



**St. Peter's Episcopal Church
The Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020
Holy Eucharist ~ 10:00 a.m.**

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Prelude

Opening Hymn: WLP Hymnal #724 "People Look East"

Advent Wreath Lighting

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

Last Sunday the candle of peace was lit. We light it and the candle of hope again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring to the world everlasting peace. The third candle of Advent is the candle of joy. We light this candle to remember that Christ brings the promise of a new life and to remember that He is the bringer of true and everlasting joy.

Introit Hymn #56 "O come, O come Emmanuel" vs 5 & 6

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: 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.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Response: Psalm 126

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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: John 1:6-8,19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord *People: Praise to you, Lord Christ*

The Sermon

The Rev. Ronald J. Kolanowski

The Nicene Creed

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**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 priest, Fr. Ron especially on the anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, 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. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford Those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely, and the oppressed

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 (Art Kolanowski, Loretta Ickes, 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 Grace Downey [12/13], Hannah Mangiafico [12/13], Talon Kozlak [12/15], Emily Messier [12/15], Erin Woods [12/15], Allison Bradley [12/18], Amy Stone [12/18], Liz Cyr [12/19], John Gerke [12/19]) 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: #640 "Watchman, tell us of the night"

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

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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: #437 "Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord"

Dismissal

People: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

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 Please return the card by Dec.15. so we can include all 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 it you get it in the mail by December 15 to be included in the program.

Bylaws Changes

Since we are in the midst of COVID at a all-time high for our area we will most likely not have an in-person Annual Meeting at Church, rather something online.

One piece of business that we need to conduct is to review and approve the bylaws changes that the vestry approved and need the parish's approval. So, we'll be sending out soon a copy of the proposed bylaws changes for prior approval to an annual meeting in January. It is relevant to do now, since the proposed changes apply to officers terms and must be approved before we can move forward for an election for vestry in 2021. We will hold an online Zoom chat for any questions you may have about the proposed changes. We will do the zoom on Wednesday, December 16 at 11:30a.m. and set up voting thereafter.

Outdoor Christmas Store: Many thanks to all the parishioners who worked so hard outside in the cold to successfully run the Outdoor Christmas Fair. Creative solutions by inventive people are proving to be very effective.

St. Peter's Prayer List

We pray for those in our community who have requested our prayers, especially Art Kolanowski, Loretta Ickes, 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 Doughty, 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;