

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
The Third Sunday of Advent with Christmas Pageant
December 17, 2023
Holy Eucharist ~ 10:00 a.m.

Prelude



Opening Hymn: #640 "Watchman, tell us of the night"

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

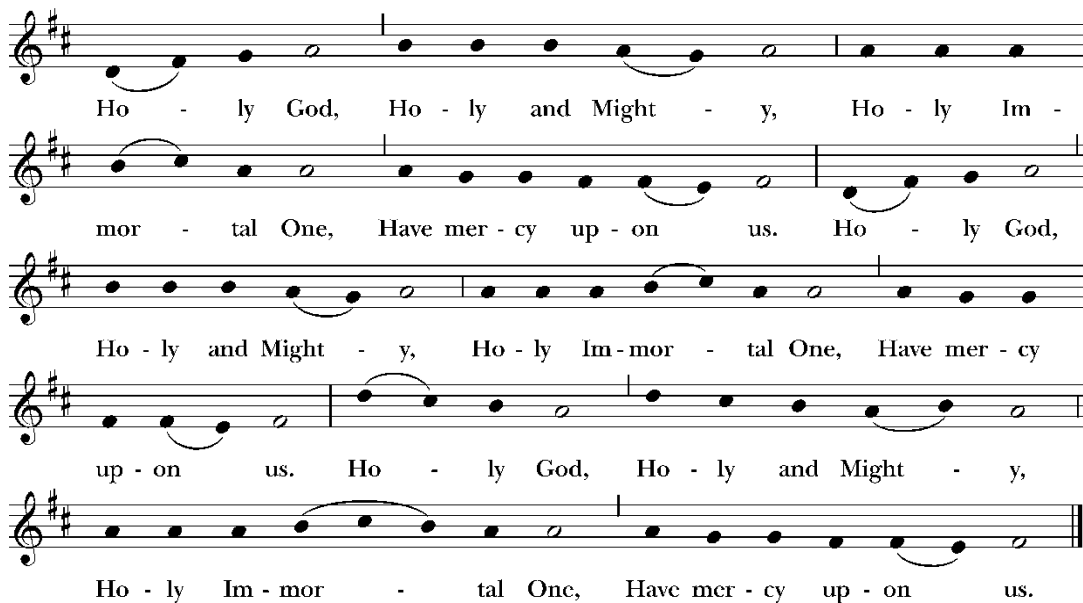
Reader: Last Sunday we lit the candle of joy. We light it again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring us everlasting peace and joy. The fourth candle of Advent is the candle of **Love**. Its light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us.

Let us pray. Loving God, thank you for your gift of love. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and do your word. Amen

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

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

Trisagion S-100



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

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 Nativity Pageant

Introduction: The stage is set for the Christmas Story

Opening Hymn #56 “O come, O come, Emmanuel” (verses 5 & 6)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. | 6. O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death’s dark shadow put to flight. |
|--|--|

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

Scene One: The prophecy of the coming of Christ the King.

Scene Two: The appearance of the Angel Gabriel before the Virgin Mary.

Hymn: “Mary, did you know” (sung by choir)

Scene Three: The birth of Christ in Bethlehem

Hymn #96 “Angels we have heard on high” (vs. 1)

Hymn #101 “Away in a manger” (vs. 1 & 2)

Scene Four: The worship by the shepherds

Hymn #94 “While shepherds watched” (vs. 1 & 2)

Scene Five: The star of Bethlehem appears.

Hymn #111 “Silent Night” (vs. 1 & 2)

Scene Six: The worship by the three Kings

Hymn #128 “We three kings of Orient are” (vs. 1 & 5)

Hymn #99 “Go tell it on the mountain”

During the singing of the carol, the pageant participants will move to the back of the church and then join their families for the service of Holy Communion.

The Nicene Creed

BCP page 358

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;

In the **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** we pray for St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; 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 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 Amy Stone (12/18), Liz Cyr (12/19), John Gerke (12/19), Nathaniel Kowinsky (12/21) 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 HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Offertory Hymn: WLP #724 "People Look East"



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

Announcements

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP page 369

The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

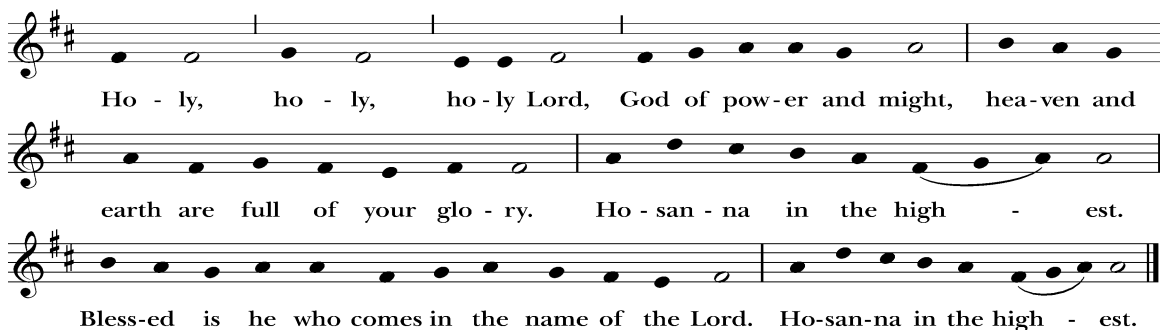
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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:

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 Music

Post-Communion Prayer

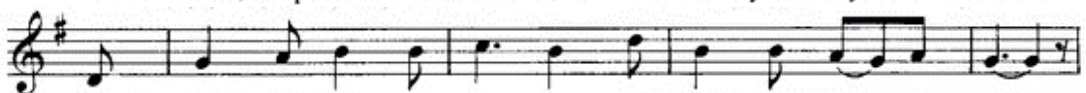
The Blessing

BCP, page 365

Closing Hymn: "O come divine Messiah"



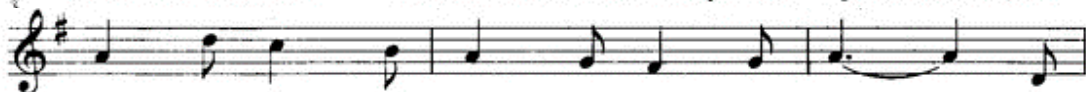
1. O come, Di-vine Mes - si - ah, The world in si - lence waits the day
2. O come, De-sired of na - tions, Whom priest and proph - et long fore-told,
3. O come, in peace and meek-ness, For low - ly will your cra-dle be:



When hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.
Will break the cap - tive fet - ters, Re-deem the long - lost fold.
Though clothed in hu - man weak - ness We shall your God-head see.



Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the night and show your



face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O



come, Di-vine Mes - si - ah, The world in si - lence waits the day When



hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.

Dismissal

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude



Prayer and Thanksgivings for the 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023

We are delighted to announce the birth of Sue & John Ostrout's great-grandson, Theo, on December 12. Congratulations!

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.

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. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; Those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely, and the oppressed

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 Amy Stone (12/18), Liz Cyr (12/19), John Gerke (12/19), Nathaniel Kowinsky (12/21), 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.

No Freeze Shelter Meal Prep December 23 3:30pm

Greetings! The no-freeze crew will be making a brown bag dinner for the No freeze shelter in Willimantic again, on Saturday, December 23rd @ 3:30-4:30 PM . To be involved in either meal assembly or donating food items or a Duncan Donuts \$5 gift card, please contact Carissa Johnson at dcfamily6@gmail.com . We are providing a \$5 gift card with each meal in hopes it gives the opportunity for a person to enjoy a hot beverage and to leave the cold outside while feeling welcome as a patron. A little gift that we hope goes a long way on a cold day. While every card received is precious, I do want to send an early message of appreciation to Trisha Beatty and her family for donating gift cards as their families service project. Thank you for your family's generosity! Thank you to all! *Carissa*



St. Peter's Christmas mailboxes are in place at the back of the church on the white bookcase. Save a stamp and place your cards for your parishioner friends in the mailboxes and they will be picked up on Sunday. Also, don't forget to check under your initial to see who left YOU a card!

Advent and Christmas Calendar of Events 2023

- **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 25: Christmas Day, a single service at 10:00 a.m.**
- **December 31: First Sunday of Christmas: One Service of Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.,** celebrating with a **Service of Lessons and Carols**
- **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

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).

PAGEANT CAST

Jesus -Hallie Burdick

Mary—Ella Baez

Joseph—Anna Engler

Announcer 1—Gianni Wursthorn

Announcer 2--Amy Forrest

King Herod/Innkeeper—Austin Hurley

Angel Gabriel--Liliana Wursthorn

Announcing Angel – Arianna Gianoni

Angels--Sophia Raasumaa-Boots

Lily Raasumaa-Boots

Galilea Garcia

Shepherds—Jaxon Gianoni

Conor Hurley

Lambs— Anna Hurley

Benson Eells

Kings— Ben Engler

Liam Roy

Owen Roy

Backstage Helper: Eva Baez

Special thanks to Josh Ziemski and Stephanie Wheeler for our music

*Please join us following the service
for fellowship and refreshments in Phelps Hall.*

