



Christ Church

East Norwalk, Connecticut



Opening Hymn

1 ON Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come then and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
And furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Merciful God, who 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.*

A Reading from Isaiah Chapter 40 beginning at the 1st Verse

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare^[a] is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.³ A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.⁴ 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.⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."⁶ A voice says, "Cry!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people is grass.⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;^[b] lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,^[c] lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Let us read the Psalm responsively by half verse.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Benedixisti, Domine

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.

A Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Peter, Chapter 3 beginning at the 8th Verse

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you,^[a] not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ 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 the works that are upon it will be burned up.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening^[b] the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire! ¹³ But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵ And count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn

1 THE advent of our God
With eager prayers we greet,
And singing haste upon the road
His glorious gift to meet.

2 The everlasting Son
Scorns not the Virgin's womb;
That we from bondage may be won
He bears a bondsman's doom.

GOSPEL *Mark 1:1-8*

∞. The Lord be with you

✠. **And also with you**

∞. The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Mark

✠. **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

✠ The beginning of the gospel of JESUS CHRIST, the Son of God.^[a] ² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,^[b] “Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way;³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight—”⁴ John the baptizer appeared^[c] in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

∞. The Gospel of the Lord

✠. **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

4 On clouds of dazzling light,
As judge he comes again,
His scattered people to unite,
With him in heaven to reign.

6 Praise to the incarnate Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father and with Spirit One,
To all eternity. Amen.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for: The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury) The Rt Revd Carlos López-Lozano - their bishop.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for: St. Thomas’, Bethel; Christ Church, Bethlehem; Old St. Andrew’s, Bloomfield Ministries to the homeless, for parishes that offer a temporary or permanent shelter. For Chapel on the Green, New Haven, Church by the Pond, Hartford, and all Ecclesia ministries. For the ministry of the Midnight Runs.

Parochial Intercessions

For those in need of our prayers

DRAKE, TYLER, SKYLER, MARK, Cindy, Erica, Jamie, Anita, Angela, Betty, George, Cathy, Shannon, Ron, John, Kathy, Christina, Bette, J.P.

Offertory Anthem

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.

3 Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain:
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken.

Communion Hymn

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary rest.

6 Till then I would thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of thy name
Refresh my soul in death.

Closing Hymn

1 THE Lord will come and not be slow,
His footsteps cannot err;
Before him righteousness shall go,
His royal harbinger.

2 Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
Shall bud and blossom then;
And justice from her heavenly bower,
Look down on mortal men.

4 The nations all whom thou hast made
Shall come, and all shall frame
To bow them low before thee, Lord,
And glorify thy name.

5 For great thou art, and wonders great
By thy strong hand are done:
Thou in thy everlasting seat
Remainest God alone.