

# St. Peter's Episcopal Church

The First Sunday of Advent ~ December 3, 2023

Holy Eucharist Rite 2 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Book of Common Prayer page 355

Prelude

**Opening Hymn: #57 "Lo! He comes with clouds descending"**

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

**People: And Blessed be his kingdom, now & forever. Amen**

## Advent Wreath Lighting

**First Sunday of Advent: Hope**

Reader: Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. We light this candle to remind us to be alert and watch for His return.

**The Candle of Hope is lit**

**Let us pray (in unison): Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us.**

**Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming. *Amen***

**Hymn #56 "O come, O come Emmanuel" vs 1 & 2**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!*

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go.

*Refrain*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People: and also with you***

Celebrant: Let us pray

**The Collect of the Day: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.***

**The First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

*People: Thanks be to God*

### **The Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.**
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?**
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

**7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.**

**16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

**17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**

**18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.**

### **The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

### **Sequence Anthem**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

***People: Glory to you, Lord Christ***

**The Holy Gospel: Mark 13:24-37**

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

**Prayers of the People for Advent**

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 (especially Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, the Presiding Bishop; Jeff & Laura, the Bishops of Connecticut; for our priest Ron; for our deacons Donna & Marge; and for all bishops, priests and deacons; that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam, Christ Church, Bethany; Postulants and candidates for Holy Orders; the Commission on Ministry and its members.

*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 (especially Tim, Bill, Mary Bertucio, Herb Altsher), and for those who are noted in Continuing Prayers, that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

*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 Anna Engler (12/4), Ben Engler (12/4), Susan Ostrout (12/5), Trisha Beatty (12/6) and those celebrating anniversaries; that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

*Silence*

Come Lord Jesus,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God with Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

*Silence*

Come Lord Jesus,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Presider: 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.

Come Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

## The Confession

**BCP page 360**

## The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

*People: And also with you*

## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory

Offertory Hymn: #68 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

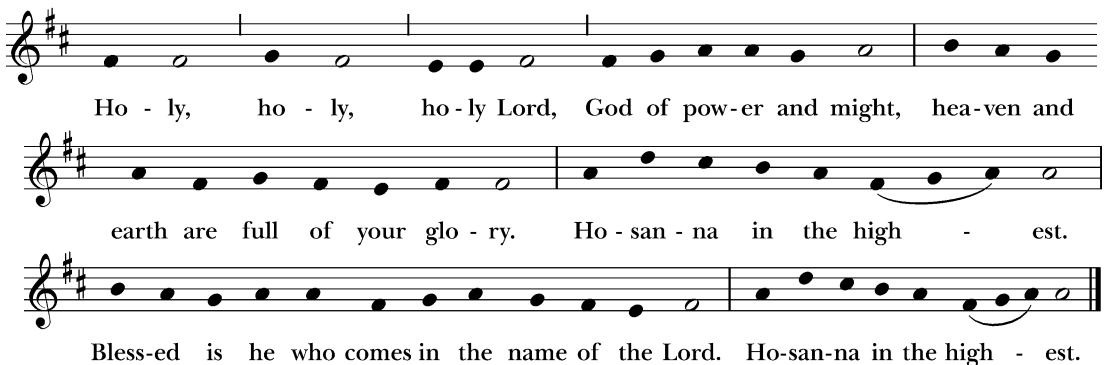
### The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

**BCP page 367**

### Sanctus: S-124 “Holy, holy, holy Lord”

*David Hurd*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

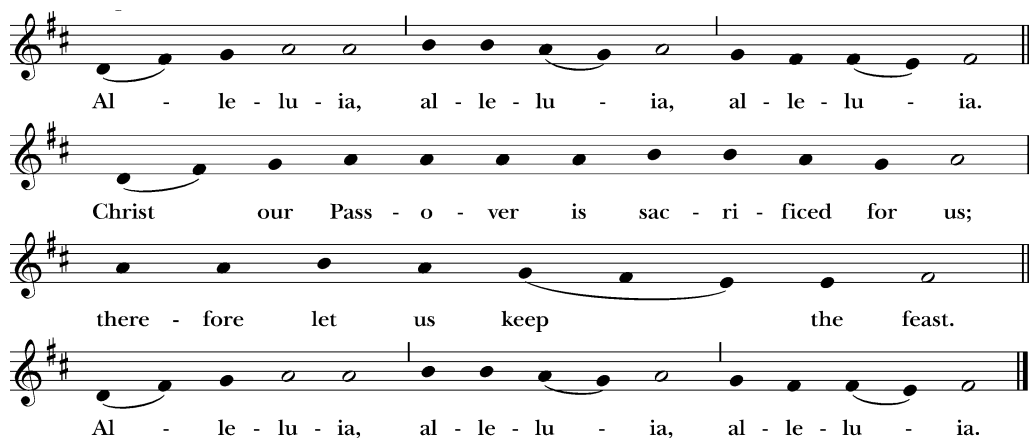


And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say  
**The Lord's Prayer (in unison)** **BCP, page 364**  
**The Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
***People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

**Fraction Anthem: S-154**

**David Hurd**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Communion**

**Post Communion Prayer (*in unison*)** **BCP, page 366**

**The Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn: #73 "The King shall come when morning dawns"**

**Dismissal**

**People: Thanks be to God**



**Postlude**

## Parish Family Remembrances and Thanksgivings for December 3, 2023

*The Sanctuary Candle is given to the glory of God by Fran and Lino Rodegher in loving memory of Gianfranco Rodegher*

**We pray for our clergy:** Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, the Presiding Bishop; Jeff & Laura, the Bishops of Connecticut; for our priest Ron; for our deacons Donna & Marge; and for all bishops, priests and deacons;

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** we pray for Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam, Christ Church, Bethany; Postulants and candidates for Holy Orders; the Commission on Ministry and its members.

**In St Peter's Cycle of Prayer,** we pray for all our parish family, especially Tim, Bill, Mary Bertucio, Herb Altsher, and for those who are noted in Continuing Prayers.

**We pray for those who celebrate their birthdays this week** remembering especially Anna Engler (12/4), Ben Engler (12/4), Susan Ostrout (12/5), Trisha Beatty (12/6) and those celebrating anniversaries.

**We pray for the deceased.**

### **Continuing Prayer List**

Jesse, Theresa, Judy Jones, Tucker Junge, Judy Knox Jinny and Jack, Alexa, Brett Schulki, Clyde Conrad, Jr., Wilson, Jeff Baez, Scott Warren, Christine Comeau, Christopher Page, Austin Fritz; Chris Bendoraitis; Ashley Joline; Robert Bouchard, June Beauvais; Star, Laura Beaudoin, Bill Houle, Aimee Goodrich, Cara Begin, Derek Anderson, Justin, Janet Nixon, Bill D., Milton Porter, Steve Dubin, Sue & Harry Denaker, Peggy Cobb, Ryan, Joan Hamilton, Ella & Nicole, Roberto Rodegher, Marlin Corbean; Nelson Moore; Brian, Kathryn & Olivia; Tom Robbins & Ti, Caroline, Ron Lamp, Louis Schluntz; Patricia Angelou, Rina Bettancourt; Susan Hicks & family, Noel, Daryl, Scott Goodrich, Ambrosio Vidal & Family, the Farren & Family.

## Ongoing Activities

- **Balance Class** Mondays 10-11 am, \$5
- **Boy Scouts: Wednesdays**
- **Buildings and Grounds Committee:** First Tuesdays, 7 p.m.
- **Building Networks International:** Fridays 7:30 a.m.
- **Choir practice Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Fellowship Café (Memory Workshop):** Every Tuesday, 10-2 p.m.
- **Virtual coffee hours** Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.
- **Vestry meeting** Third Thursdays at 7 p.m.

**Advent/Christmas Memorial card**, with which you can memorialize loved ones who are no longer with you, honor that special person in your life, and support our Advent and Christmas services is available in your pew and at the back of the church. The card can be returned in the accompanying envelope by mail or placed in the offertory box. We would like to have the names to be remembered as soon as possible so we can prepare our memorial list for the Christmas bulletins.

### **The Christmas Pageant will be held at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday December 17 (3rd Sunday of Advent)**

If you have a child or youth (child, grandchild, niece, nephew) interested in participating there are speaking and non-speaking roles to fill. If interested, please contact Allison Forrest at 860-305-1848. There will be Christmas Pageant Rehearsals following the 10:00a.m. Service on Sundays 12/3 and 12/10.

# Sanctuary Performing Arts Celebrates Christmas with Jason Castonguay in Concert!

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 2023, 2:30 p.m.  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church,  
30 Church Street, Hebron, CT



Jason performs in the great American Songbook tradition, interpreting the best loved classics as the composers envisioned them. This holiday concert includes seasonal favorites that will delight all ages.

