

Reflection: Isaiah's prophecies sound like a deluded optimist at a time of suffering for the Israelites. In the business of a kingdom-wide census (ref. Gospel), no one would be any wiser that the Son of God would be born into the world. In such ordinary circumstances, when aristocrats and nobles held high level meetings on politics and business, the shepherd were the first to witness the Glory of Heaven descending upon them by the armies of Angels. Today our world is no different. In such ordinary times, with our business on worldly things – pray that we miss not the mystery of the coming of Christ.

Entrance: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Dominus Dixit (Gregorian Chant) + Psalm + Gloria Patri

Entrance Ant.: *The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.*

Christmas Proclamation (Simple Tone)

Ordinaries: Mass VIII (de Angelis)

Psalm: *Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.*

Gospel Acc.: *I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.*

Offertory: Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring – Organ (JS Bach)
O Holy Night (Keith Christopher)

Communion Ant.: *The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.*

Communion: Et in Terra Pax (Vivaldi RV589, Mvmt 2)

Marian Anthem: Alma Redemptoris Mater

Recessional: Joy To The World
Gloria in Excelsis Deo (Vivaldi RV589, Mvmt 1)

Conductor:
Cantor:
Organist:
On Leave:
Pre-Mass Chorale:

CONNECT WITH US AT:

 www.sppchoir.org

 www.facebook.com/sppchoir



STS. PETER & PAUL CHOIR

A Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Advent First Readings: The prophets from the Old Testament

Advent has a twofold character: a preparation for the solemnities of Christmas, in which the first coming of Christ was revealed to mankind. The latter would be our own preparation for his onward Second Coming. Unlike the pre-conciliar emphasis of penance and repentance similar to Lent, post-Vatican II reforms shifted the focus for Advent on an expectant hopefulness – somewhat joyous as Christmas beckons. It is a reminder of humanity's experience of Christ in the past, in the present, and in the future.

The Gospel reading for the 1st Sunday of Advent focuses on Christ's future coming. The 2nd and 3rd Sundays of Advent focuses on Christ's adult ministry, while the 4th Sunday focuses on the infancy narrative.

In Year C of the Liturgical Calendar, four prophets surface in the readings during the Sundays of Advent: Jeremiah (whom we are well acquainted through the year's readings), Baruch, Zephaniah and Micah – the latter 3 with whom we are less familiar. The 3 of them are acquainted with Jeremiah in some ways. Baruch was a scribe who served in the temple with Jeremiah. He assisted in chronicling the prophecies of Jeremiah and helped continue preaching at the synagogue when Jeremiah was in hiding from King Jehoiakim who sought to end his life. Zephaniah & Micah were contemporaries of Jeremiah. They all witnessed the waning power of the Assyrians, under whom the Israelites lived in exile. New powers Babylon and Egypt were looming to usurp Assyrian territory, with Jerusalem falling to the siege of the Babylonians.

Given the circumstances of turmoil, it often may appear that the Jews were living in a time of desolation and despair. Even the prophets would be challenged to be free from being overwhelmed. However, they continued to preach to the people – encouraging them, reminding them, challenging them to repent and await the coming of the Messiah - often at risk of personal danger. Perhaps a parallel to our current social climate, where political correctness trumps the courage for Truth.

Announcements

- Vivaldi's "Gloria" RV589 Rehearsals**
Rehearsals with the Orchestra, Saturdays 7:30pm – 9:30pm:
Dec 22 (photography of choristers & musicians) & Dec 29
Attire for Dec 22: Dress for a Wedding Lunch
- Christmas Carolling @ SPP & Midnight Mass**
Monday 24th December, 10:15pm, Entrance beside SPP Choir Area
Attire: Themes of Black, White, Silver, Gold
- New Year's Eve Program**
Monday, 31st December, 2pm. Gather at Choir Area.
Attire: Themes of Black & White.



Saturday, 1st December: 1st Sunday of Advent (Year C)
Organ is subdued

Reflection: "Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life..." (Gospel Luke). The 1st reading gives us hope, while the Gospel warns us that in order to be recipients of such hope, our lives ought to be nurtured and inculcated to increase ourselves spiritually heavenward. If you find yourself worrying and being anxious about the cares of your life and this world, it may be a sign (like the signs of stars & natural phenomenon of past weeks) of an attachment that you were unaware of. Let us ready ourselves for the Advent of our Saviour.

Entrance: 278 On Jordan's Bank

Entrance Ant.: *To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

Ordinaries: Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII

Psalm: *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

Gospel Acc.: *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.*

Offertory: **Conditor Alme Siderum**
646 Be Thou My Vision

Communion Ant.: *The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.*

Communion: 841 Beautiful Saviour
Recessional: 296 Come O Long Expected Jesus

Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater

Conductor:

Cantor:
Organist:

On Leave:

Pre-Mass Chorale:

Saturday, 8th December: 2nd Sunday of Advent (Year C)
Organ is subdued

Reflection: Baruch (from the 1st Reading) was a close friend of Jeremiah. Being a scribe, he helped to chronicle Jeremiah's prophecies, assisted him at the Temple, and also continued reminding the people of the prophecies when Jeremiah was in hiding from King Jehoiakim. The 1st reading highlights the restoration of Jerusalem is through the repentance of the people – with mercy & integrity for escort. In the Gospel, we see the escort of Jesus in John the Baptist. The Gospel begins by stating the who's who in politics and religion, and contrasts it with John the Baptist – messenger of repentance to prepare the way for the Messiah.

Entrance: 278 On Jordan's Bank

Entrance Ant.: *O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

Ordinaries: Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII

Psalm: *What marvels the Lord worked for Us! Indeed we were glad.*

Gospel Acc.: *Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.*

Offertory: **Conditor Alme Siderum**
646 Be Thou My Vision

Communion Ant.: *Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

Communion: 841 Beautiful Saviour
Recessional: 296 Come O Long Expected Jesus

Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater

Conductor:

Cantor:
Organist:

On Leave:

Pre-Mass Chorale:

Saturday, 15th December: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year C)
Organ Plays Freely

Reflection: The 1st reading reiterates encouragement to the people, who have suffered under the burden of war, siege and exile. This time by the Babylonians, who have come into power, displacing the Assyrians. In such unsettling times, the people would often be overwhelmed by despair – and the prophets themselves are not excluded. The surety of their hope, like John the Baptist is in their belief that through repentance, and living an upright life for self and neighbour, these are clear ways to receive victory in God. They rejoice because now, the way to this victory becomes tangible for them.

Entrance: 274 O Come O Come Emmanuel

Entrance Ant.: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*

Ordinaries: Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII

Psalm: *Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Gospel Acc.: *The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.*

Offertory: **Conditor Alme Siderum**
Watchet Auf (Organ), 298 Wake O Wake Sleep No Longer

Communion Ant.: *Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.*

Communion: 454 Draw Near & Take the Body of the Lord
Recessional: 279 O Come Divine Messiah
Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater

Conductor:

Cantor:
Organist:

On Leave:

Pre / Post Mass:
Sweet Hour of Prayer

Take My Life and Let It Be (Hayes)

Saturday, 22nd December: 4th Sunday of Advent (Year C)
Organ is subdued

Reflection: In the 1st Reading, Micah encourages the people by alluding to the Shepherd King- David, with hope that God's shepherd will come to feed his flock once again. From the Gospel story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, we see 3 characters: David, Mary, Elizabeth – and what God can do in their lives if they remain open and faithful to him, upholding his promise. Today, the tomb of Herod the Great is an archaeological site in the distant hills of Bethlehem, a structure he took great lengths to build, while a King of a different kind was born in a Manger, and whose legacy has transcended space & time.

Entrance: 274 O Come O Come Emmanuel

Entrance Ant.: *Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

Ordinaries: Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII

Psalm: *God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

Gospel Acc.: *I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.*

Offertory: **Rorate Caeli Desuper**
638 Jesu Joy Of Our Desiring

Communion Ant.: *Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

Communion: 454 Draw Near & Take the Body of the Lord
Recessional: 279 O Come Divine Messiah
Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater

Conductor:

Cantor:
Organist:

On Leave:

Pre-Mass Chorale: