

The First Sunday of Advent



St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Glenside, Pennsylvania
December 1, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Gathering In Joy

Prelude: Sleepers Wake!

J. S. Bach

Opening Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982*, #705 As Those of Old Their First Fruits

The Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Christ be Our Light (*The choir will sing the verse , and the congregation will follow with the refrain*)

REFRAIN:

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Advent Prayer and Candle Lighting

Christ Be Our Light (*Refrain only*)

The Presider says to the people

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

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.**

Listening for God's Word

The First Reading – *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9 (*Found in the Book of Common Prayer*)

BCP 614

The Epistle – *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see

you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982, #66 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

The Gospel – Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke**
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Barbara Ballenger

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

The response to *Holy one, show us your way* is **and teach us your paths.**

The Presider concludes with this prayer.

God of hope, enliven our hearts with hope during the dark times when we fail to see your presence. Help us listen to your still, small voice guiding and comforting us in the night. Open our eyes to your light in the love of Jesus and in our love for one another. May steadfast hope anchor us always in the safe harbor of your love, in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Presider: Let us confess our sins to God.

**People: God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love
And serve only your will. Amen.**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your 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

Presider: The Holy One comes to you in peace and love, that you may increase and abound in love. The peace of the Lord be always with you

People: And also with you.

Celebrating Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem: Carol of the Advent-Philip R. Dietterich St. Peter's Choir

Presentation Hymn: *Wonder, Love, and Praise*, #763 **As We Gather At Your Table**

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer 2 *from Enriching Our Worship 1*

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus: *The Hymnal 1982, # S-130*

The Presider continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ,

crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with Peter and Philip and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. **AMEN**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

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

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 Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem: *The Hymnal 1982, #S-164*

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God...

The Communion of the People

Communion Music: All Earth is Hopeful

David Cherwien

The Post-Communion Prayer

Presider and people together

Loving God,

we give you thanks

for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sending Out

Blessing

Put off the works of darkness, put on the armor of light. Know that God comes to you in power and in peace. Be steadfast in your hope that the Lord may find you ready at his coming; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Visitor Commissioning (Rick Pearce)

In the name of the congregation of St. Peter's, we send you, Rick Pearce, forth, bearing the gift of Holy Communion to Linda Matt and Calvin Haas.

Birthdays:

Kailey Brennan 12/02, Carol Boyle 12/03, Abby O'Keefe 12/04, Miller Jaxon 12/06, Patricia Sampson 12/07

Anniversaries:

Richard & Susan Pieczonka 12/01

Birthday & Anniversary Prayer

BCP 830

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace; and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

- **Join us after morning worship for a conversation with author Amy Cohen about the African American experience in Philadelphia.**
- **Advent wreath making materials are available for home assembly in the parish hall following morning service. A \$15 donation is suggested.**
- **Join us for Guatemala Sunday and Craft sale next Sunday, Dec. 8.**

- **Walk In Love Stewardship Campaign** : There's still time to fill out and turn in your pledge cards. Physical cards are available outside the sanctuary. You may also fill out an electronic pledge card by visiting our website or scanning the QR Code on the Walk in Love bulletin board.

Closing Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982, #640 Watchman, tell us of the night*

The Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude: The Heavens Declare

Benedetto Marcello

A Meaningful 2024 Advent and Christmas at St. Peter's

Advent Worship:

Guatemala Sunday - Sunday, December 8

We will celebrate our friendship with our companion diocese in Guatemala on Dec. 8. Morning liturgy will include a slide presentation and homily from Linda Toia and hymns sung in Spanish with the help of our folk group.

Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 15

This unique liturgy will feature pre-Christmas readings and hymns during the 10 a.m. worship.

Blue Christmas-Wednesday, December 18 at 7 p.m.

A gentle prayer service of care and reflection for those experiencing mourning, loss, or emotional pain during this holiday season with quiet Taizé chants. Please note the service date has been changed from Tuesday, Dec. 17 to Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Other Advent Activities:

Larry Sibley will again offer downloadable readings and reflection questions for a self-guided lectionary-based study throughout the Advent season. Links to the materials will be available weekly in the newsletter and on the website.

Mary Pat's Cookies: Accepting Donations from December 1 to 7

Please place your donations in the kitchen with a note for MP cookies. Cookies may be dropped off beginning Dec. 1 through Saturday, Dec. 7 at 9 a.m. Help assemble cookie tins on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 9 a.m. for distribution. Filled tins will be available in the kitchen for distribution on Sunday, Dec. 8. To learn more visit the website.

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve: Pageant and Eucharist at 5 p.m.

Choral Eucharist at 9 p.m.

Christmas Day: Wednesday, Dec. 25

A quiet 10 a.m. service with pre-recorded music and Eucharist.

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias are given to the glory of God and offered in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones each year. After Christmas, the plants are distributed to homebound parishioners. If you would like to make a contribution for poinsettias, please fill out an altar flower form located outside of the Accounting

Office or outside the chapel and place it in Charlese Freeman's mailbox. The suggested donation is \$30.

Christmas Card Box

The Christmas Card Exchange box and tray will be across from the St. Philip's Chapel right outside the sanctuary this year. In this annual tradition, members drop off cards for one another to be picked up at church. By doing this, we are able to save on postage! All donations collected in the box will go toward the Guatemala Education Scholarship Fund. Cards will be available to pick up each week. Even if you choose not to participate in this exchange, please check the tray each week because you may receive cards.

Use the QR code below to learn more about all out Advent and Christmas Programming.



Worship Ministers

Presider & Preacher: *The Rev. Barbara Ballenger*

Acolyte: Alyssa Clemens, Jaxon Miller

Lectors: *Rick DeKalb, Amy Michener-Wall*

Intercessor: *Rick Pearce*

Eucharistic Ministers: *Charlie Hannum, Kristina Marchuk, Debbie Panebianco*

Ushers: *Petter Gottemoller, Alex Stevers-Radtke, Jack Wilbur*

Counter: *Bill Hower*

Vestry Steward: David Mosteller

Bell Ringer: *Bill Bacon*

Altar Guild: *Karen Sayer*

Fellowship Help: *Kitchen Coordinator*

Guest Organist: *Kathy Flaherty*

Tech Team: *Mike Levin, PJ Linke, James Moore*

Vestry

Debbie DeKalb: *sojourner_44@yahoo.com (Worship Liaison)*

Mark Evans: *MarkCarverEvans@gmail.com (Operations Liaison)*

Meredith Flaherty: *merflah@aol.com (Faith Formation Liaison)*

Jeanné Hannum: *jeannefhannum@aol.com (Outreach Liaison)*

Audrey Kipphut: *ajkipphut@verizon.net (People's Warden)*

Amy Michener-Wall: *adwall@hotmail.com (Human Resources Liaison)*

Dave Mosteller: davemos2010@gmail.com (*Rector's Warden*)
John Olson: john.olson@villanova.edu (*Faith Formation Liaison*)
Amy Neske: amyh120@yahoo.com (*Parish Life Liaison*)
Douglas Pneuma: douglas.pneuma@gmail.com (*Outreach Liaison*)
Mike Reeve: mreeve1128@outlook.com (*Accounting Warden*)
Karen Sayer: karmaflower@gmail.com (*Worship Liaison*)
Grayson Torpey: gtorpey09@gmail.com (*Youth Representation*)
Matt Torpey: mtorpey79@gmail.com (*Human Resource Liaison*)

Staff

The Rev. Barbara Ballenger (Rector) stpeter654rector@gmail.com
Charlese Freeman (Communications Administrator) stpeter654@gmail.com
Tim Valera (Caretaker) timvalera@gmail.com
Carol Cei (Music Director) carol@carolcei.com
Kathy Flaherty (Bell Choir Director) stpeter654music@gmail.com
Linda Toia (Folk Group Director) linda.toia@verizon.net
Kristina Marchuk (Parish Nurse) Kmarchuk923@gmail.com

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