



*church of reconciliation*

**Order of Service  
November 29, 2020**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**PRELUDE**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Advent means “Coming”. We begin our church year with the season of Advent. Who is coming, where are we going and who will show us the way? It is a season to spiritually prepare to enter the Mystery of Christmas, a mystery so big that it takes four weeks to get ready. During the four Sundays of Advent our eyes will be focused on Bethlehem. The altar rail will be transformed by the lights of those who are to show us the way. Come with the prophets, the Holy Family, the Shepherds, and the Magi as we all make our way to Bethlehem.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

“The Light of the Prophets” declares the season that awaits Christmas and reveres those who first spoke the promise of the Christ Child.

Their language generated hope in the hearts of the faithful. They told us to

**STOP!**

**WATCH!**

**PAY ATTENTION!**

Something incredible is going to happen in Bethlehem!

**THE OPENING HYMN**

**Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn**

**THE COLLECT FOR PURITY**

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

***People* You come to your people and set them free.**

*Celebrant:* 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.**

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Celebrant:* God be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* 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 HEBREW SCRIPTURE

*Lector: A Reading from Isaiah.*

Isaiah 64:1-9

*Read by Sally Scurlock*

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.  
Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 80

**Refrain: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great Rive it stretched out its shoots. *Refrain*

Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by.  
It is ravaged by the board of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field. *Refrain*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore; look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. *Refrain*

And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name.  
God of hosts, bring us back; let you face shine on us and we shall be saved. *Refrain*

## THE EPISTLE

*Lector:* A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**  
*Read by Cynthia Tobola*

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.

*Lector:* This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL

**Mark 13:24-37**

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**People: Glory to you, O 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."

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## GENEROSITY SPEAKER

**Bill Swann**

## THE SERMON

**The Rev. Josh Woods**

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**All:** 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** *Read by Rusty Wilson, Priscilla Coppock, and Carol Westerkom*

*Intercessor:* Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially our president, Donald; our governor, Greg; our mayor, Ron; and other elected officials of our nation.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry; our Diocesan Bishop, David Reed; Assistant Bishop Rayford High; our priests Josh Woods and Judith Rhodes; and our seminarian, James Reiss.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, especially those in our Armed Forces and first responders; and Kimberly, Nora, Benny, Ted, John, Lisa, Susan, Phil, Stella, Ben, Robert, Betty, Renee, Patrice, Peter, Jean, Nasir, Patsy, and Edwin.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Happy birthday to:**  
Suzanne Scott 11/29  
Ellen Ahn 12/1  
Stewart Swann 12/2  
Stella Judson 12/2  
Kitty Flores 12/2  
Jessie Hardy 12/3  
Bette Boyd 12/5  
Monnie Groos 12/5

## **THE PEACE**

*Celebrant* The peace of God be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

When we face difficult and scary challenges in our lives and in the world around us, let us stand up and raise our heads, because our redemption is drawing near.

### **THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

**Advent Message  
By Martin How**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**Eucharistic Prayer A**

*Celebrant* 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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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:

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 say,

### **The LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Celebrant:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*The people respond:* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## **THE INVITATION**

He whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread. He who redeemed us and called us by name, now meets us in this cup. So take this bread and this wine, in them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

**Air on a G string by J. S. Bach**

## **THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Celebrant: And now, 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 the strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

## **THE BLESSING**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

*The Priest dismisses the people saying:*

Let us go forth in the name of Jesus, rejoicing in the power of hope.

*The People Respond:*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE CLOSING HYMN**

**People, Look East**