



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 2022

REFLECTION By Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Desertification of earth is becoming the norm in these troubled times of fluctuating flood and fire and desert features powerfully in today's gospel reading. The desert is the biblical place of encounter with God, the place of beginnings and of testing. The voice of John the Baptizer is heard in the Judean desert. His food and clothing are desert-derived. John is identified as the one of whom Isaiah spoke, the voice crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way...." Ecologically, the Isaian image is confronting: preparing the way involves major earthworks that reconfigure the landscape, levelling the mountains and filling the valleys to create straight paths. Yet the way is never straight and the metaphor must not be literalised. John knows this. The preparation he calls for is ongoing metanoia or reevaluating: keep on turning your lives around, keep on expanding your horizons, for the kin-dom of the heavens is "close at hand". The kin-dom is both present and yet still approaching: the verb used here, *ēngiken*, allows for this ambiguity.

The first reading from Isaiah (11:1-10) provides content to the notion of kin-dom or basileia: John is announcing the advent of God's long empire of justice and right relationship. He offers a baptism of repentance (metanoia). In other words, John's baptism presupposes a commitment to a renewed way of life. His ministry is hugely effective. It attracts "people of Jerusalem, all Judaea and the region along the Jordan River." The arrival of two groups of religious authorities prompts a fierce response: "you brood of vipers". John has no patience with those who use their privileged positions to seek their own advantage. He challenges them with the striking image of the "more powerful one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire" and will sort out those who refuse to turn their lives around (the chaff) from those who listen to the call for metanoia (the wheat). The latter are "gathered in" while the former are burned "in a fire that never goes out".

Fire is a multi-faceted image in the biblical record. In our gospel text, it is used metaphorically for the judgment on the wicked. Fire, as we well know in this dry land, is a challenging symbol: it is both friend and foe. In the first-century Manual of Discipline from the Qumran community by the Dead Sea, water, refining by fire, and "a holy Spirit" are listed together as the instruments of God's saving and purifying action. John, who may have been a member of the Qumran community, presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God's refining and purifying work in the world. We recognise our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by constantly expanding our vision and turning our lives around in the direction of God's reign of compassionate care for all God's people and for all creation.



***Today, as we gather on the second Sunday of Advent,
we light the second of the candles,
remembering how God's love was manifested
to the People of Israel through
the law and the prophets.***

Return to normal Reconciliation Times at the Cathedral

As of Tuesday 29th November the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered.

Tuesday to Friday 12.00pm

Saturday - after 8am Mass

Please note: **No** Reconciliation is offered on Monday.

To ensure a Covid safe environment for all, we kindly ask that you sanitise the areas you touched in the confessionals.

Thank you for your co-operation.



ADVENT 2022

Parish Resource

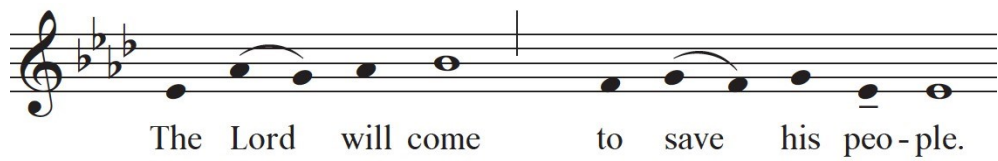
Journey through Advent with Caritas Australia's new Parish Resource, useful for small groups or individuals. Exploring seasonal themes of peace, hope, joy and love through a social justice lens, this resource offers Gospel readings, stories of people Caritas Australia serves, reflection questions, prayers, song suggestions and ideas for putting faith into action.

Visit www.caritas.org.au/advent to download the resource.

TODAY’S LITURGY—YEAR C

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.



Entrance Hymn CWBII 242 v1,2,3,7

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

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

O come, true wisdom from on high, and order all things
far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

O come, O come, great Lord of might, in ancient times
on Sinai's height you gave your chosen tribes
the law, in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

O come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of
humankind. Bid every sad divisions cease
and be yourself our Prince of Peace. Refrain

Text: Veni, veni, Emmanuel from the Great 'O Antiphons', c12th Century, vv1,3,5,6 trans. John Mason Neale 1818-1866; vv. 2,4,7 composite translation by editors of the Catholic Workshop Book 1985, alt.
TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL, 88.88 and refrain; from a 15thcent. Plainchant melody adapt. Thomas Helmore 1811-1890.

1st Reading Is 11:1-10
He judges the poor with justice.

The A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13

Response: Let Justice shall flourish in his time, and
fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king’s son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth’s bounds. (R.)
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

2nd Reading Rom 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was
meant to teach us something about hope from the examples
scripture gives of how people who did not give up were
helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to
give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following
the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice
you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ.

It can only be to God’s glory, then, for you to treat each other
in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason
Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only
so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to
the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to
God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I
shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the
wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: ‘Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’ This was the man the
prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a
leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild
honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan
district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by
him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he
saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism

he said to them, ‘Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, “We have Abraham for our father,” because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.’

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the God the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

Communion Hymn CWBII 251

Refrain: *Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.*
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

Prepare the way for the Lord. Make a straight path for God.	Refrain
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.	Refrain
All the earth will see the Lord.	Refrain
Rejoice in the Lord always. He is at hand.	Refrain
Seek first the kingdom of God, seek and you shall find.	Refrain
Joy and gladness for all who seek the Lord.	Refrain
I waited for the Lord, he heard my cry.	Refrain
Our eyes are fixed on the Lord our God.	Refrain
O Lord show us your way. Guide us in Your truth.	Refrain
Prepare the way for the Lord.	Refrain

Text: Refrain based on James 5, Psalm 27 (26)
Verses based on Isaiah 40, Phillipians 4, Matthew 6-7
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Hymn after Communion/
Recessional Hymn CWBII 239 v1,2,5

Hark! A herald voice is calling:
“Christ is near,” it seems to say;
“cast away the dreams of darkness,
waken, children of the day!”

Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the coeternal Spirit,
while unending ages run.

Text: Vox clara ecce intonate Latin probably 9th century tr. Edward Caswall 1814-1878 alt.
Tune: MERTON 87.87 William Henry Monk 1823-1889

Wedding Congratulations
Stephanie Larosa & Sanuel Lastrina
Kan Man Chan (Cecilia) & Christian Yoga Ratnapalasari



We welcome with joy through the
sacrament of
Baptism this weekend .
Jaxson Aragona
Aylah June Antiga
Sofia Mosquite

Mass Setting - 11.00am St Anne Mass-James MacMillan
- 6.30pm Missa Dixit Maria-Hassler
Offertory - 6.30pm Conditor Alme siderum-Anon
(c1400)
Communion Motet - 11.00am Ubi caritas-Gjeilo
- 6.30pm Antiphon: Jerusalem surge
Organ Postlude - 6.30pm Veni redemptor genitum
(verse 1)- Samuel Scheidt (c.1586-1654)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Tuesday 6 December - St Nicholas
Wednesday 7 December - St Ambrose (Memorial)
Thursday 8 December - The Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)
Friday 9 December - St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Saturday 10 December - Our Lady of Loreto

CATHEDRAL MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 7.00am and 1.00pm (1.00pm live
streamed - Link: www.youtube.com/user/archmelb)
Saturday 8.00am and 6.00pm. (Vigil)
Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am , 11.00am and 6.30pm. (11.00am
televised on C31. and live streamed on CAM)
Link: www.youtube.com/user/archmelb
Reconciliation will be held Tuesday to Friday at 12pm and
on Saturday mornings at 8.30am (After the 8.00am Mass)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

We pray for the sick and for all who have asked for our
prayers.
We pray for all those who have died recently,
especially Oliver Grimes and Lit Wee Nar and those
whose anniversaries we remember at this time,
especially Victor Viknesh, Kris Kiar, Lawrence Ahern,
Maureen Lynch and Antonia Saceric.
May they be welcomed by God to their heavenly home.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL PRESENTS:

A Christmas Celebration

Featuring

Cathedral Brass

Cathedral Schola

Directed by Dr Philip Matthias

Grand Organ

Anthony Halliday



A family concert of traditional and modern Christmas favourites, featuring brass, organ and choir in the beautiful and inspiring space of St Patrick's Cathedral.

Join us as we celebrate the spirit of Christmas with carols across space and time, including an Acknowledgement of Country through music. Performance will include audience participation, a children's segment and 'special guest' appearance.

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER, 3PM

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

1 CATHEDRAL PLACE, EAST MELBOURNE

TICKETS \$25

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St Patrick's Cathedral

Very Rev Werner Utri

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Rev. Michael Buck

Assistant Priest of Cathedral

Rev. Alexander Chow

Priest in Residence

Rev. Philip Mathew

Chaplain: St Vincent's Hospital

Director Music

Dr. Philip Matthias

Director

Cathedral Organist

Dion Henman

Cathedral Singers

Christopher Mason

Director

Thomas Grubb

Organist

Cathedral Parish Secretary

Julie Allan

Cathedral Office

T: 9662 2233

E: Cathedral@cam.org.au

www.stpatrickscathedral.org.au

Cathedral Administration

Assistant

Huong Nguyen

SAFEGUARDING.

Child Protection Officer:

Rev Alexander Chow

We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community. Commitment Statement display at the Cathedral's entrance & parish office.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding>

St Patrick's Cathedral Young Adult Ministry (SPCYAM) (age 18 to 40 yrs old)

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at Albert Room, CKC Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne

Last Saturday of each month; 6pm mass, followed by meal.

Contact Fr. Alex Chow
(Alexander.Chow@cam.org.au)
or info.spcyam@gmail.com

You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts.

In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad.

Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger.

At Home

Palms' [Neighbours Without Borders](#) program (January 7 – 11) will "focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church" as urged by the recent Plenary Council.

Overseas

Completing a further four days (January 12 – 15) will prepare you to meet one of the [many requests Palms has from communities](#) in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training.

Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via www.palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

