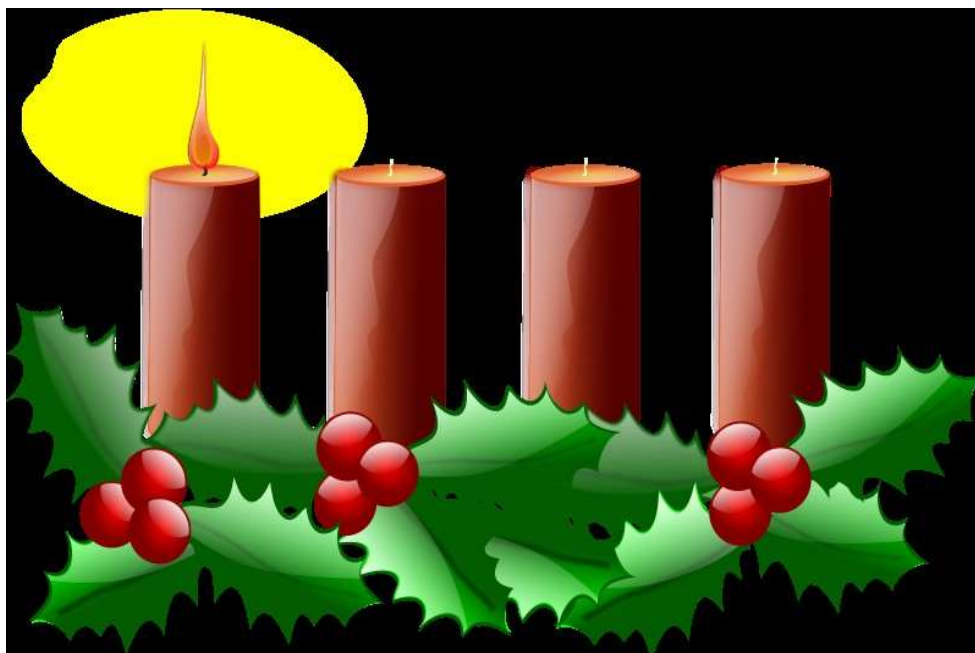


The First Sunday of Advent



St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Glenside, Pennsylvania
November 30, 2025
10:00 A.M.

Gathering In Joy

Prelude: Prelude: Aalaiki'ssalaam

Naji Hakim (1955-)

Opening Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 (H82)*, #597 O day of peace

The Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

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

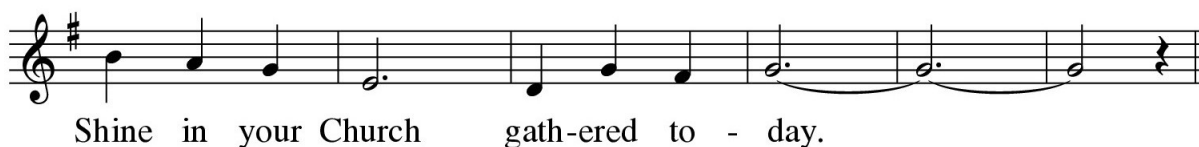
People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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:

Refrain



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b.1957
Tune: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, 9 8 9 6 with refrain; Bernadette Farrell, b.1957
© 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP.

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 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

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

Psalm 122 (*Found in the Book of Common Prayer*)

BCP 779

The Epistle – *Romans 13:11-14*

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Gospel Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 (H82), # 76 On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry*

The Gospel – *Matthew 24:36-44*

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Bob Smith

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

These prayers have been adapted from Joyce Rupp's "The Gift of Hope" by Carol Boyle.

God of hope, come! ...

God of hope,

All: may we remember the strength of our ancestors, who waited faithfully for your coming.

God of hope, come! ...

God of hope,

All: open their hearts to your Holy Spirit, that they may lead us along paths of compassion and reconciliation.

God of hope, come! ...

God of hope,

All: teach us to see your comfort in the blessings of daily life.

God of hope, come! ...

God of hope,

All: make us sacraments of your presence, extending your hand of love to those who need us.

God of hope, come! ...

God of hope,

All: we remember those who have cared for us during their lives and our continuing relationship in the communion of saints.

God of hope, come! ...

God of hope,

All: 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

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: "Prepare Ye" from Godspell

Stephen Schwartz (1948-)
Helena Franco, soloist

Presentation Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 (H82), # 72 Hark the glad sound*

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: Arietta

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

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

God, who ever comes to you, draw you to his love, draw you to his light, draw you to himself; 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

In the name of the congregation of St. Peter's, we send you, ..., forth, bearing the gift of Holy Communion to

Birthdays:

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

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 for Guatemala Sunday and Craft sale next Sunday, Dec. 7.
- Advent wreath making materials will be available to assemble here or at home on Guatemala Sunday in the parish hall following morning service. A \$15 donation is suggested.

- Tell Out My Soul 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 Tell Out My Soul bulletin board.
- As part of our efforts to help our less fortunate community members, St. Peter's is starting a sandwich making group that will meet at 12:30 on the first Tuesday of each month. On Tuesday, December 2 parish hall, the group will gather to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the community fridge. See Sue Gordon with questions. *See the newsletter for more info including the Signup Genius link.*
- St. Peter's Women will hold their annual Christmas dinner and gift swap on Friday, December 12 starting at 6 p.m. in the parish hall. The event is open to all parish women and those who identify as women. See Debbie DeKalb for more details.

Closing Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 (H82), #65 Prepare the way, O Zion*

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

Roberta Rowland-Raybold (1938-)

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

Advent Worship:

Guatemala Sunday - Sunday, December 7

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 14

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

Blue Christmas (Taize) - Tuesday, December 16 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:

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

Please place your marked donations of cookies and/or candy in the kitchen with a note for MP

Cookies. Cookies may be dropped off beginning Nov. 30th through Sunday, Dec. 7th at 9 a.m. Help assemble cookie tins on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 9 a.m. PRIOR to the service for distribution. Filled tins will be available in the kitchen after the service for distribution on Sunday, Dec. 7. *To learn more visit the website.*

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve: Pageant and Eucharist 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Choral Eucharist begins at 8:30 p.m.

Christmas Day: Thursday, 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 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 Programing.



Worship Ministers

Presider: *The Rev. Barbara Ballenger*

Preacher: *The Rev. Bob Smith*

Acolyte: *Alyssa Clemens, Michael Colino, Patrick McMahon*

Lectors: *Debbie DeKalb, Joani Harkinson*

Intercessor: *Bob Hartung*

Eucharistic Ministers: *Rosalinda Ibanez-Memba, Kristina Marchuk*

Ushers: *Anne Gibson, Petter Gottemoller, Mike Reeve, Alex Stevers-Radtke*

Counter: *Bill Hower*

Vestry Steward: *Ernie Dixon*

Bell Ringer: *Bill Bacon*

Altar Guild: *Wendy Hartung*

Welcomer: *Donna Evans*
Music Director: *Sam Faust*
Tech Team: *Mike Levin, PJ Linke, James Moore*

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Ernie Dixon: marzell Dixon@me.com (*Accounting Warden*)
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