

Welcome to  
**St. Michael's University Church**

An inclusive and caring community  
in the heart of Isla Vista



Sunday, December 6, 2020  
The Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE  
RINGING OF ISAIAH THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*After the bells ring, the congregation stands and sings the following  
as an appointed person lights the Advent Wreath:*

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

COLLECT

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

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

WELCOME

SONG

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

O come, o come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

CHORUS:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel

O, come, our Dayspring from on high  
And cheer us by your drawing nigh  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight  
CHORUS

O, come, our Wisdom from on high  
Who ordered all things mightily  
To us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in her ways to go  
CHORUS

## 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 72 (Read antiphonally by verse)

8 I will listen to what you are saying, for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

9 Truly, your salvation, is very near to those who fear you, that your 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 You, O God, will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before you,  
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

## GOSPEL HYMN: "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

O Lord, hear my prayer/ O Lord, hear my prayer  
When I call, answer me  
O Lord, hear my prayer/ O Lord, hear my prayer  
Come and listen to me

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

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

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."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## GOSPEL HYMN: "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

SERMON

MUSTARD SEED

## SONG

## “I Shall Be Released”

They say everything can be replaced  
Yet every distance is not near  
So I remember every face  
Of every man who put me here

### CHORUS:

I see my light come shining  
From the west unto the east  
Any day now, any day now  
I shall be released

They say everyone needs protection  
They say everyone must fall  
Yet I swear I see my reflection  
Some place so high above this wall  
CHORUS

Standing next to me in this lonely crowd  
Is a man who swears he's not to blame  
All day long I hear him shout so loud  
Crying out that he was framed  
CHORUS

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With hope and expectation, we turn our hearts to God in prayer.

*Anyone who feels inspired may read one of the following prayers.*

For all victims of poverty, violence, desperation, and other forms of suffering, we pray.

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

For leaders and nurturers of many kinds, that they may lead with character, kindness, and compassion.

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

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

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

For the good work of this community.

May we bring God's healing to Isla Vista and beyond.

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

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

(Pause)

For all of these, we pray to God,

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

## **Prayer Collect**

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

**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**

BLESSING

SONG "Freedom Highway" (by the Staples Singers)

CHORUS:

March down freedom highway  
Marchin' each and every day (REPEAT)

Made up my mind that I won't turn around  
(REPEAT LINE)

There is just one thing  
I can't understand, my friend  
Why some folks think freedom  
Is not designed for all men  
There are so many people  
Living their lives perplexed  
Wonderin' in their minds  
What's gonna' happen next?  
CHORUS

Children in the desert  
Their parents taken away  
The whole world is wonderin'  
What's wrong with the United States?  
Yes, we want peace  
If it can be found  
We're marching freedom highway  
And we're not gonna' turn around  
CHORUS

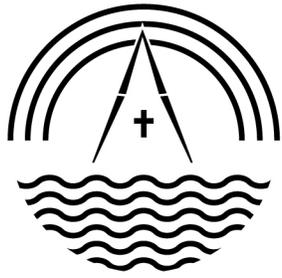
A SIGN OF PEACE

SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!!!**

POSTLUDE



**ST. MICHAEL'S**  
UNIVERSITY CHURCH

**IN THE NAME OF  
THESE REFUGEES**

