



November 20, 2022, The Sunday Next Before Advent (Morning Prayer, Book of Common Prayer, 1962)

Dear Saints of St. John's,

Today marks the end of the Church Year - it's wonderfully called, 'The Sunday Next Before Advent' in the BCP, a kind of double anticipation', with that 'next / before' phrase! All the Sundays leading up to today have had one general theme - 'what it means to live the Christian life' or, more simply, 'what I can do for God, in faith'. If you look at the weekly Collects from Trinity Sunday onwards, you will see this theme very clearly.

Advent is a kind of 'bridge season' marking a new beginning for us all, "now in the time of this mortal life," as we anticipate the great Festival seasons ahead. But today we ought to pause, and ponder anew what faithfulness requires; what Jesus meant by 'Taking up my own Cross' and following Him; what theologians call 'the cost of discipleship'.

The Collect for today has us petition the Lord to "stir up" our will, to acts of service. And a lovely tradition was born one Sunday, many years ago, as the wife of the Rector was adding fruit to the batter of her Christmas Cake. "Stir up...", she said, as the pieces went in, and 'Stir Up Sunday' was born! I wish you all a very fruitful week,

Guy B.

TODAY'S MUSIC

Lyrics will be projected on screen. They are also available by following the links at stjohnsrichmond.ca/church-life/sundays/.

TODAY'S READINGS (Bibles are available from the cart by the Welcome Table)

Psalm 89:19-37 2 Samuel 7:1-17 2 Samuel 7:18-29 Sheldon Yu

CHILDREN'S PRAYER After all the children come forward for prayer, the children's class meets upstairs, and will be brought down at the end of the service. Youth will also meet upstairs this morning.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Nathan Carter

NOTICES

- Please keep our next Monday Family Ministry night, tomorrow evening prayer

GREETING

OPENING VERSES

OPENING HYMN

(All lyrics will be screen-shared)

CONFESSION

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God:

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against your holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore them who are penitent; according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

A DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS OF SIN *(said by the leader)*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness, and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins.

He pardons and absolves all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RESPONDING WITH PRAISE *(Sung)*

O Lord, open thou our lips;

And our mouth shall show forth Thy praise

O God, make speed to save us;

O Lord, make haste to help us.

(Standing)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

Praise ye the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

SONGS

READING *(Readings are found on Page 1)*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

PSALM *(Psalm is found on Page 1)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

READING

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker 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, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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 the Life everlasting. Amen.**

SERMON

OFFERING SONG and PRAYER

(By offering money to God for his mission through us, we recognize his provisions in all things, declare our joyful dependence upon him, and resist the idolatry of money.)

Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel, for ever and ever. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. **All things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.** (1 Chronicles 29. 10, 11, 14)

The Lord be with you;
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.

○ Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
And grant us thy salvation.
○ Lord, save the King;
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;
And make thy chosen people joyful.

○ Lord, save thy people;
And bless thine inheritance.
Give peace in our time, O Lord;
And evermore mightily defend us.
O God, make clean our hearts within us;
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY *(Printed on Page 1)*

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who has given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou will grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

NOTICES

CLOSING HYMN and BLESSING

The LORD takes the initiative to establish and bless his chosen King, and his people, forever; this grace is astonishing to David and should be to us.

David's Desire 1-3

The LORD's Initiative

What you will NOT do for me 4-7

What I will do for you 8-9; 11b-16

What I will do for my people 10-11a; 23-24

David's Astonishment, Praise, and Demand 18-29