



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

~ where everyone is welcome ~

1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

SUNDAY NIGHT ALIVE

HOPE

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

Psalms 130:5

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Introduction: Week One

Advent is a time of joyful expectation of the coming of the Lord. It is a time of conversion and renewal, a time of watching and waiting, a time of new beginnings, a time to experience the power of God. It is above all else a time of hope, peace, and joy. One of the most beautiful symbols of the Advent season is the Advent wreath.

The Advent wreath carries with it many rich symbols. The circle represents eternity. A circle has no beginning and no end, just as God's love and forgiveness have no beginning and no end. The evergreen symbolizes life, hope, and growth, because it is always green. The candles symbolize the light that the Gospel has brought into the world. With this light we should look into ourselves and recognize our need for the coming of Christ. At this time we will have the lighting of the first candle.

Readers Week One

The first candle we light will help us to remember that we always need to watch for Christ's coming. Just as the people waited for the first coming of Christ, we also wait for his second coming. In Mark 13:32-37 it says:

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the door keeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming - in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning - lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

Let us Pray: Father of light, today we begin our time of preparation for the birthday of your Son. May the light of this candle remind us that You have given hope to a people who have walked in darkness. As we look upon this candle may we remember that we are to always watch and wait for your coming. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING SONG - O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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!

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

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

WELCOME AND ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON (Chris Tomlin)

1. ***Lord have mercy***

Christ have mercy

Hear our cry and heal our land

Let kindness lead us to repentance

Bring us back again

2. ***Who is this God who pardons all our sin***

So ready to forgive

You delight to show your mercy (Repeat)

Chorus:

For your name is great and your heart is grace

Kyrie Eleison

Over all you reign you alone can save

Kyrie Eleison

Lord have mercy Christ have mercy on us now

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Together, let us pray.

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 LESSONS

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

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

O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

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

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

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

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

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE SONG - Abide With Me

1. ***Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the Helpless, O abide with me.***
2. ***Swift to its close ebbs out; Life's little day.
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me!***
3. ***I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.***
4. ***I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting?
Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.***
5. ***Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom
and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks,
and earth's vain shadows flee!
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!***

THE GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON - Fr. Ralph

RESPONSE TO THE WORD - Cannons

*It's falling from the clouds
A strange and lovely sound
I hear it in the thunder and rain
It's ringing in the skies
Like cannons in the night
The music of the universe plays*

Chorus:
*We're singing You are holy great and mighty
The moon and the stars declare who You are
I'm so unworthy but still You love me
Forever my heart will sing of how great You are*

*Beautiful and free
The song of galaxies
Reaching far beyond the milky way
Let's join in with the sound
Come on let's sing it out as
The music of the universe plays (Chorus)*

*All glory honor power is Yours amen
All glory honor power is Yours amen
All glory honor power is Yours
Forever amen (Chorus)*

THE NICENE CREED (standing)

BCP 358

**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

As we keep awake for the coming of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who prepares a light for our path.

For the coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the coming of Wisdom to teach and guide us.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the coming of Emmanuel, the hope of all people.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.

Hear us, Lord.

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place.

Hear us, Lord.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai, and Héctor, our Bishops; Ralph, our Priest; Nancy, our Deacon, and for all the holy people of God.

Hear us, Lord.

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.

Hear us, Lord.

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth.

Hear us, Lord.

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, and for those we name now, either silently or aloud.

Hear us, Lord.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially _____.

(You may offer prayers either silently or aloud)

In your mercy.

Hear us, Lord.

For those who rest in Christ, especially _____. In your mercy.

Hear us, Lord.

For our deliverance from all afflictions, strife, and need.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

Joining our voices with the blessed Virgin Mary and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you. *(The Peace is exchanged - please maintain social distance.)*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY - Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace!
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
2. Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy unchanging love.
3. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
here by thy help I've come.
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
4. Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God.
He to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.
5. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee;
6. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it.
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. [*Proper Preface is added*]

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.***

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

***We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 for ever. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

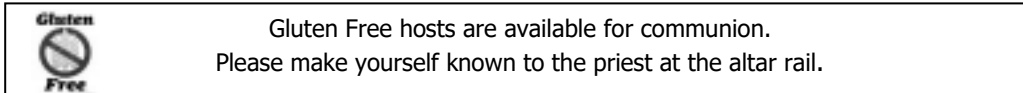
***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



COMMUNION SONG - Sweet Hour of Prayer

***Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
that calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne,
Make all my wants and wishes known!
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer.***

***Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him, whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His Word, and trust His grace
I'll cast on Him my ev'ry care,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.***

***Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
Of those whose anxious spirits
burn with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place where God,
my Savior, shows His face,
And gladly take my station there,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.***

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** (these words may differ from time to time)

CLOSING SONG - Forever

*Give thanks to the Lord our God and King;
His love endures forever.
For He is good, He is above all things;
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.
Sing praise, sing praise.*

*With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm;
His love endures forever.
For the life that's been reborn;
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise*

*From the rising to the setting sun;
His love endures forever.
And by the grace of God
We will carry on;
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise*

*Refrain:
Forever God is faithful,
Forever God is strong.
Forever God is with us,
Forever. Forever.*

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. (these words may differ from time to time)
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

**The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Jim and Susan Grotte in thanksgiving for Joshua Grotte's Birthday**