The First Sunday of Advent



St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Glenside, Pennsylvania
November 29, 2026
10:00 A.M.

Gathering In Joy

Prelude: Wake, awake! For night is flying J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Opening Hymn: *Lift Every Voice and Sing II (LEVAS)***, #7 I want to be ready**

The Opening Acclamation **BCP *355***

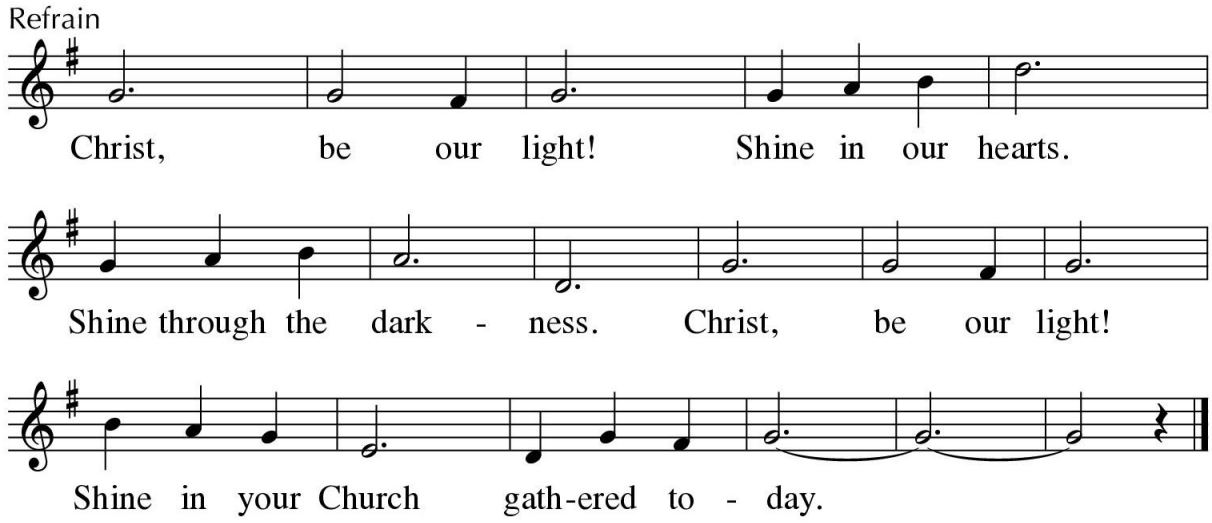
Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity
Presider: 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 Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

REFRAIN:



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b.1957
Tune: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, 9 8 9 6 with refrain; Bernadette Farrell, b.1957
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Advent Prayer and Candle Lighting
This morning we light the first candle which reminds us that throughout history, God's people have spent time waiting, wandering and wondering about the timing of God's eternal plan. Like the people of old, we long for God's presence to illuminate the areas of life where we are called to wait. This morning we echo the words of the Psalmist, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage: wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:14)

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 – *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.**

Psalm 80:1-7 (*Please use the Book of Common Prayer)* **BCP 702**

The Epistle –*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*
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.**

Gospel Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982 (H82)***, #73 The King shall come**

The Gospel – *Mark 13:24-37*
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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.**

The Sermon The Rev. Barbarba Ballenger

The Nicene Creed **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 *(responses are bolded)*
Adapted from "A Gift of Hope" in Out of the Ordinary by Joyce Rupp.

Intercessor and People pray responsively
God of all those who yearn for a glimmer of assurance on the long journey home to you, come! Come with a vast storehouse of renewed dreams, hopes, and peacefulness.

God of hope, come! Enter into our memories and remind us often of the yearning of the people of history. Help us to hear the loud crying voices of the prophets who proclaimed that a new age would dawn. Bring peace to the Holy Land of your birth and throughout the world.
God of hope,
may we remember the strength of our ancestors, who waited faithfully for your coming.

God of hope, come! Find your home in our church and in places of worship all over the world. Be with Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our presiding bishop; Daniel, our Bishop; Barbara and Jeannie, our clergy; Ramon, the Bishop of Guatemala; Marben, Eugenio and Juan, our companion clergy in Guatemala; and each one of us in our vocation and ministry. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Iglesia Anglicana de Chile. Let us pray to the Lord…
God of hope,
open their hearts to your Holy Spirit, that they may lead us along paths of compassion and reconciliation.

God of hope, come! Enter into our hearts that we may not lose ourselves in ourselves, missing the message of your encouragement because we are so entangled in the web of our own whirl of life.
God of hope,
teach us to see your comfort in the blessings of daily life.

God of hope, come! Enter into the lives of all those we hold dear, the ones whose lives are marked with pain, struggle, and deep anxiety, those whose lives bear ongoing heartaches, those whose difficulties threaten to overwhelm them with helplessness and despair. We pray for the intentions listed on our chalkboard outside and all on our parish prayer list, including: Ashley, Anthony, Bridget, Jeanné, Aubrey, Robert, John, Tim, Leslie, Barbara, John, Jenna, Bonnie, Joseph, Sue, Kay, Beverly, Phyllis, Hannah, Lindsey, Bob, Keirstin, Bill, Hazel, Joey, Ernie, Alice, Gerry, Rong, Michael, Patricia, Mary, Felicia, Katherine and all those we name now…
God of hope,
make us sacraments of your presence, extending your hand of love to those who need us.

God of hope, come! Receive into your loving hands those whom you have called to their heavenly home, especially all those we name now… Fulfill their hope with your loving presence unveiled.
God of hope,
we remember those who have cared for us during their lives and our continuing relationship in the communion of saints.

God of hope, come! Enter into this Advent season with the grace of joy and laughter. Fill faces with smiles of delight and voices with sounds of pleasure. Let this gift come from deep within.
God of hope,
replenish all with the joyful blessings that only your peace can bring.

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
Deacon: 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 peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

Offertory Music: The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee Jean Berger (1909-2002)

Presentation Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982 (H82),* **#61 Sleepers, wake!**

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 (H82),***#S114 Holy, Holy, Holy**

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 (H82)*, **#S158 Lamb of God**

Presider: 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.

The Communion of the People

Communion Music: Communion Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

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

The Blessing
May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Visitor Commissioning *(Occasional)*
In the name of the congregation of St. Peter's, we send you, forth, bearing the gift of Holy Communion to ….

All: We who are many are one body, because we all share in one bread and one cup.

Birthdays and Anniversaries
When your birthday or anniversary is announced, please stand in your place and remain standing as we pray.

Birthdays:

Peter Gottemoller	*11/29*
Kailey Brennan	*12/02*
Carol Boyle	*12/03*
Abby O'Keefe	*12/04*

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.

Closing Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982 (H82),* **#397 Now thank we all our God**

The Dismissal
Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!
People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude: Allegretto Florence Price (1887-1953)

Announcements

- **Join us following morning worship for a forum exploring the Breath Prayer, as we learn about meditation during Advent season. Parishioner Liz Nettleton will lead the forum.**
- **Special thanks to all who helped organize our Craft Fair, especially Amy Huang, Janice Solla and Kristina Marchuk.**
- **Next Sunday, Sunday Dec. 6, we'll celebrate our relationship with our companion dioceses in Guatemala during morning worship. Following the service, please shop handmade Guatemalan items during the Craft Sale and enjoy authentic snacks during fellowship.**
- **Christmas Flowers: Please submit your loved one's names to be honored with Christmas poinsettias and be listed in the Christmas leaflets. Forms can be found outside the chapel and finance office. The suggested donation is $30.**
- **Sign up to attend the Women's Group Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange on Friday, Dec. 4. Use the link in the newsletter to sign up.**
- **Use the link in the newsletter to sign up for Christmas pageant roles. Non-speaking and speaking roles available!**

A Meaningful 2026 Advent and Christmas at St. Peter's

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.

Donate Cookies for Mary Pat's Cookies-Nov. 15-Dec. 6
Mary Pat's Cookies is St. Peter's annual project to bring tins of holiday cookie and candies to parishioners and friends who need a holiday pick-me-up. Your donations of cookies and candy can be dropped off in the kitchen for Mary Pat's cookies until Dec. 5. Please mark them accordingly. On Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be cookie baking in the kitchen. All cookie tins will be packed at 9 a.m. and distributed after service on Sunday, Dec. 6

Advent Book Group Meeting Dec. 2 & 9 via Zoom
Join Deacon Jeannie for an Advent Book Group on Dec. 2 and 9 at 7 pm by Zoom. The discussion will be on the book Watch for the Light. See the newsletter to access the Zoom link.

Advent 2: Guatemala Sunday and Craft Sale - Sunday, Dec. 6
Join us on Sunday, December 6, as we celebrate our relationship with our companion diocese in Guatemala. We will have a presentation during the liturgy, with special hymns selected by our choir director. You'll also have an opportunity to shop for authentic Guatemalan crafts made by hard-working families at UPAVIM. Also enjoy coffee from Guatemala and special goodies during fellowship hour.

Advent 3: Lessons and Carols Service - Sunday, Dec. 13
This unique liturgy will feature pre-Christmas readings and hymns. Anticipate the birth of Jesus in word and song.

Blue Christmas Taizé Service -Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.
Join us for a gentle prayer service of care and reflection for those experiencing mourning, loss, or emotional pain during this holiday season. The service will feature Taizé chants, Scripture and prayer.

Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24
- Christmas Eve: Pageant and Eucharist at 5 p.m.
- Choral Eucharist at 9 p.m.

Christmas Day: Friday, Dec. 25
A quiet 10 a.m. service with pre-recorded music and Eucharist.

Worship Ministers

Presider & Preacher: *The Rev. Barbara Ballenger*

Deacon: *The Rev. Jeannie Sachs*

Acolytes: *Alyssa Clemens, Michael Colino, Alex Stevers-Radtke*

Lectors: *Rick DeKalb, Tim Flaherty*

Intercessor: *Kristina Marchuk*

Counter: *Bill Hower*

Eucharistic Ministers: *Charlie Hannum, Deborah Way*

Ushers: *Anne Gibson, Dave Kipphut, Mike Reeve*

Vestry Steward: *Mark Evans*

Altar Guild: *Donna Kulp*

Welcomer: *Donna Evans*

Music Director: *S. Faust*

Bell Ringer: *Bill Bacon*

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

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