, that they may serve justice and promote the freedom and dignity of all peoples: Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression, and for all who labour in the cause of human liberation and fulfillment: Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER: For the sick, the suffering, the sorrowful, and the dying; and for all who remember and care for them:

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER: For deliverance from the ravages of hurricane, earthquake, drought or flood, and for a just and proper use of God's creation:

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER: For ourselves and all who confess the name of Christ, that we may show forth the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvellous light:

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Silence may be kept.

ALL: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people in the multitude of your mercies. Look with compassion on us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O Lord of love, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

THE ACT OF PENITENCE

PRESIDENT:

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(1 John 1: 8 - 9)

PRESIDENT:

Let us therefore confess our sins.

ALL:

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and one another, in thought, word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are sorry and repent of all our sins. For your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name. *Amen*.

THE ABSOLUTION

PRESIDENT:

Almighty God, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

PRESIDENT:

We are the Body of Christ. By the one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, and have all been made to drink of the one Spirit.

ALL:

Let us then pursue the things that make for peace and build up the common life.

PRESIDENT

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

The President and people shall greet one another in the name of the Lord.

SONG OF PEACE: LET THERE BE PEACE

Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
With peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

HYMN FOR THE OFFERTORY: 53

- 1. Thy kingdom come, O God, thy rule, O Christ, begin; break with thine iron rod the tyrannies of sin.
- 2. Where is thy reign of peace, and purity, and love?
 When shall all hatred cease, as in the realms above?
- 3. When comes the promised time that war shall be no more, and lust, oppression, crime shall flee thy face before?
- We pray thee, Lord, arise, and come in thy great might; revive our longing eyes, which languish for thy sight.
- Men scorn thy sacred name, and wolves devour thy fold; by many deeds of shame we learn that love grows cold.
- 6. O'er heathen lands afar thick darkness broodeth yet arise, O morning Star, arise, and never set!

THE PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE

Father, we offer you these gifts which you have given us: this bread, this wine, this money. With them we offer ourselves, our lives, and our work, to become through your Holy Spirit a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice. As this bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, so may we and all your people become channels of your love; through the same Christ our Lord **Amen**

THE EUCHARIST PRAYER

PRESIDENT: The Lord be with you

ALL: And also with you

PRESIDENT: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

PRESIDENT: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **ALL**: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PRESIDENT:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father almighty, everlasti`ng God:

ADVENT:

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in Him of eternal life; that when He shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold His appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

ALL:

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!

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER - FORM C:

PRESIDENT:

e give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and, above all, in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.
For in these last days you sent Him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In Him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

For, on the night that He was betrayed He took bread, and when He had given thanks to you, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take this, and eat it: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And after supper
he took the cup of wine:
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said:
"Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the New Covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.

PRESIDENT:

Therefore, Father, according to His command:

ALL: We remember His death; We proclaim His resurrection; We await His coming in glory.

PRESIDENT:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,

to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the sacrament of the Body of Christ and His Blood of the New Covenant. Unite us to your Son in His sacrifice that we, made acceptable in Him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation:

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours,

Almighty Father, now and ever.

ALL: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESIDENT:

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name; your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

President:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All:

Though we are many we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

THE AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.

THE INVITATION:

PRESIDENT:

My brothers and sisters in Christ, draw near and receive His Body which He gave for you, and His Blood, which He shed for you. Remember that He died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

ALL:

Grant gracious Lord that we may so eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and drink His blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

HYMN FOR THE COMMUNION: 589

- Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face; here faith would touch and handle things unseen; here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace, and all my weariness upon thee lean.
- 2. Here would I feed upon the bread of God; here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven here would I lay aside each earthly load; here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.
- 3. I have no help but thine; nor do I need another arm save thine to lean upon: it is enough, my Lord, enough indeed, my strength is in thy might, thy might alone.

HYMN FOR THE BLESSING: 653

 In our work and in our play, Jesus, be thou ever near, guarding, guiding, all the day keeping in thy holy fear.

- 2. Thou didst toil, O royal Child, in the far-off Holy Land, blessing labour undefiled, pure and honest, of the hand.
- 3. Thou wilt bless our play-hour too, if we ask thy succor strong; watch o'er all we say and do, hold us back from guilt and wrong.
- 4. O, how happy thus to spend work and play-time in his sight, till the rest which shall not end, till the day which knows not night!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER #1

ALL:

Almighty Father,
we thank you for feeding us
with the Body and Blood
of your Son Jesus Christ.
May we who share His Body
live His risen life;
we who drink His cup
bring life to others;
we upon whom your Spirit shines
give light to the world.
Help us to continue in faithful witness
to your Word,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your Name,

through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

THE BLESSING: ADVENT

Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen

HYMN FOR THE RECESSION: 48

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel; that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain

3. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

4. O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

Refrain

5. O come, O come, thou Lord of Might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height, in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

THE DISMISSAL

PRESIDENT: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

ALL In the name of Christ. Amen.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Please feel free to depart during the postlude, mindful of those who remain to listen.

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The St. James' Church Family would like to extend a blessed welcome to all taking part in this act of worship today.

 We pray that this service will be an inspiration to all.
- Best wishes are extended to all those celebrating a birthday or an anniversary this week. We wish them the very best and pray that they will be blessed with many more.

SPECIAL NOTICE:

Mrs. Mildred Payne will be 100 years old on December 11 this week. Her date of birth was never included on our Database and so we could not honour her at last month's celebrations.

We again ask those of you who are not on the database to submit your data to any Usher or officer of the church so that we may NOT miss such an important and significant milestone.

OUR BIRTHDAY LIST

Our records indicate that the following members are celebrating their birthdays this week. Special greetings are extended to them.

Payne, Mildred Caroline (Mrs.) 12/11/1924 (100 Years this Week)

We offer special congratulations to our sister, Mildred who reached this significant milestone *this week*.



Alleyne, Sonia (Miss) December 11



Byer, Wilfred (Mr.) December 12



Mrs. Mildred Payne December 11, 1924



The Rector with the Paynes: The late Louis (husband) and our centenarian (Mildred).

(Photographer: Karen Gurdon-Cobham)

ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Luke 3:4

