St. Columba’s Episcopal Church
1251 Las Posas Road, Camarillo, California 93010
(805) 482-8831  www.stcolumbaca.com
The Very Rev. Canon Gregory B. Larkin, rector
Brett Hanley, music director

December 6, 2020, 9:30 a.m.
MORNING PRAYER
Prelude – Brett Hanley

Welcome – Fr. Greg Larkin

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

P: We light the Advent candles, praying that our preparation for Christmas may help us to look outward in love, and look forward in hope.

C: Living Christ, light of the world, give us the warmth of your love.

P: A prophet speaks, and a psalmist sings, telling us how God will come: Comfort my people, bring comfort to them, says your God. Clear a road through the wilderness. Prepare a highway across the desert for our God. Then will the glory of God be revealed and all humankind shall see it.

C: As a prayer of hope and longing, we light our first and second candles, that God’s glory may be revealed on earth.

(The first and second candles are lit.)

P: Lord God, may the light of this wreath be a sign of hope to all people who prepare for your coming. Let the truth of your Word lead us all toward your kingdom for which we long. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.
Opening Hymn - # 76 – “On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry” – Verses 1, 2, and 5

1. On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry an-
nounces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.

2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry breast from sin; make
pale a home where such a might - y guest may come.

3. For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.

4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.

5. All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Greeting

O: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert
a highway for our God. Isaiah 40:3

Words: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. Charles Winfred Douglas, 1867-1944,
after John Chandler, 1806-1876); alt.
Music: WINCHESTER NEW, melody from Musicalishes Hand-Buch, 1690;
harm. William Henry Monk, 1823-1889, alt.
Confession of Sin

O: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together:

C: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

O: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

O: Lord, open our lips.
C: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen. Alleluia.

Venite Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, *
    and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
    and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
    and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
    and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
    and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
    Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  Benedictisti, 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.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit *
    As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11
As the prophet Isaiah urges the people of Israel, may we too prepare the way of the Lord, throwing out those things that weigh us down, distract us, and make us sleepy.

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 forever. 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.

L: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Canticle 11: The Third Song of Isaiah**  *Surge, illuminare*

Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

Arise, shine, for your light has come,*  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

For behold, darkness covers the land;*  
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.

But over you the Lord will rise,*  
and his glory will appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light,*  
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

Your gates will always be open;*  
by day or night they will never be shut.

They will call you, The City of the Lord,*  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Violence will no more be heard in your land,*  
ruin or destruction within your borders.

You will call your walls, Salvation,*  
and all your portals, Praise.

The sun will no more be your light by day;*  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.

The Lord will be your everlasting light,*  
and your God will be your glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**Second Lesson: Mark 1:1-8**

Starting with a quotation from Isaiah, the Gospel of Mark makes clear the way that Jesus Christ fulfills prophecy and ties together the story of the Old Testament with the just-beginning story of the New Testament.
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.”

L: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 16  The Song of Zechariah  Benedictus Dominus Deus

Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Homily – Fr. Greg Larkin
1. Here he comes—preparing the way (paving the way) for our Lord—for Christmas Day (for Christmas Day).
   Here he comes—preparing the way (paving the way) for our Lord—for Christmas Day (for Christmas Day).
   He eats honey and locusts for dinner and breakfast and lunch.
   He ate a bunch.

2. Father Zeck (Zechariah), he went to pray.
   He had to write ‘til his son’s birthday.
   Then his voice released
   and then his muteness ceased,
   father of John!
   He named his son, “John.”

3. He is John, cousin of “Him” (cousin of “Him”).
   Pharisees and Scribes were not welcome in.
   Mother—Elizabeth,
   Auntie is Mary—Yes!
   Uncle is “Joe”—
   Carpenter, yo!

4. In Jordan’s stream—so chilly and cold—he baptized men. I think he was so bold.
   Jesus, his cousin, came.
   Dunked Him, then Spirit came.
   Then God said to John,
   “This is my Son!”
   John is the one
   who preceded the Son!
   His name was John!

The Apostles’ Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
   He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
   He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
   He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

O:  The Lord be with you.
C:  And also with you.
O:  Let us pray.

C:  Our Father, who art in heaven,
    hallowed be thy Name,
    thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
    on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
    as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
    but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
    and the power, and the glory,
    for ever and ever. Amen.
We pray for the church:

- For our Bishops: Justin (Archbishop of Canterbury), Michael (Presiding Bishop), John, and Diane.
- For St. Columba’s, the Threshold Project, our Children’s Learning Center, our Project Hope food ministries, and our Clergy and Staff.

We pray for those with immediate needs:

- Denise, Lynn, Ron, Rob, Ilana, Scott, Therese, Dana, Kerry, Robbie, Wendy, Carol, Michele, Guy, Robb, Bill, Richard, Donna, Dick, Aimee, Ted, Vicky, Judy, Ron, Lisa, Mary, Linda, Linda, Savannah, Aracely, Agustin, Loren, Roger, Mona, John, Elise, Steven, Terry, Val, Joyce, Ronald, Clark, Danny, Richard, Erin, Ken

and those who need our continuing prayers:

- Arlene, Lori, Kate, Kylie, Joy, Brad, Lisa, Sofia, John, Wanda, Jan, Debbie, Roni, Pauline, Marty, Alison, Thea, Bob, Harry, Eileen, Taka, Thom, the children at Good Shepherd Mission in Belize, Ingrid, Kalle, Blair, Jill, Betty, Ron, Danielle, Marlene, Leslie, Susan, Cara, Harold, Ben, Evelyn, Frossula, Sharon, Amory, Karen, Belen, Sally, Rob, Clarice, Rex, Justin, Maria, Pam, Mariana, Luana, Jennie

(Italicized names are parishioners.)

For the repose of the soul of: Susan Livingstone and for her family and friends

We give thanks for all members of our St. Columba’s parish family and we pray for the time when we may worship in person again.

We pray for the world:

- For all who are suffering or have died because of the coronavirus pandemic;
- For all victims of violence, and to turn the hearts of those who would do harm;
- For those affected by natural disasters, especially wildfires;
- For peace in the Middle East and all troubled areas of the world;

To make changes to the prayer list for St. Columba’s, please contact the church office (office.manager@stcolumbaca.com) or 805-482-8831.
Then follows the Suffrages.

O: Show us your mercy, O Lord;
C: And grant us your salvation.
O: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
C: Let your people sing with joy.
O: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
C: For only in you can we live in safety.
O: Lord, keep this nation under your care;
C: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
O: Let your way be known upon earth;
C: Your saving health among all nations.
O: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
C: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
O: Create in us clean hearts, O God;
C: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collect of the Day

O: 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.
C: Amen.

A Collect for Sundays

O: O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

A Collect for Guidance

O: Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

O: O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.
The General Thanksgiving

C: Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages.  
Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

O: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our  
common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son  
that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of  
them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in  
this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.

C: Amen.

O: Let us bless the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

O: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy  
Spirit, be with us all evermore.  
2 Corinthians 13:14
C: Amen.
Closing Hymn # 75 – “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying”

1. There’s a voice in the wilderness crying, a
   call from the ways untrod: Prepare in the desert a
   high-way, a high-way for our God! The
   lofty hills brought low; make straight all the crooked
   places where the Lord our God may go!

2. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee
   up to the heights and sing! Proclaim to a desolate
   people the coming of their King. Like the
   nations, and he will right the wrong. He shall
   flow’rs of the field they perish, like
   lambs he’ll gently hold; to pastures of peace he’ll
   na-tions shall pass like a dream a-way;

3. but the word of our God endur-eth, the
   arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst of
   feed his flock like a shepherd, the
   plazes where the Lord our God may go!
   lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
Music: ASCENSION (Irr.), Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988,

Postlude – Brett Hanley

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Thank you for your continued support of St. Columba’s Episcopal Church (www.stcolumbaca.com). Your financial donations help us to continue our ministries.
**St. C’s Candy Fundraiser** orders are due today, please. Thanks for your support of St. Columba’s during this pandemic time.

All are welcome to join the **St. Columba’s Digital Zoom Fellowship**, from 10:30-11:00 a.m., following our services on Sundays. The Zoom link is: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81447916393](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81447916393) (Meeting ID: 814 4791 6393), or join by phone: 1-669-900-9128, Meeting ID: 814 4791 6393.

If you miss the Facebook Live recording of our services, we now have a YouTube channel where you can view our worship - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw8L2LyeUlkvYjbnuQUfiIJw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw8L2LyeUlkvYjbnuQUfiIJw) - just search “St Columba’s Episcopal Church - Camarillo” on YouTube.com. Subscribe to our channel.

Join us online this **Friday, December 11**, at 7:00 p.m. for our **Celtic Contemplative Prayer**, a reflective style of worship with songs and repeated refrains, scripture, reflections, and prayers. You can watch on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

**Mount Cross** is offering **Drive-Through Communion** every Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They ask that you please consider your vulnerabilities and risk factors before choosing to participate in drive-through Communion.

All are invited to a brief “**Upper Room Zoom**” time of prayer and reflection from Noon to 12:15 p.m. on **Tuesdays** (with lay leaders) and **Thursdays** (led by Fr. Greg Larkin or the Rev. Julie Morris). Join via Zoom: [http://bit.ly/MCUpperRoomZoom](http://bit.ly/MCUpperRoomZoom) OR, people can dial in on a phone. Dial 1 (669) 900-6833. You will be asked for a Meeting ID. It is 843 6917 8221; the Passcode is 131024.

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**Stewardship Pledge Update**

As of December 1

No. of Pledges Returned: 47

Total Amount Pledged: $182,523.00

*Please help us plan for next year by returning your pledge.*