

The Third Sunday of Advent

11 December 2022 Year A

*St John the Evangelist Anglican Church,
Strathroy @ 11.00 am*

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The Collect of the Day

**God of glory and compassion,
at your touch the wilderness blossoms.
Grant perseverance and patience
to all who long for your Son's return,
so that we may announce in word and deed
the good news of the kingdom.
We ask this through Christ, whose day draws near. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 35:1–10*

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,

the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

PSALM 146:5–10

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

⁶who made heaven and earth,

**the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**¹⁰The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!**

NEW TESTAMENT *James 5:7–10*

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL *Matthew 11:2–11*

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”

⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft

robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Prayer over the Gifts

Gracious God, as we bring our gifts to you,
we bring much more than earthly treasure;
we bring our very lives.

Transform us through our giving,
that we may grow ever closer to you.
Help us share your peace and love with others
as joyfully and generously
as you have shared your gifts with us.
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

God for whom we wait,
you have fed us with the bread of eternal life.
Keep us ever watchful,
that we may be ready to stand before the son of man.
We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. Amen.

Dismissal

O Wisdom, Lord and Ruler, Root of Jesse, Son of David, Rising Sun,
King of the Nations, Emmanuel, Prince of Peace,

together: **Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**