

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
The Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 10, 2023
Holy Eucharist Rite 2 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

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

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

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

Advent Wreath Lighting

The Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

Reader: 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.

The Candle of Peace is lit

Presider: Let us pray: Loving God, thank you for the peace that you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts to receive him. Amen.

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

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| 3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might
Who to the tribes of Sinai's height
In Ancient times did give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe. | 4. O come, thou branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny;
That trust thy might power to save
and give them victory o'er the grave |
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Refrain: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!*

Refrain

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: and also with you

Celebrant: Let us pray

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 Psalm: 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 Anthem

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 Nicene Creed**

**The Reverend Michael Smith
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The 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 intentions for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, the Presiding Bishop; Jeff & Laura, the Bishops of Connecticut; for our priest Fr. Ron; for our deacons Marge & Donna; and for all bishops, priests and deacons; and in the **Diocesan 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; The Church of Pakistan United, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

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 Andy, Tim, Bill, Mary Bertucio, Herb Altsher and those in our Continuing Prayers list); 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 especially Peter Celio (12/10), Betsey Downey (12/11), Joshua Woods (12/12), Grace Downey (12/13), Hannah Mangiafico (12/13), Erin Woods (12/15), 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

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The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

People: And also with you

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

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

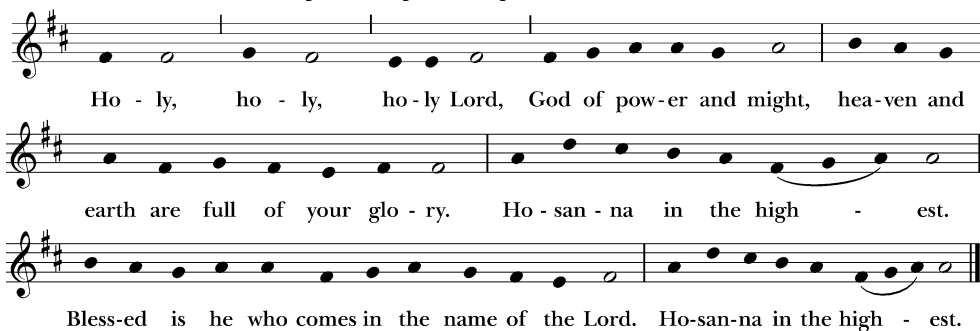
The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

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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)

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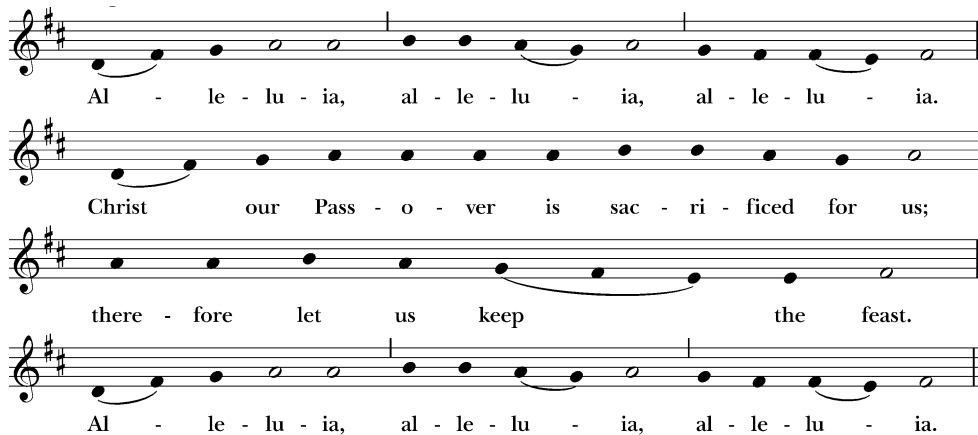
The Breaking of the Bread

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*)

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The Blessing

Recessional Hymn: #76 "On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's cry"

Dismissal

People: Thanks be to God

Postlude:



Advent/Christmas Memorial card, with which you can memorialize loved ones who are no longer with you and support our Advent and Christmas services is available 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.

Parish Family Remembrances and Thanksgivings for Dec. 10, 2023

We pray for our clergy: Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, the Presiding Bishop; Jeff & Laura, the Bishops of Connecticut; for our priest Fr. Ron; for our deacons Marge & Donna; and for all bishops, priests and deacons; in the **Diocesan 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; The Church of Pakistan United, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind especially Andy, Tim, Bill, Mary Bertucio, Herb Altsher & those in our Continuing Prayers list; that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthdays especially Peter Celio (12/10), Betsey Downey (12/11), Joshua Woods (12/12), Grace Downey (12/13), Hannah Mangiafico (12/13), Erin Woods (12/15), and for those celebrating anniversaries, that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

We pray for the deceased.

Continuing Prayer List

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, Noel, Marlin Corbean; Nelson Moore; Ron Lamp, Brian, Kathryn & Olivia; Tom Robbins & Ti, Caroline, Louis Schluntz; Patricia Angelou, Rina Bettancourt; Susan Hicks & family, Daryl, Scott Goodrich, Ambrosio Vidal & Family, the Farren Family;

**St. Peter's is hosting a Red Cross blood drive from 1-6 on December 20.
Please go on their website and sign up to give this precious Christmas Gift.**

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. Rehearsal will be held after the 10 a.m. service on 12/10.

Gilead Congregational Church is once again this year offering “A Quiet Christmas” on December 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. (672 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT) for those that may find they have trouble feeling “in the spirit”, we hope that you will join in our service which will offer comfort, healing, and hope in a season where those things may be hard to find.

The holidays can be difficult for us all: the stress and strain of trying to offer a time of celebration take their toll. Many people find they have trouble feeling “in the spirit” of things, whether because of the recent (or anticipated) death of a family member or friend, the end of a marriage, the loss of work, or another difficult change. We understand.

This peaceful gathering provides a calm space and time for us to acknowledge our own struggle. It is offered to lift up those who need comfort. With the bustle and energy of this season surrounding us, it is good to know that we are not alone. It may be a blessing to receive words of strength and hope that can provide comfort, even amid difficulty and sorrow. Bring your fears, pain, and grief, and join us for this time of prayer and reflection. **We also invite you to bring a photo of a loved one to be placed on the communion table.** Contact the Gilead church office with any questions (860-228-3077 or GCC@gileadchurch.net).

Advent and Christmas Calendar of Events 2023

Sundays in Advent: 12-3; 12-10; 12-17; 12-24

- **December 10: Second Sunday of Advent**

8a.m. Rite I no music and 10:00a.m. Rite II with music; Sermon by Rev. Michael Smith

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Following 10:00a.m. Service

- **December 17: Third Sunday of Advent** 8a.m. Rite I no music and 10:00a.m. Christmas Pageant. If you have a child or youth interested in participating contact Allison Forrest at 860-305-1848

- **December 23: Greening and Decorating the Church**

10:00a.m. Join fellow parishioners as we prepare our church for the Feast of Christmas

- **December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent** One combined Service at 9:00a.m. with hymns; sermon by Rev. Ron Kolanowski

- **December 24: Christmas Eve 4:30p.m. followed by Christmas Toast.**

Given that fewer and fewer people are comfortable driving at night we will have one large service planned for Christmas Eve with brass, special musicians, and Christmas carols. Please stay afterwards for a few minutes to toast in Christmas with champagne or mimosas, sparkling water, and a few goodies.

- **December 31: First Sunday of Christmas One Service 9:00 a.m.**

We will celebrate the Feast with one **Service of Lessons and Carols** at 9.

- **January 7: Feast of The Epiphany**

8a.m. Rite I no music and 10:00a.m. Rite II with music; Sermon by Rev. Ron Kolanowski