Second Sunday before Advent

15th November 2026

♫ Hymn (365) ♫

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain:

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true.
Where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus;

Refrain

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space,
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us;

Refrain

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone,
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bears the image of God's face;
let us bring and end to fear and danger:

Refrain

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace.
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

Refrain

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♫ Hymn ♫

May this place be one of nurture
where we all may come to know
how your endless love sustains us
as we live and move and grow.
May we work to build your kingdom
full of truth and light and grace,
living life in all its fullness
held in one divine embrace.

From our negligence and failures**
you have called us to repent,
drawing energy for action
from the voices of lament.
As the secret hurts long hidden
may at last be brought to light,
may the truth unlock the freedom
that is every person's right.

For you hold the broken hearted
till they learn to live again,
and your justice stands like mountains,
while your mercy falls like rain
when the smallest child is valued,
and the strong empower the weak,
when each human life is hallowed
and the unheard voices speak:

So with humble thanks we praise you
and we lift to you in prayer
all the people you are calling
to this ministry of care.
Give us wisdom, grace and courage,
holding fast to all that's good,
seeing Christ in one another
we will love and serve our Lord.

Words: © Ally Barrett. Tune: Covedale

♫ Hymn (CAHON 162) ♫

Father, I place into your hands
the things I cannot do.
Father, I place into your hands
the things that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands
the way that I should go,
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands
my friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands
the things that trouble me.
Father, I place into your hands
the person I would be,
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face,
we love to hear your voice.
Father, we love to sing your praise
and in your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with you
and in your presence rest,
for we know we always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you
and do the things you do.
Father, I want to speak the words
that you are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
that you will draw to you,
for I know that I am one with you.

Words and Music: Jenny Hewer (b. 1945)

♫ Chant (600) ♫

Bless the Lord, my soul,
And bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
Who leads me into life.

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♫ Hymn (725) ♫

Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there is hatred,
let me bring Your love.
Where there is injury,
Your pardon Lord;
and where there's doubt,
true faith in You.

O Master, grant that I may never seek,
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there's despair in life
let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness,
let me bring Your light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of Your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born
to eternal life.

Sebastian Temple (1928-1997) based on the prayer of St Francis of Assisi © 1967 OCP Publications

♫ Hymn (652) ♫

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
hold me with Thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong Deliverer,
be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs and praises,
I will ever give to Thee.

William Williams (1717-1791)
trans. Peter Williams (1727-1796)

First Reading

Zephaniah 1.7, 12–end

Be silent before the Lord God!
  For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
  he has consecrated his guests.
12At that time I will search Jerusalem
with lamps,
  and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
  those who say in their hearts,
'The Lord will not do good,
  nor will he do harm.'
13Their wealth shall be plundered,
  and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
  they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
  they shall not drink wine from them.
14The great day of the Lord is near,
  near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord
is bitter,
  the warrior cries aloud there.
15That day will be a day of wrath,
  a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
  a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
  and against the lofty battlements.
17I will bring such distress upon people
  that they shall walk like the blind;
  because they have sinned against the
Lord,
their blood shall be poured out
like dust,
  and their flesh like dung.
18Neither their silver nor their gold
  will be able to save them
  on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
  the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
  he will make of all the inhabitants of
the earth.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5.1–11

Concerning the times and the seasons,
brothers and sisters, you do not need
to have anything written to you. 2For
you yourselves know very well that the
day of the Lord will come like a thief in
the night. 3When they say, 'There is
peace and security', then sudden

destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!
4But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;
5for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.
9For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Gospel

Matthew 25.14–30

Jesus told his disciples this parable: 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19'After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." 21His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

22'And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." 23His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

24'Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."

26'But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." '

The Collect

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess and
inspire us to protect all who are in need of love.
Revive in us a new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Prayers of Penitence

God of love, who loved us first,
and who in Jesus, showed us how to love others,
forgive us for the times we've looked away,
or stayed silent when we should have spoken up.
Teach us to love as you love.

God of compassion, who sees the overlooked,
and draws near the hurting and exploited,
forgive us for the times when we have not responded as you taught us and
help us to see with your eyes, listen with your ears,
and give us courage to stand with those who are not heard.
Teach us to love as you love.

God of truth, who shines light into darkness
who reveals what is hidden and unspoken,
free us from our shame, our denial, and fear,
lead us in the way of honesty, openness and healing.
Teach us to love as you love.

The president says
God of protection, our place of safety and refuge,
may your Church be a place where:
power is used to serve,
people find belonging,
and love is made real in what we say and do.
Teach us to love as you love,
with love that protects, always.
And may Almighty God have mercy upon us
Pardon and deliver us from all our sins
Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness
And keep us in life eternal through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.