

Advent 3A
December 11, 2022

Fr. F. B. "Ted" Howden
27 Jan 1902 - 11 Dec 1942

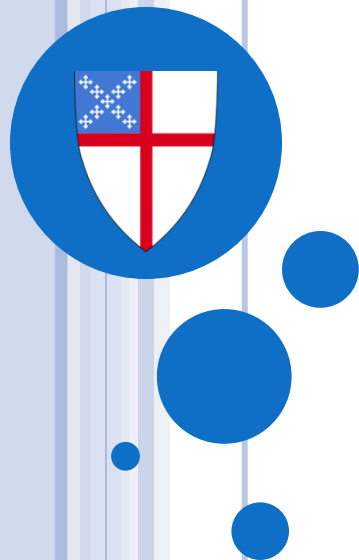


Chaplain & Martyr

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11



Frederick Bingham "Ted" Howden Jr. was born in Cumberland, Maryland, the son of an Episcopal priest who moved the family to Albuquerque in 1913 when he was consecrated missionary bishop of New Mexico and Southwest Texas. The younger Howden followed his father into the ministry and eventually became a military chaplain. Initially serving with the New Mexico National Guard, when World War II broke out, Fr. Ted Howden was assigned as Chaplain to the 200th Coast Artillery (CA) when it was federalized and sent to the Philippines in September 1941. The 1800-man unit was especially well suited to deploy since most of its personnel spoke Spanish fluently. Upon arrival it was assigned to the US Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) and ordered to man the air defenses for Clark Airfield while based at Fort Stotsenburg. Barely seven months after Howden's unit deployed to the Philippines, the Japanese 14th Army invaded Bataan and Corregidor. Trapped on the island, Howden's unit was captured on 9 April 1942 and forced to endure the 65-mile Bataan Death March during which some 18,000 American prisoners died—900 of them from the 200th CA. While imprisoned, Fr. Howden's heroism and faith were ever apparent, encouraging others to remain resolute and boosting their hopes throughout the ordeal. Numerous witnesses to Howden's selfless service and humanitarian care cite his Christian ministry as inspiring them and other fellow prisoners to maintain faith despite their' brutal treatment. At great personal cost, he often gave his own ration of food to those whom he believed needed it more. Fr. Ted Howden eventually died of dysentery and starvation-induced pellagra on 11 December 1942. His Japanese captors allowed him to be buried in a small cemetery at the edge of the Mindanao jungle a mile or so from the Davao POW Camp. In 1948, his remains were reinterred in an Albuquerque, New Mexico cemetery. Although his feast day is celebrated in Episcopal parishes throughout New Mexico, it has recently been added to the Episcopal Church's Calendar of Saints nationwide.

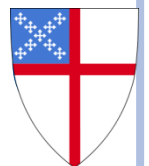
Fr. Frederick Bingham "Ted" Howden Jr.



200th CA Coat of Arms



Bataan Death March Route



Collect for Advent 3A

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Third week of Advent

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again:
rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all.
The Lord is near. Phil 4,4-5*

Prayer for Advent 3A [Fr. Frederick B. “Ted” Howden Jr.]

Almighty God, you gave your servant Frederick Howden grace & courage to put others' needs & hunger before his own life & health. Inspire us with purpose in training body, mind & spirit to better serve you, our country & others in your name. Give us vision to know what is right & the courage to pursue it. Strengthen us with your Spirit for the duties of life before us, that we may continue your faithful servants to our life's end, & on the last day to enter into your heavenly kingdom: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Better Times Ahead

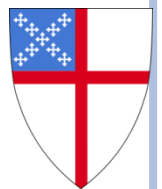
-Chiasmus: a rhetorical construction in which word order in the 2nd of 2 paired phrases reverses the order in the 1st.

1. Vv1-2: transformation of creation
2. V3: Transformation of disabled humanity
3. V4: assertion of God's rescue
4. Vv5-6: transformation of disabled humanity
5. Vv6b-7: transformation of creation

--Isaiah pictures a glad land, where:

1. V1: The desert will rejoice & blossom like a rose
2. V2: people shall see YHWH's glory
3. V4: YHWH comes with vengeance to save them
4. Vv5-6a: blind see, deaf hear, lame will "leap like a deer"
5. V6b: waters spring in wilderness
6. V7: grass with reeds & rushes will be habitations of jackals
7. V8: A highway will exist
8. V9: No lion will be present, nor will there be any ravenous beasts
9. V10: YHWH's ransomed ones will return to Zion with singing

ADVENT 3A: LET'S GO HOME! [ISAIAH 35:1-10]



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The wilderness & the dry land will be glad, the desert will rejoice & blossom; like the crocus 2 it will blossom abundantly & rejoice with joy & singing. The glory of Lebanon will receive it, the majesty of Carmel & Sharon. They will see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. 3 Strengthen weak hands & make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are fearful, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance and terrible recompense to save you.'

Waters shall break forth
in the wilderness
and streams in the desert
the burning ground
shall become a pool

and the thirsty ground
springs of water.

Isaiah 35:6-7

5 Blind eyes shall be opened & the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 the lame will leap like a deer & the speechless will sing for joy. Waters will break forth in the wilderness & streams in the desert; 7 burning sands will be a pool & the thirsty ground springs of water; the jackals' haunt will be a swamp, the grass shall become reeds & rushes. 8 A highway will be there & it will be called the Holy Way; the unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for God's people, no traveler, not even fools, will go astray. 9 No lion will be there, nor will ravenous beasts come up on it; but the redeemed shall walk there. 10 And the Lord's ransomed shall return & come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, & sorrow & sighing shall flee away.

St. John's Episcopal Church, Centreville VA

Be patient...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 & the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

P *prayer, perseverance, poise*
A *amiable, attitude in check, able to bear affliction*
T **TOLERANCE**
I *imperturbable, in order, injuring none*
E *endurance, encouraging to others*
N *not irritable, not anxious*
C **COMPOSED, CALM, CONSTANT**
E *even tempered, equanimity*

ADVENT 3A: BE PATIENT! (JAMES 5:7-10)

Be Patient...Justice Will Prevail

--Vv7-8: James emphasizes patience 4 times—3 times here; once in V10.

--Alternatives:

1. take matters into your own hands to wreak vengeance on those who have injured you
2. suffer silently and allow their anger to eat away at their innards

--Neither alternative holds much promise--the first victim of anger is likely to be the angry person.

--Reference to early (Oct-Jan) and late (Feb-Mar) rains

--Vv9-10: Don't grumble against one another: When things are working well, we've no reason to blame anyone.

--When we suffer adversity, we look for a cause, often blaming those nearest.

--This is counter-productive, since in we must be mutually supportive in adversity rather than destructive.

--James entreats believers not to take the law into their own hands

--The judge standing at the door = the advent of Christ's 2nd coming



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

St. John's Episcopal Church, Centreville VA

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

PREPARE — THE — WAY

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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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.' "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."

St. John's Episcopal Church, Centreville VA

Opening Act

--John says the Messiah's coming will be dramatic: he will baptize with the Holy Spirit, with fire, & will exercise judgment.

--But Jesus does not really fit that mold.

--He comes on the scene as one who proclaims the kingdom of God, calls upon people to trust in God, heals the sick, and befriends tax collectors and persons labeled "sinners."

--Should it be a surprise that John, now in prison with time to think, questions whether Jesus is indeed the one or not.

--Jesus fits neither John's expectations nor those of Jewish messianism.

--Typical of the Synoptic Gospels, Jesus doesn't openly declare himself as the Messiah. He does not proclaim himself; he proclaims the kingdom of God!

--Following that, Jesus changes the subject, asking the crowds 3 questions about John (Vv7-9) to drive home the fact that the people went out to see a prophet.

--But John was "more than a prophet" in that he had a superior role as the herald of the Messiah's coming, preparing his way. He is the messenger promised by the last of the prophets and is even extolled as the greatest of *human* beings (V11).

ADVENT 3A:

[MATTHEW 11:2-11]



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