



**St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 20, 2020  
Holy Eucharist ~ 10:00 a.m.**

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**Prelude**

**Opening Hymn: #60 "Creator of the stars of night"**

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love**

Last Sunday we lit the candle of joy. We light it again and the candles of hope and peace again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring us everlasting peace and joy. The fourth candle of Advent is the candle of Love. Its light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us.

**Introit Hymn #56 "O come, O come Emmanuel" vs 7 & 8**

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: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

***People: Thanks be to God***

## **Canticle 15**

### **The Song of Mary *Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-55)**

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \***

**for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: \***

**the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him \***

**in every generation.**

**He has shown the strength of his arm, \***

**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \***

**and has lifted up the lowly.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things, \***

**and the rich he has sent away empty.**

**He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \***

**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

**The promise he made to our fathers, \***

**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**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 Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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: Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Ronald J. Kolanowski**

**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, 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 Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; St. Luke; St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; For the children of the world, the Bishops' Fund for Children, and all ECCT ministries for children at risk

*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 (Richard Hagenow, Ambrosio Vidal and family, Loretta Ickes, Harry Denaker, Peter Myers, Eileen Doughty, Phil "Chip" Lewis, Bob Kell, Stephen, Eusebio Martinez, Denise Ward, Karen Thoms, 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. 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 Nathaniel Kowinsky [12/21], Cathy Gerke [12/23], Chris Gerke [12/23], Christine Eells [12/25], Emily Bradley [12/26], Rylee Perry [12/26]), 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: #265 “The angel Gabriel from heaven came”**

## 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: # 66 “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”**

**Dismissal**

***People: Thanks be to God.***

## **Announcements**

### **Christmas Eve Services Online Only**

The liturgy committee met earlier in November to plan for Christmas. We had a plan to do it in person as well as an online plan. In light of the COVID status in our state we will have only an online service that will be pre-recorded and put on our parish YouTube channel. It will be posted online on December 24 so you can watch it at your convenience on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The service will be followed by singing of your favorite carols. Here’s the YouTube Channel link for all our services as well as Christmas:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCBVbD\\_LVqWZR6qp8oMMBpA/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCBVbD_LVqWZR6qp8oMMBpA/)

### **Weekly Wednesday Coffee Hour**

During COVID we’ve continued to meet online on Wednesdays at 10:00a.m. The link to join is always the same so if you keep it you won’t have to remember it each week. Here’s the meeting link:

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](#)

### **Food Collections**

As food insecurity is on the rise, we are continuing to collect food for area pantries in the large brown box where we also keep the snowmelt. Thank you for giving so generously. We are currently collecting for Colchester Food Bank in December. Food donations at church have dropped off significantly this month. As you are shopping for yourself this Christmas, we encourage you to pick up a few canned goods to drop in the box outside the parish hall.

### St. Peter's Prayer List

**We pray for those in our community who have requested our prayers,** especially Richard Hagenow, Art Kolanowski, Loretta Ickes, Harry Denaker, Peter Myers, Eileen, Phil "Chip" Lewis, Eusebio Martinez, Denise Ward, Karen Toms, Mary Jo and Bob.

**We pray for all those who have died.**

**Continuing Prayer List:** Ambrosio Vidal and family, 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;