

**Morning Worship with Daphne Norwood
14th November 2021
The Second Sunday before Advent and
Remembrance Sunday**



Personal preparation before the service begins.

Please take time to remember where you are,
and why you are here.
Give thanks and become still
in the presence of God

Prelude

Gathering and Greeting

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.
Let us recognize his presence with us.

Silence is kept.

As God's people we have gathered:
let us worship him together.

Let us pray with words from Psalm 16

Refrain: The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken
refuge; ♦

**I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,
all my good depends on you.'**

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the
land, ♦

upon those who are noble in heart.

3 Though the idols are legion that many run after, ♦
**their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.**

4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; ♦
in your hands alone is my fortune.
 5 My share has fallen in a fair land; ♦
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
 6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, ♦
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
 7 I have set the Lord always before me; ♦
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
 8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit
 rejoices; ♦
my flesh also shall rest secure.
 9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death, ♦
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
 10 You will show me the path of life;
 in your presence is the fullness of joy ♦
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Refrain: The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

Give to us, Lord Christ,
 the fullness of grace,
 your presence and your very self,
 for you are our portion and our delight,
 now and for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
 and to the Holy Spirit,
**As it was in the beginning,
 is now and shall be for ever.**

ACF 24 Come, now is the time to worship

Come, now is the time to worship.
 Come, now is the time to give your heart.
 Come, just as you are to worship.
 Come, just as you are before your God.
 Come.

One day every tongue will confess You are God.
 One day every knee will bow.
 Still, the greatest treasure remains
 for those who gladly choose You now.

Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God.
Come.

CCLI Song # 2430948
Brian Doerksen
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The Collect for today, the Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The reading is taken from Hebrews 10:11-25

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God
Our hearts and our minds are open

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

“This is the covenant I will make with them
after that time, says the Lord.
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds.”

Then he adds:

“Their sins and lawless acts
I will remember no more.”

And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The reading is taken from Mark 13:1-8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord

As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!”

“Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?”

Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart

be pleasing in your sight,
 LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Today I will be speaking from the Hebrew Passage- The cross, what happens for us on the Cross and how we should Respond. For me the preparation time was very rewarding and I hope that some of the excitement I experienced qin preparation will also warm your hearts.

For many of us the cross is difficult to understand. To be honest when I share about my faith to non

Christians I have more than once hesitated to talk about the cross. For some of us it is too primitive and barbaric for a modern day religion. We want Righteousness, peace and love but it is hard to look at the price that was paid for these things. The cross seems to contradict all three. Many of us wear crosses around our necks and beautiful ornate crosses are to be seen in churches across the world. The cross is the symbol that is known around the world to represent Christianity.

Christ who entered the world humbly in a barn and he exited the world humbly on the cross. His humbleness contrasts the normal birth and death of royalty. Christ who is the King of Kings chose humility.

Too often we look at the cross and our thoughts go directly to the resurrection. It is difficult to remain at the cross with it's cruelty, bloodiness and unjust treatment. For me I had a life changing experience many summers ago in Brugge Belgium. Brugge is a beautiful medieval city and is called the Venice of the north. I had already visited the city often and one day I was tired of sightseeing and I sought out a place to rest in a church. It was a typical ornate church and as I sat there I realised where I was and why the church was there. It was the Holy Blood Basilica. I had never before visited a church that venerated the blood of Christ. Not being a big fan of relics my first reaction was cynical "typical catholic"- but as my thoughts left the relic and remained on the blood, That day became one the first of many meditations and studies on the blood of Christ that was shed on the cross. No longer are my thoughts on the cross limited to Good Friday. These meditations have also made communion more meaningful to me.

Because of the blood shed on the cross our lives can be changed. In the words of Nadia Bolz Weber “Some would say that instead of the cross being about Jesus standing in for us to take the really bad spanking from God for our own naughtiness (the fancy theological term for this is substitutionary atonement), what happens at the cross is a “blessed exchange.” God gathers up all our sin, all our broken-ass junk, into God’s own self and transforms all that death into life. Jesus takes our junk and exchanges it for his blessedness.” It is not so much of a judicially act as it is an act of deep love to all men and women.

The book of Hebrews was written to Jewish Believers and continually makes reference to Old Testament Passages. As repeatedly said in the first 9 chapters of the book the author in chapter 10 returns to the the theme that Christ is better than the whole system of the Jewish faith.

Verses 11 and 12 contrasts Judaism and Jesus in that after Jesus was crucified he sat down at the right hand of God. In Judaism the Priests remain standing after a sacrifice because they moved directly to the next sacrifice. There were no chairs in the old sanctuary. Christ sits because the sacrifice of his life was the last sacrifice needed. For us, as Christians the only acceptable sacrifice for the forgiveness of Sins is the Cross and the blood shed there. The same is true for us, no matter how nice we are, how much money we give, how many hungry we feed or how often we fight for justice- the only sacrifice that is valid for the forgiveness of Sins is Christ’s blood.

What happens on the cross

vs 14 „For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.“

The cross is the perfect sacrifice and because of that no other sacrifice is needed. Though this sacrifice was made 2000 years ago it still has the same power for us today. When we go to the cross we enter into the family of Christ. We are made **perfect/holy/complete** in the sense that no other sacrifice needs to be made. It is not that there is no longer repentance needed but that we have been “positioned” in a relationship. Hebrews is at times very confusing for those of us without a Jewish background and without a sense of being saved by grace. God sees us in this new position and this position is for eternity.

the second part of the verse almost seems to contradict the fact that we are already “perfect” . “those who are being **made holy**” If we are perfect why do we have to be made more holy? Another big word for this is **sanctification**. Here we realise that even though we have entered the family of God there is still room for growth. It’s like in every family the word “sorry” is often heard. Not one of us has reached the point that we do not make mistakes.

The verb here literally means being made holy or cleansed which is a primary work of the holy spirit in our lives. No longer do we need to make decisions on our actions alone. We can turn to God and ask for guidance and he will nudge us in the right direction. Our lives in Christ are not stagnant but as we allow ourselves to be sanctified we will be nudged to repentance and we will be different. I return to the illustration of a car wash that I have used before. Each of us have sinned and have gotten dirty in our daily lives and each of us are invited to go through the car

wash again and again. The process of sanctification is a continuance of repentance and forgiveness(cleansing)

The third thing that happens is that our **guilt is removed**. One of my favourite verses in the Bible is Romans 8:1 “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.....” For me these are some of the most needed words in our world today. Too many people walk around with a heavy load of guilt and many leave that at Christ’s feet and go back and pick it up again.

Hebrews 10.22 “let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

Please look at yourself as God looks at you, he sees you as being in perfect relationship with him.

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, let us settle the matter, says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool”

There are far to many people in therapy because they refuse to accept forgiveness and continue to see themselves as horrible . God does not see his children like that, please let your guilt be left at the cross, it is no longer yours to carry.

Towards the end of our reading we are given **three responses to the cross.**

1. vs. 22 “let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings
One of the exciting differences between Christianity and Judaism is that in Christianity everyone is a

participant in the worship service. Not only are we allowed to do this but we are called to do this.

Sure we have professional ministers but they are there to guide and teach. Each of us our responsible for our own prayer lives, our worship and our relationship with God.

We are also responsible to get rid of anything that keeps us from getting closer to God. Examples of things that get in our way from getting closer to God are: Doubt, Shame, Fear and Guilt. But remember the only way to rid ourselves of these hinderances is the cross and the blood that was shed for each of us.

2. vs. 23 „let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess“

Hope doesn't look backwards, it always looks forward. There will be days when hope fades but what is important is to keep looking forward. As we draw to the end of the Church Year we are once again reminded that Christ is King and he will return to earth. What is also interesting is that this hope is communal. It is our hope

3. vs24 „let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds“

This is also meant to be practiced with others. Christianity was never meant to be practiced alone but in fellowship with each other. We are as the saying goes “one big happy family” whether we like it or not. And as in a normal family we are responsible for each other . We need to come together, not just for ourselves but for the sake of our family. We do not always know who we will bless when we come together. By not coming together someone will be missing a blessing. We need each other's encouragement.

In conclusion a short review

What the Cross gave you

made perfect/complete

sanctification

guilt is removed

Our Response to the cross

Come Close - Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart

Hold Fast - Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess

Reach Out - Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good needs

Song: ACF 56 How Deep The Father's Love For Us

1. How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure,
that He should give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss:
the Father turns His face away
as wounds, which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.

2. Behold the Man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished;
his dying breath has brought me life -
I know that it is finished.

3. I will not boast in anything,
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,

His death and resurrection:
 Why should I gain from His reward?
 I cannot give an answer,
 but this I know with all my heart -
 His wounds have paid my ransom.

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 Stuart Townend
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Intercessions (by Christine Ghinn)



On this Remembrance Sunday,
 let us bring before the God of peace
 our prayers for the world, the church
 and all His people.

Merciful God,
 we pray for peace in our hearts and homes,
 In our nations and our world,
 The peace which is your will,
 The peace which we so badly need.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Remembering the conflicts of the past,
 we pray for a world where war is still a grim reality.
 Lord, help us to renew our fight against cruelty and
 injustice, against prejudice, tyranny and oppression.
 Still we cry out to you
 in the darkness of our divided world.
 Let not the hope of men and women perish,
 let not new clouds rain death upon the earth.
 Lord hear our prayer for the multitudes
 in every country who do not want war
 and are ready to walk the path of peace.
 May their voice be heard
 and may they not lose heart.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Lord God, we pray for the leaders of the nations at this time, asking you to pour out your spirit of reconciliation on them.

Give them a longing to bring freedom from fear and freedom from want for all peoples.

Give strength and courage to those who bear heavy responsibilities for the peace of the world and for protecting creation from destruction.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Christian Church, called to witness to your love in this generation.

May Christians work with all men of goodwill to break down the barriers which divide people.

May those who profess one faith respect those who sincerely hold another faith

and build a community where there is harmony and understanding.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we pray for all who face difficulties in their personal lives - problems in their families, in their friendships,

in their neighbourhoods or in their workplace; and all those

who have been affected by the pandemic.

Help them to be calm in times of uncertainty and patient with those around them.

Show us when we can help

and give support to others around us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

On this day of remembrance

our hearts and prayers go out to all who mourn the loss of those they have loved.

When we lose someone close

we feel that part of us dies as well

but part of them lives on in us,

Give us strength and understanding

to honour and cherish that gift.

Help all those who are bereaved
 to find the same consolation
 that in knowledge of your love
 they may honour the past by looking to the future.
 Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Lord, finally, a prayer for ourselves
 that we may all put our confidence in you, O Lord.
 You know
 we are often filled with fear and foreboding.
 Give us courage and deepen our trust.
 You are a rock which nothing can shatter.
 On you we can place the whole weight of our lives.
 Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Merciful Father
**accept these prayers
 for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

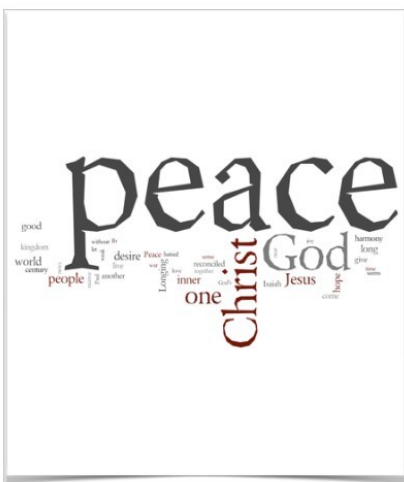
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

In the language of our hearts, let us pray as our
 Saviour taught us

A sign of peace

God is love
 And those who live in love live in God
 And God lives in them.
 We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.



Song: SoF 64 Colours of day (Light Up The Fire)

1. Colours of day dawn into the mind,
the sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
and let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

2. Go through the park, on into the town;
the sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
the people of darkness are needing a friend.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

Open your eyes, look into the sky,
the darkness has come, the sun came to die.
The evening drawn on, the sun disappears,
but Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*



The Blessing

The Lord bless us and watch over us,
 the Lord make his face shine upon us
 and be gracious to us,
 the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace;
 and the blessing
 of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 be with us now and always.

Amen.

Announcements

(see below)

The Conclusion

To a troubled world
 peace from Christ.
 To a searching world
 love from Christ.
 To a waiting world
 hope from Christ.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Sources of the liturgy:

- <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/common-material/new-patterns-36>
- <http://thisischurch.com/index.html>

Wed, 17th November 2021	Evening Prayer on Wednesdays
	9pm (for 20-30min) (Please use the usual Sunday service link.)
Sun, 21st November 2021	Look forward to our next Communion Service with Revd. Peter Widdess Christ the King 11:30 hrs, Zoom link see website and in person in the church 😊



ANGLICAN CHURCH FREIBURG
12th December 2021

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