

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
2001 Windsor Drive
P.O. Box 342
Newton, Kansas 67114



Sunday, December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent
Communion in the Absence of a Priest
Worship at 10:15am

In-person & Facebook Live
[Facebook.com/stmattsnewton](https://www.facebook.com/stmattsnewton)
Website: stmatthewsnewton.org

Mask Required

Second Sunday of Advent

Peace

Last Sunday we lit the first candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace, we light it knowing that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even now where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

(Lector lights two blue candle.)

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope and peace. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Processional

"On Jordan's Bank's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Pg. 76

Opening Acclamation

Minister of the Word: Grace and peace. In the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Collect of the Day

Minister of the Word: God be with you

People: And also with you.

Minister of the Word: Let us pray.

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.*

The First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The Song of Zechariah

Luke 1:68-79

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.

The Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

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 on 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand

Seq.

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Pg. 65, 1 & 2

The Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.””

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people sit

Proclamation

Deacon Barbara Gibson

We Pray for the World and the Church

Kneeling or standing as able

The prayers may be led either by the Minister of the Word, a lector or other appointed petitioner.

You have made preparation for these days, O God, through the prophets of yore and John the Baptizer; in the Archangel Gabriel, blessed Mary, blessed Joseph and Mary's kinswoman Elizabeth. Kindle in us Advent fire also, that in our generation we may make ready the way of the Lord:

Blessed be the Lord, who sets the people free.

Reorder our lives that we may offer sure witness, for every valley shall be filled, and every mountain made low; the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways smooth and all flesh shall see your salvation:

Through holy prophets God has promised to show mercy from of old.

Bring to completion the good work begun in your Church, praying especially for Trinity and St. Matthew's and for all the people of God here gathered, confirming us in the compassion of Christ and granting insight to determine what is best, that our harvest may be for your praise:

Free to worship without fear; holy and righteous all our days.

Stir the hearts of our children to wonder this season and indwell all their hopes and longings with your presence, granting to them the joy of the Savior's birth, and a gentle summons to Christ's service:

Make the dawn from on high to break upon us.

Be with our sick, especially those whom we now name before you Anita, Beth, Danny, Dave, Delinda, Delores, Donna, Elaine, Ian, Jane, Jeff, Jerry, Jessica, Joan, Jonah, Judy, Julie, Karen, Kathleen, Kenneth, Kent, Kim, Lauren, Penny, Robert, Rose, Suzanne, Susan, Taylor and Logan and their newborn Oaklyn Mae; that they may remember your care for a troubled world, for the distressed and afflicted and those beset by hard circumstance:

Shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Make us to remember the poor whom you love, the downcast whom you shepherd, the meek of the earth, and all who cannot help themselves, that we may rise to the truth of the incarnation and extend our Lord's ministry to the least of these, Christ's sisters, and brothers:

Guide our feet into the way of peace

Pray for our Full Communion Partner, the Moravian Church, Northern and Southern Provinces

Pray for the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone

Pray for St. John's Episcopal Church, Wichita, the Reverend Christine Gilson, The Reverend Dillion Green and their lay leadership.

For the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, for our Bishop Cathleen Bascom, for all bishops and ministers, and for all the holy people of God.

For Heartland Minster and their Shepherd, The Reverend Marc McDonald, Rector of St Andrews Episcopal Church, Emporia Kansas.

We give thanks for St. Matthew's and Trinity and pray for St. Matthew's Payee Program, Northridge Elementary School their teachers, staff, students and families, Priscilla's Pet Pantry, and all outreach of our churches.

The Concluding Collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

We Exchange the Peace

Minister of the Word: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Instrumental Music

Chris Teichler

We Prepare the Table and Share the Gifts of God

Minister of Reserved Sacrament: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister of Reserved Sacrament: Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

And now our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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 of 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

The Prayer of Humble Access

The Minister of the Reserved Sacrament and People

We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Minister of the Reserved Sacrament: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. *Amen*

Hymn

"Once He Came in Blessing"

Pg. 53

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ Body. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. *Amen*

Announcements

Sunday, December 12, 2021 The Reverend Harvey Hillin will be the guest Preacher and Celebrant.

Sunday, December 19, 2021, The Greening of the Church. Please bring a snack to share and help us prepare for Christmas eve.

Recessional

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Pg. 657

Grace and Dismissal

Led by the Minister of the Reserved Sacrament

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Chris Teichler

Ministers this Service

The Rev. Barbara Gibson, *Deacon* - Minister of Reserved Sacrament

Maggie Snow, *Minister of the Word*

Fred Schroeder, *Lector*

Chris Teichler, *Organist*

Ben Teichler, *Videographer*

Charles and Nancy Craig, *Hospitality*



Altar flowers given by Ruth Cooper

"In Memory of Darling Chuck"