



A FUTURE WITH HOPE

St. John's, Powell, WY
Advent

Advent

It is possible to think of Advent as a time of exile and alienation as we wait for the nativity. Exile is what happens when powerful authorities or dire circumstances force us to live in a strange place, far from those we love.

There are many examples of exile in scripture: Joseph being sold into slavery in Egypt; Jesus's family fleeing to Egypt; Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden; and more.

Probably the most famous cycle of exile and return in our tradition is the story of the Israelites' Babylonian captivity, in which the Jerusalem Temple was destroyed and many Jews were deported to Babylon and other places, returning only after several generations. The pain of this banishment from their ancestral home is captured in Psalm 137. "By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept....How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?"

Exile is not just a historical fact. It is also a social, religious and spiritual point of reference for Jews and Christians. The season of Advent both affirms our sense of exile and offers comfort to the exiled.

But it need not be only a time of sober reflection and penance. It can also be a time to look for light, and to be lighthearted. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, we might practice an understanding of our own exile from God and alienation from one another, as well as practicing reunion and solidarity.

We can wonder, in the midst of the longing for return, what are the blessings of being away? What is the role of memory, or nostalgia? And of course, where and how was God present and active in our time away?

Advent can challenge us to glean insights that will help us make the world a more just, loving, life-giving place. And at the same time, through it all, God promises deliverance:

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says God,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11

Ministers of the Liturgy

Altar Guild	Jane Woods
Sound	Oscar Trevino
Hospitality Greeter	Susan McEvoy
Liturgy Greeter	Martha Moewes
Worship Leader	Kim Dillivan
Reader	Scott Larsen
Intercessor	Mary Dillivan
Coffee Hour	Barb Morales & Carly Asay

Prayers

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in the Philippines
 Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Diocesan Standing Committee; Diocesan Staff ;
 Thomas the Apostle Center

<p>Nelson & Nancy; Carolyn & Family; Laurel & Rusty; Hugh B. & Marge; Hunter, Charlotte & Mike; Lee & Kelly; Richmond & Rich; Shirley & Deb; Richard & Jennifer; Tim & Lynnae; Margie & Josey; Bobbi & Bentley; Tim & Alex; Bob & Charlotte; Cynthia, Diana, Carra, Deb S., Rob R., Kathy E., Martha, Tammy, Rob K., Bobby B., Larry, Irene, Nancy, Alan, Katy, Marlynn, Sue, Kahli, Ron and Jane</p>	<p>Justin, Jacob, Patrick, Reece, Coleman, and Bryce who are serving in the military. Ann, Josephine and Don who reside in care centers.</p>
---	--

Celebrations

Birthday: Jasper Fell—26th, Margaret Clabaugh—30th

Prelude "The Song of Zechariah," Alabaster Co.

Opening Hymn



1. Lift up your heads, e - ter - nal gates,
2. But not in arms or bat - tle dress,
3. God brings a new face to the brave,
4. God's match - less and ma - jes - tic strength,



Al - le - lu - ia! See how the King of
Al - le - lu - ia! God comes, a child a -
Al - le - lu - ia! God re - de - fines who
Al - le - lu - ia! in all its height, depth,



glo - ry waits, Al - le - lu - ia!
midst dis - tress, Al - le - lu - ia!
best can save: Al - le - lu - ia!
breadth, and length, Al - le - lu - ia!



The Lord of Hosts is draw - ing near,
No might - y ar - mies shield the way,
not those whose pow'r re - lies on threat,
now is re - vealed, its pow'r to prove,



the Sav - ior of the world is here.
on - ly coarse lin - en, wool, and hay,
ter - ror or tor - ture, de - struc - tion or debt,
by Christ pro - test - ing "God is love!"



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Copyright © 2001 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community
GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American Agent. All Rights Reserved.

Call to Worship

Let us worship our loving God.

As we gather, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful.

We can be hopeful.

As we gather, we can be weary.

We can be anxious.

We can be grieving.

In our exile and in our return

We can be inspired or tired,

delighted or doubtful,

connected or curious.

God goes with every exile,

God rejoices with every return.

We gather for worship.

We hope.

We hope. Let us worship our loving God.

Psalm 118 *Selected verses*

The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you.

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

for his steadfast love endures forever!

This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Scripture

God of the universe, make our hearts porous.
Allow your words to sink deeply into the marrow of our bones,
That we become your Word in body and soul.
A reading from ____.

After the reading

Word of God, Word of return.

Thanks be to God.

Music *Verses 1,2,4,6*

Verses



1. Come, O Ra-diant Dawn, splen-dor of the morn-ing light.
2. Come, O Flow'r of Love, ho - ly branch of Jes - se's tree.
3. Come, O Word of Truth, font of know-ledge from on high.
4. Come, O Gate of Hope, ho - ly door of heav-en's throne.
5. Come, O Might - y Lord, mas - ter of the stars of night.
6. Come, Em-man - u - el, cher-ished hope of Is - ra - el.
7. Come, Lord Je - sus Christ, long a - wait - ed Prince of Peace.

1. Come, Sun of Jus - tice, turn a - way the pow'r of night.
2. Come, Bough of Bless-ing, bloom for all the world to see.
3. Come, Ho - ly Wis-dom, be our faith - ful friend and guide.
4. Come, Key of Da - vid, o - pen wide the path - way home.
5. Come, Strength of Pil-grims, keep us in your lov - ing sight.
6. Come, live a - mong us, ev - er in our hearts to dwell.
7. Come, Hope of Na-tions, ev - er make our love in - crease.

Refrain



Christ, cir - cle round us. Christ, may your light sur -
round us. Shine in our liv - ing. Fill our hearts
with great thanks - giv - ing.

Text based on Advent 'O' Antiphons. Music based on *Salve Regina* (Chant, Mode V).
Text and music © 1995, Daniel L. Schutte. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

“There is More...” by Carly Asay and Abby Trevino.

Affirmation

We stand.

We believe that hope can change the world.

We believe that ordinary people can do extraordinary good.

We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound,
that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope.

We choose hope anyway.

In the face of hardship, we hope together.

We hope with God.

We commit ourselves to moving through this world

with eyes wide open,

with porous hearts,

and grateful spirits.

We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude,
trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into the household
of God the Creator, God the son, and God the Spirit.

Amen.

Offertory

The people gather and disperse. It is the way of life with God.

As with the people, so with our money: gather and disperse, gather and disperse.

We offer now what is to be gathered and sent,
for the sake of a future with hope for all.

Music

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns,” Lucia Field.

Lord's Prayer

We pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom,
the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

Amen.

The Prayers

God of today and tomorrow,
we take a deep breath in and fill our lungs with you.
For we know that you are here, present with us as we pray.
Once again we bow our heads.
Once again we close our eyes.
Once again we draw ourselves closer to you in prayer, saying
God of promise, God of hope:
Come quickly, Lord, in mercy come.

Closing prayer

God of waiting, God of anticipation, help us rejoice in a weary world
let us open the door to a future with hope.
Come to us in our songs and our stories of what could be.
As we listen for God's word,
as we resist giving up or giving in,
we hope.
Let hope change us to strengthen us.
Amen.

Closing Hymn *Verses 1, 2*

Verses



1. O come, di - vine Mes - si - ah; The world in
2. O Christ, whom na - tions sigh for, Whom priest and
3. You come in peace and meek - ness And low - ly



1. si - lence waits the day When hope shall sing its
2. proph - et long fore - told, Come, break the cap - tive's
3. will your cra - dle be; All clothed in hu - man



1. tri - umph And sad - ness flee a - way.
2. fet - ters, Re - deem the long - lost fold.
3. weak - ness Shall we your God - head see.

Refrain



Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the



night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace. O



come, di - vine Mes - si - ah; the world in si - lence waits the day when



hope shall sing its tri - umph and sad - ness flee a - way.

Text: 78 76 with refrain; Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663–1745; tr. by S. Mary of St. Philip, 1877.
Music: Trad. French Carol, 16th cent.

Sending

The time for sending is here—for separation, for dispersal, for exile.

It will not last forever; to return is our destiny.

May the God who is the home of the exile,
Jesus, who was and is an exile himself,
and the Spirit, who goes with us as we love and serve,
be with us until we meet again.

Amen.

Peace

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet each other in the name of the Lord. Please stay for coffee and treats downstairs.

Postlude

“Soon And Very Soon,” Andrae Crouch & Disciples.