



**St. Peter's Episcopal Church
The First Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020
Holy Eucharist ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**The Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.**

Prelude

Opening Hymn: #65 "Prepare the way, O Zion"

Advent Wreath Lighting

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent wreath, the candle of Hope. We light it again as we remember that Christ will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us. The second candle of Advent is the candle of peace.

Peace is a gift that we must be prepared for. God gives us the gift of peace when we turn to him in faith.

Introit Hymn #56 "O come, O come Emmanuel" vs 3 & 4

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Kyrie

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: and also with you

Celebrant: Let us pray

The Collect of the Day: 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. Amen.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

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 for ever. 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Response: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

**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.**

The Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord ***People: Thanks be to God***

Sequence Music

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

The Sermon

The Rev. Ronald J. Kolanowski

The Nicene Creed

BCP page 326

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**for us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. *Amen.***

The Prayers of the People

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, remind us that you are always with us, that like Joseph we might always be eager to fulfill your will, and be eager to pray:

O God, in days to come your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church; for our Presiding Bishop, Michael; for our bishops, Ian and Laura, for our deacon Donna and for all deacons and priests. We pray for all who proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth and for all who seek the Truth.

In our Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Thomas', Bethel; Christ Church, Bethlehem; Old St. Andrew's, Bloomfield Ministries to the homeless, for parishes that offer a temporary or permanent shelter. For Chapel on the Green, New Haven, Church by the Pond, Hartford, and all Ecclesia ministries. For the ministry of the Midnight Runs.

Silence

Come Lord Jesus.

People: Hear our prayer.

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation and its leaders, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

Silence

Come Lord Jesus.

People: Hear our prayer.

In your Kingdom, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind (Harry Denaker, Peter Myers, Eileen Doughty, Phil "Chip" Lewis, Bob Kell, Stephen, Eusebio Martinez, Denise Ward, Francine Bloch, Robin Kenefeck, Karen Thoms, Audrey Gasper, Barb LaMay, and Julia Johnson); that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Silence

Come, Lord Jesus

People: Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died, remembering especially Stephanie Wheeler's mother Joyce Leonbruno. We pray for those who suffer the loss of family, friends, and neighbors, especially those who died of the virus and those dying alone in hospitals and nursing homes, that they may be comforted by those who love them. Let them discover Your love, through the care and support of others.

Silence

Come Lord Jesus.

People: Hear our prayer.

In your Kingdom, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthday (especially Trisha Beatty [12/6], Cynthia Anderson [12/8], Peter Celio [12/10], Betsey Downey [12/11], Joshua Woods [12/12]) that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

Silence

Come Lord Jesus

People: Hear our prayer.

For what else shall we pray this day?

Presider: O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved. **Amen.**

The Peace

Announcements

The Offertory

Offertory Hymn: #67 “Comfort, comfort ye my people”

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Then the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar you assure us of your presence within us and within the body of Christ, the faithful through all the generations; grant that we who have witnessed anew these holy mysteries, though unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord, **Amen**

Communion Music

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, page 365

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: #76 "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry"

Dismissal

People: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

All Outside Christmas Store open Friday and Saturday, December 4 & 5 10-3 pm; Sunday, December 6, 12-3.

Food Collections

Most of our food pantries are currently accepting donations. We will continue to collect food for area pantries in the large brown box where we also keep the snowmelt. Thank you for giving so generously. Food insecurity continues to grow as COVID relief support ends, and the pandemic continues. We are currently collecting for Andover Food Bank for November and will continue with food for Colchester Food Bank in December.

The Christmas Memorials Card was mailed out to you. Please return by Dec. 15. We will be including memorial names in the Christmas bulletins as is our usual custom. If you choose to make an offering, they will go toward the decorations of poinsettias. While we are not in the church, we will have a beautiful altar created for Christmas in the parish hall. It is important that you get it in the mail by December 15 to be included in the program.

St. Peter's Prayer List

We pray for those in our community who have requested our prayers, especially Harry Denaker, Peter Myers, Eileen, Phil "Chip" Lewis, Eusebio Martinez, Joe Janowiak, Denise Ward, Barbara LaMay, Francine Bloch, Robin Kenefick, Karen Toms, Audrey Gasper, Mary Jo and Bob.

We pray for all those who have died, remembering especially Stephanie's mother Joyce Leonbruno.

Continuing Prayer List: Eileen, Phil "Chip" Lewis, Bob Kell, Stephen, Kate, Tammy Lopez; Teddi; Bill W.; Caroline; Russ Boehle, Sean, Emma; Janice, Jared and Jenna; Alberta's granddaughter, Jessica; Loretta Ickes; Nelson Moore; Daniel Paez, Kyle Ethan; Sharon, Tim Redden; "Cousin" Phil & Norm H.; Cole; Stephen & Victoria; Alyssa & Kayden, Mary; Loretta Ickes, Cheryl & Bruce, Val & Stephen, Mark & Tina, John & Dottie, Gloria, Maryellyn, Gary, J & J, Arlene, Judy P., Bill, John M., George A., Mark P., Liz, Nancy, Katy, Chris; Sarah McCracken, Ginny Hellstrom, Jacob Mika; Alice & Bob; John; Cailin & son Connor Campbell; Richard; Flora; Alice Wentz; Daryl Cook; Megan Sulzinski, Janet Kay; Ella; Liz; Bill S.; Patty Sullivan; Marcia Brown; Joan Conley; John & family; Jeanette Wade; Susan Hicks & family; Jeannette Farren & family; Grace Jensen; Becky, June; Ella & Nelson; James; Rina Bettancourt;

