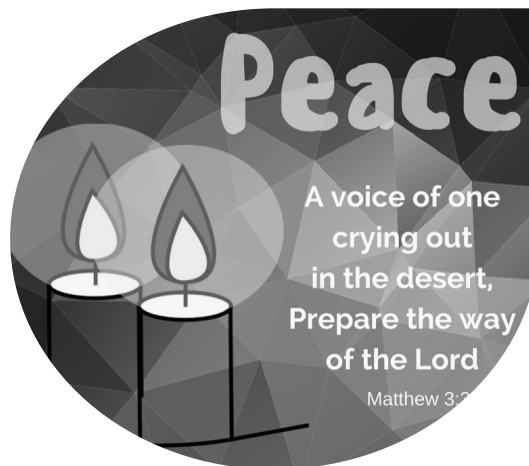


Welcome to
St. Michael's University Church

An inclusive and caring community
in the heart of Isla Vista

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent



A warm welcome to Rev. Courtney Tan. Rev Courtney has been grounded since birth in the Anglican communion, having been raised in the Church of England, and later ordained into the Episcopal Church. A primary focus of her ministry has been cross-cultural and multi-lingual populations in San Francisco, on the Californian Central Coast, and most recently as the Priest-in Charge at St. Simon's in San Fernando. At the end of December, Rev. Courtney will be beginning a new Call as the Priest-in-Charge at St. Peter's in Santa Maria. She is looking forward to meeting and learning about other congregations in the area.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF BELL

LIGHTING OF 2ND ADVENT CANDLE (PURPLE)

Please stand if you are able.

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

(The celebrant says the collect, to which the people respond **Amen.**)



Whoever you are,
whatever your story,
wherever you are on your journey,
you are welcome here.

SONG: Lift Every Voice and Sing

*Lift every voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea*

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won*

Please sit for the Reading and Psalm.

READING: ISAIAH 40:1-11

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;

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.

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

People: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13 (read antiphonally by whole verse)

- 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

Please stand if you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL HYMN: “Wait for the Lord”

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart! (X2)

GOSPEL: MARK 1:1-8

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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;
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.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL HYMN *“Wait for the Lord”*

SERMON

DIALOGUE & MUSTARD SEED

SONG: *Give Me Love (Give Me Peace on Earth) -
George Harrison*

Please stand if you are able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With wonder and compassion, we turn our hearts to God in prayer.

For all displaced people, victims of poverty, wars, and violence, for an end to all forms of oppression, suffering and discrimination, we pray.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For the expansive beauty of your creation and our renewed care for this planet, for the defenders of sacred lands and territories, we pray.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.



For leaders and nurturers, decision-makers, and those with influence,
that they may lead, and guide with integrity, justice, and compassion.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For healthy bodies, minds, and spirits, for calm when anxious, and quiet
when fearful.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For all of us on our different paths, from different faiths, yet united by a
common Source of Love.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For the hopes and intentions of this community.

For our healing presence here and beyond.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For this community, as we strive to walk in love together this Advent. As
we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For what and for whom else would we like to pray
today?(Pause)

For all of these prayers and the silent prayers in
our hearts, we pray

**God of Love, hear the prayers of your people
Amen**



PRAYER COLLECT

INVITATION *(the Deacon or Celebrant says)*

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they
reach our lips. All that we are, have been, and will be is known to God.
Still, we engage in confession, acknowledging to God all that rests
uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God's love, let us make our
confession now, first in silent prayer.

Silence

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (let us pray together):

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives—that which is beautiful and that which is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

We love with condition.

We destroy your creation.

We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone and keep the log in our own eye.

We do not always turn to you as the source of our healing.

We believe you have the power to turn us around to a more abundant way of life, so we ask that you do that. We ask that you give us the energy, empathy, patience, and imagination to be your people in all we say and do.

Amen

THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY: *Offerings are collected and all who are able stand, sing:*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant : It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Loving God. By water and the Holy Spirit, you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with every nameless and unremembered child of God, and with all the company of heaven, singing:

Celebrant and People sing "Santo, Santo, Santo"

Santo, santo, santo

Mi corazón te adora

Mi corazón te sabe decir:

"Santo eres, Señor"

Holy and gracious God: You made us in your infinite love, and when we turned away from that love, you sent Jesus Christ to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, and to draw us near to you.

On the night he was given over to suffering and death, Jesus took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues:

Recalling now Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, we gather at this table with bread and wine in celebration of life and love, work and rest, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and Her presence in our lives. Send your Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of Christ. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup

may be filled with your life and goodness. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ:

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. AMEN.

And now, as Christ has taught us, we pray:

**Our God, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name
Thy kindom 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 kindom, and the power, and the glory
For ever and ever.
Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**
Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Everyone is welcome at God's table.

Holy Eucharist

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. **Amen.**

"Everyone is welcome at God's table. Please join us in a circle on the other side of the altar. Our bread is gluten free. For bread only and not the wine, please raise your left hand. For a blessing rather than communion, place your arms across your chest. "

SILENCE

[God's first language is Silence. Everything else is a translation. – Thomas Keating]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand if you are able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

**Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

SONG: *Down By the Riverside*

*I'm gonna' lay down my heavy load
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside
I'm gonna' lay down my heavy load
Down by the riverside*

CHORUS:

*I ain't gonna study war no more,
Study war no more, study war no more
I ain't gonna study war no more,
Study war no more, study war no more*

Well, I'm gonna meet all of my family...
CHORUS

Well, I'm gonna shake hands with everyone...
CHORUS

SENDING

**Go in peace to love and serve all God's people. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

The Peace of Wild Things

By Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.



Wendell Berry's Antidote to Despair



ST. MICHAEL'S
UNIVERSITY CHURCH

“Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process,
gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old
barriers, quietly building new structures.”



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