



St. John's Episcopal Church
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020

Lighting of First Advent Candle

Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Love

Candle is lit

God of all hope and joy, open our hearts in welcome, that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and ever.

Opening Hymn #74 ~ *Blest be the King Whose Coming*

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of
God! For him let doors be opened, no hearts against him
barred! Not robed in royal splendor, in
power and pomp comes he; but clad as are the
poorest, such his humility!

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of
God! By those who truly listen his voice is truly
heard; pity the proud and haughty, who
have not learned to heed the Christ who is the
Promise, who has atonement made.

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of
God! He only to the humble reveals the face of
God. All power is his, all glory! All
things are in his hand, all ages and all
peoples, till time itself shall end!

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of
God! He offers to the burdened the rest and grace they
need. Gentle is he and humble! And
light his yoke shall be, for he would have us
bear it so he can make us free!

The Word of God

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.*

Trisagion ~ S102

The image shows a musical score for the Trisagion. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system of music has the lyrics: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,". The second system of music has the lyrics: "Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, providing a harmonic support for the vocal line.

The Collect

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.*

Old Testament

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.

The Response

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Misericordias Domini

- 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 Epistle

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.

The 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.

The Sermon

The Rev. John Beach

The Nicene Creed

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

Let us join our voices with Mary, who celebrates God's greatness and sings of God's blessing for all who are poor and oppressed. With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

Eternal God, we pray for the world, that our warring ways may be overturned even now, through the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ; for nothing is impossible with you, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for the mission of your church, that we may proclaim the good news of the age as we rejoice in the gift of our Savior. We pray especially for our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for all who suffer (particularly for...) that we may feed the hungry and lift up the lowly through the power of your holy and life-giving Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, Donald, and for our President-elect, Joe, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this town of Saugus, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially Tena Holloway and Martha Nelson, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of St. John, and all of the saints let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins to the One whose mercy endures from generation to generation.

Silence is kept.

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our offences and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.

Celebrant

Brothers and sisters, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Anthem ~ Hallelujah

The Holy Communion

Prayer over the Gifts Holy

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right to do so.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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.

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant 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.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant Let us pray in the words of the One whose coming is certain and whose day draws near

People and Celebrant

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The presider invites the following prayer to be said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Anthem during Communion Contemplation

Prayer after Communion

Merciful God, may this Eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever

Celebrant Glory to God,
All whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or
 imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in
 Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Magnify the Lord and rejoice, for nothing is impossible with God. And the blessing of God who creates, redeems, and restores, be with you now and always.

Concluding Hymn #54 ~ *Savior of the Nations, Come!*

Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's
Son, make here your home. Marvel now, both
heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Wondrous birth! Oh wondrous child of the
Virgin undefiled! Mighty God and
Mary's son, eager now his race to run!

Thus on earth the Word appears, gracing
his created spheres; hence to death and
hell descends, then the heavenly throne ascends.

Come, O Father's saving Son, who o'er
sin the victory won. Boundless shall your
kingdom be; grant that we its glories see.

Dismissal

Looking forward to that final Day when God will be all in all, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Prayer List

Maureen Burke, Annelies Caggiano, Gia Capello, Carolyn Chadsey, Jerry Dello Russo,
Don DiGiacomo, Oriol Pi-Sunyer, Jim Dockery, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Claire Errico,
Joanne Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Gary Goodwin, Estelle Heath, Bruce Higgins,
Ken Hoelzl, Michele Hoelzl, Janet Horrigan, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, (Baby) Autumn Ladder-
Bush, Dennis Lancaster, Janet Lancaster, Lisa Lancaster, Shane Maxwell, Matt, Lori M.,
Harriet Miraglia, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Debbie Rossetti,
Bill St. Clair, David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Jeanne Seaboyer, Bo Shaw, Ray Shaw, Malcolm
Silva, Gail Smith, Victoria Smith, Linda Sullivan, Meghan Tapley, Walter T., Susan Webb,
Rachel W., and Candace Wormstead

Announcements

Monthly Envelopes

In going to print, we await the receipt of monthly giving envelopes. They will be sent out to parishioners as soon as they arrive. And just a reminder to return 2021 pledge cards if you have not done so already. Again, it is a great help to us in calculating the budget for next year. Thank you!

Upcoming (virtual) Advent & Christmas Worship

- * Blue Christmas Service ~ Monday, December 21st at 7pm
- * Christmas Eve Pageant ~ Thursday, December 24th at 4 pm
- * Christmas Eve Eucharist ~ 10pm - Bishop Alan Gates will preach
- * A Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols ~ Sunday, December 27th at 10am

Counting

Reminder: we will count next **Sunday, December 27th**. Please forward any remaining year-end pledges/gifts to the office. Your support is very much appreciated!

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