

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 December 2023

## HYMNS

- 270 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
283 Long ago, prophets knew  
787 Longing for Light

Longing for light by Bernadette  
Farrell (b. 1957) from TiS 787

1. Longing for light, we wait in  
darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your church gathered today.*

2. Longing for peace, our world is  
troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

*Christ, be our light! ...*

4. Longing for shelter, many are  
homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

*Christ, be our light! ...*

5. Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

*Christ, be our light!*



## SENTENCE

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

## COLLECT

Merciful God,  
you 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 for ever. **Amen.**

## READINGS

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

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.

*Isaiah 40.1-11*

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

We say the verses from Psalm 85 alternately:

Lord, you were gracious to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**You forgave the offence of your people and covered all their sins.**

I will listen to what the Lord God will say, for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful, that they turn not again to folly.

**Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

**Truth shall spring up from the earth and righteousness look down from heaven.**

The Lord will indeed give all that is good, and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness shall go before him and direct his steps in the way.**

*Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13*

A reading from Peter's second letter:

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

*2 Peter 3.8-15a*

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark

**Glory to you Lord Jesus 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.'

*Mark 1.1-8*

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## PRAYERS

**Anglican Church:** The Parish of the Holy Name of Jesus, Vermont South (Victor Fan, Changying Wang); Church Schools & Church Kindergartens; Diocesan Provincial Council; St John The Baptist Lilydale; Tamil Christian Congregation of Victoria Christmas Service - Anglican Parish of St Stephen and St Mary Mt Waverley; The Church of Pakistan (United) - Bishop Azad Marshall.

**For the Parish:** Give thanks for those who facilitate worship or nurture our faith: Eucharistic Assistants, musicians, Torquay Home Group, Mainly Music Team, Group Meditation; and pray that they may be inspired by the way that Jesus nurtured the faith of others.

**For the sick & in need, and those who have ongoing need for strength, courage and peace of heart, mind and soul in their journey:** Keiran & Paul, Deirdre B, John & Barbara B, Lorraine D, Helen & Geoff D, John F, Nan L, Jane & Peter M, Barbara McN, Janet N, Pauline R, Jenny S, Mary & Ian S, Ray & Marion W, Alan Y, Boris Z and those known to us in need of our prayers.

### Year's Mind

10th Reg Cullen (2006)  
11th Glenn Bechly (2019)  
14th Heidi Maguire (2012)  
16th Jim Webb (2011), Judith Todd (2000)

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

13th Rosalind Bonnici  
14th Richard & Deb Kelly (anniv)  
16th David & Emma Tunley (anniversary)