

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 24, 2023

Holy Eucharist Rite 2 ~ 9:00 a.m.

Book of Common Prayer page 355

Prelude

Opening Hymn: #265 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

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

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

Advent Wreath Lighting

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

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

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace.

Refrain:

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

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

Refrain

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

The Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

1 Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; *

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

4 'I will establish your line for ever, *

and preserve your throne for all generations.'"

19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *

"I have set the crown upon a warrior

and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

20 I have found David my servant; *

with my holy oil have I anointed him.

- 21 My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.**
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.**
- 23 I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.**
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.**
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.**
- 26 He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’”**

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 Anthem

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 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. Paul's, Woodbury; Grace Church, Yantic; Annual parish meetings, committees, staff, and volunteers who oversee and maintain buildings and grounds.

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 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 Cathy Gerke (12/23), Chris Gerke (12/23), Chris Eells (12/25), Amy Forrest (12/29), Joseph Latour (12/30), Jeff Woods (12/30) 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 today?

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you
People: And also with you

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Offertory Hymn: #60 “Creator of the Stars of Night”

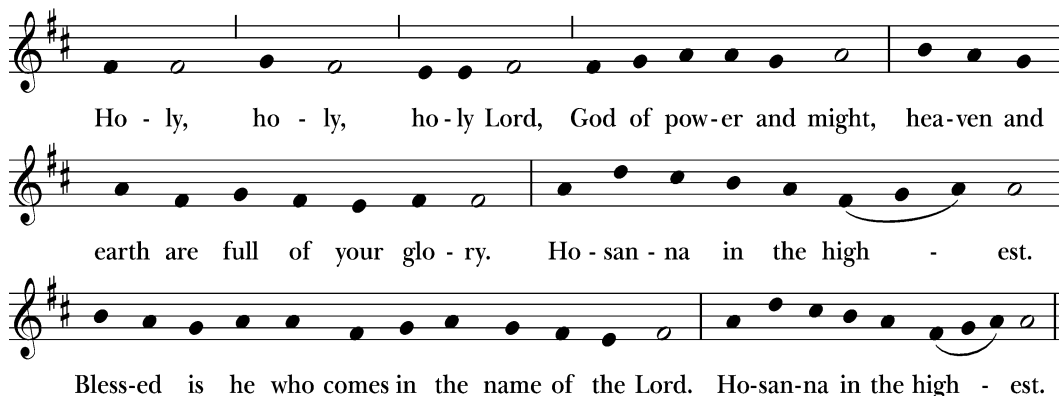
The Great Thanksgiving

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)

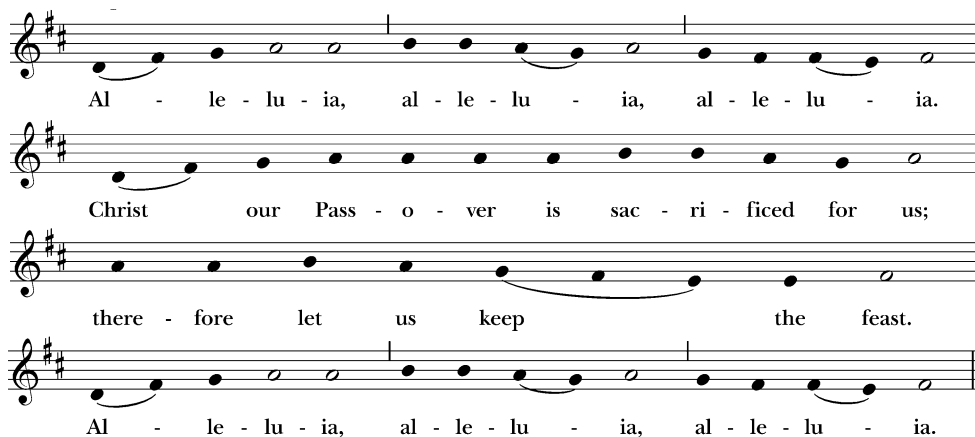
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The Breaking of the Bread

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: #66 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Dismissal

People: Thanks be to God

Postlude:



Parish Family Remembrances and Thanksgivings for December 24, 2023

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 St. Paul's, Woodbury; Grace Church, Yantic; Annual parish meetings, committees, staff, and volunteers who oversee and maintain buildings and grounds

In St Peter's Cycle of Prayer, we pray for all our parish family, especially Tim, Bill, Mary Bertucio, Herb Altsher, and those on our Continuing Prayer List.

We pray for those who celebrate their birthdays this week remembering especially Cathy Gerke (12/23) & Chris Gerke (12/23) inadvertently omitted last week, Chris Eells (12/25), Amy Forrest (12/29), Joseph Latour (12/30), Jeff Woods (12/30)

We pray for the deceased especially remembering Jack (a friend of Lianie Gorcenski Unterzuber)

Continuing Prayer List

Andy, Jinny, 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, 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 Houle, Aimee Goodrich, Cara Begin, Derek Anderson, Justin, Janet Nixon, Bill., Schluntz; Patricia Angelou, Rina Bettancourt; Susan Hicks & family, Daryl, Scott Goodrich, Ambrosio Vidal & Family, the Farren Family;



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 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 at 9:00 a.m.** We will celebrate the Feast with a **Service of Lessons and Carols** at 9 a.m.
- **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.

