

*Celebrating Christ's Presence
In a Changing World*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

November 29, 2020

10:30 am

(The words to the hymns are printed on the last two pages of this bulletin.)

Prelude: *VENI, EMMANUEL*

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

Welcome by the Rev. Sarah Hurlbert, Rector

Opening Hymn: **The Hymnal 1982 #57**
 “Lo! He Comes, With Clouds Descending”

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Hymn of Praise: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel-
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

-Worship & Rejoice Hymnal #154

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord 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.**

A Reading from the Prophet 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.

Reader
People

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People
Thanks be to God

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

Celebrant The Gospel of Christ.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon **The Reverend Sarah Hurlbert**

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.

Prayers of the People:

Intercessor: As we pray for the world please respond to each petition with the words “teach us your mercy”...

Intercessor: God of our beginning and our end, we confess to you that we live in a world that needs your mercy now more than ever. As we celebrate joyfully the coming of your son, we give thanks for those serving in our military, all first responders and our teachers.
Gracious God,

People **Teach us your mercy.**

Intercessor We pray especially for children in places of violence, who hunger for love and compassion. Gracious God,

People **Teach us your mercy.**

Intercessor We pray for our leaders that they may govern with righteousness and not for personal gain, and that they may exercise compassion and lead by their own example.

Gracious God,

People **Teach us your mercy.**

Intercessor We pray for those suffering from addiction, unemployment or poverty and need our help and hope. Gracious God,

People **Teach us your mercy.**

Intercessor We pray for the leaders and people of all faithful communities that seek to heal the world, who preach love in the face of hate and welcome the stranger as a friend. Gracious God,

People **Teach us your mercy.**

Intercessor We pray for those who are sick who wait for healing and peace. Especially...

Gracious God,

People **Teach us your mercy.**

Intercessor We pray for those who call the Interfaith Shelter their home this season, who fear the unknown and who search for connection and compassion. Gracious God,

People **Teach us your mercy.**

Intercessor We pray for those who have died who are now living in light with You. Gracious God,

People **Teach us your mercy.**

Intercessor We pray for those who have lost loved ones and find the holidays difficult where joy is hard to find. Gracious God,

People **Teach us your mercy.**

Celebrant: We trust that you are a God of righteousness, mercy, and steadfast love. We hope for the day when you will wipe away every tear and death and pain will be no more. Until that day comes, teach us your mercy and forget not your children. This we pray in you holy and merciful name. **Amen.**

Confession & Absolution

Celebrant We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

All **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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Announcements:

A grateful “THANKS!” to those who have turned in their pledge cards. If you have not done so already, please try to return them as soon as possible so we can build our 2021 budget.

Join us on Wednesdays for Zoom Bible Study at 10 am and Evening Compline at 7 pm.

Please remember to call or email Pastor Sarah with news of anyone who is sick in our congregation and reach out for help when you need it. Diana Sinclair is gathering our prayer requests each week so make sure you email or call her with your requests.

Thanks to all who are helping make this worship happen and thank you all for being here!

The Peace of the Lord be always with you!

Meditation: “An Advent Prelude”
Romelle Frey, flautist

Charles Callahan (1951-)

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving:

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 truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth filled with your glory:
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life. *

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with [_____and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
Our Father...

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

Celebrant Behold what you are. Become what you receive; the body and blood of Christ.

Communion Hymn: The Hymnal 1982 #341
“For The Bread Which You Have Broken”

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

We pray with those worshipping with us online and here with us:

Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing:
Life is short...

Closing Hymn: The Hymnal 1982 #61
“Sleepers, Wake!”

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: VENI, EMMANUEL Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

*Worship Ministers: The Reverend Sarah Hurlbert; Curate Melissa Congleton,
Julie Baglien, Organist; Christy Randall, vocalist; Special Music: Romelle Frey, flautist
Barney Rudolph, 1st Reader; Loren Swanson, 2nd Reader & Sue Hammett, Intercessor.
Special thanks again go to our tech team for their faithfulness & expertise!*

Thank You for worshipping with us today!

The hymns for today are from *The Hymnal 1982*

Opening Hymn: #57

“Lo! He Comes, With Clouds Descending”

1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2 Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Words: *Charles Wesley, 1707-1788*
Music: *HELMSLEY; Thomas Augustine Arne, 1710-1778*

Communion Hymn: #341

“For The Bread Which You Have Broken”

1 For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.

2 By this pledge, Lord, that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.

3 As our blessed ones adore you,
seated at our Father's board,
may the Church still waiting for you
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

4 In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward,
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.

Words: *Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930 (alt.)*
Music: *OMNI DIE; William Smith Rockstro, 1823-1895*

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Closing Hymn: #61
“Sleepers, Wake!”

1 "Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us,
the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:

"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"

Midnight's peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken:

"The time has come, O maidens wise!

Rise up, and give us light;
the Bridegroom is in sight.

Alleluia!

Your lamps prepare and hasten there,
that you the wedding feast may share."

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing;
her heart with joyful hope is springing,
she wakes and hurries through the night.
Forth he comes, her Bridegroom glorious
in strength of grace, in truth victorious:
her star is risen, her light grows bright.

Now come, most worthy Lord,
God's Son, Incarnate Word,

Alleluia!

We follow all and heed your call
to come into the banquet hall.

3 Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;
let saints and angels sing before you,
as harps and cymbals swell the sound.
Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:
through them we stream to join th' immortals
as we with joy your throne surround.

No eye has known the sight,
no ear heard such delight:

Alleluia!

Therefore we sing to greet our King;
for ever let our praises ring.

Words: *Philipp Nicolai; tr. Carl P. Daw*

Music: *WACHET AUF (Nicolai); Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750*

- ❖ ALTAR FLOWERS for today are given TO THE GLORY OF GOD and IN LOVING MEMORY of my wife Robin and her birthday November 20th by Bill Boody; and IN LOVING MEMORY of my brother David Sweet by Sue Hammett.
- ❖ THE AUMBRY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK to the Glory of God and IN LOVING MEMORY of my brother David Sweet by Sue Hammett.

Happy 1st week of Advent!



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