



ADVENT II

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC

December 5, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING

The people gather. First gong, enter into silence. Second gong, please stand.

Opening (Prepare Ye)

A single Cantor chants the opening Versicle 3X and the congregation responds as the Altar Party gathers near the Advent Wreath

Cantor Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord
People ***Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord***

Presider Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'. (Baruch 5:1-4)

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath—Theme: Peace (The Fear of Home)

The appointed leaders approach the Advent Wreath and begin with the following:

Reader For many of us, the call to head home is one of joy and of hope. We can't wait to reconnect with family, with history and tradition, with a wonderful time of freedom and loving support. We can't wait to go home.

People **There are those who fear going home, however, and there are times when going home brings back memories that are not so good, not so healing. We are reminded of when we didn't fit in, when we didn't measure up, when we weren't loved like we needed to be loved. Home can be a difficult place for some.**

Reader The prophet Malachi will tell us that even when we are in the hottest of fires, there is a presence who can make us better, who can refine and purify. John the Baptist will tell us that the road home is always under construction, mountains leveled, and valleys filled in,

to make smooth the path that leads us to our true destination, where we can live in peace and unity with all.

(Two candles are lit on the Advent wreath)

Reader We light these candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace, as a sign of our assurance that though the road is hard, we believe it is worth the journey. It is time to go home. (Source: adapted, Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2021, Derek Weber)

Acclamation

Presider Blessed is our God, now and forever, unto the ages of ages.
People **Amen! Glory to God! Glory to God!**

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is

coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 16 (The Song of Zechariah)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart,^{*} for all of you share in God's grace^{*} with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best,

so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. **Thanks be to God.**

✚ **The Holy Gospel** Luke 3:1-6

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

The Homily A marked period of silence follows the Homily.

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

Wherever we are, in the wilderness, the countryside, or the city, God, you are there. That our hearts may be stirred up in thanksgiving for the life you have given us, let us pray, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and stars that shelter the night: May our eyes be open to the beauty around us, the subtle changes in the sky, the delicate coating of soil from which breaks forth our food and flowers and in which animals make their home. Help us to protect and nurture your creation around us and ever proclaim its wonders. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the church in every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of the church, the persons next to us in the pew, those in neighborhood churches, the national, international, and ecumenical church of every race, nation and economic circumstance. Let us give thanks for the web of friendship and trust that you give to those who are called the friends of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in authority: Let us pray for Christians who witness in places hostile to the gospel, and let us be thankful for our freedom to practice our faith. Let us pray for the leaders of nations that Christ may transform strangers into friends that all may see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this community in our joys and sorrows: Let us remember those who have gone before us, those who have sacrificed for us. Help us to look for what is below the obvious, and from this depth to reach out to others. Help us to know the joy that is mingled even with our utmost grief. Let us give thanks for this gathering of God's people and for the renewal of life we are given. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those at great risk: Let us pray for those lonely, rejected, or oppressed, for those struggling in addictions and for those who are lost, for those among us with the longest memories to link us to the past, and for the newborn, in whose baptism our baptism is again renewed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who've requested our prayers. Let us pray for, **Rudolph McEwan, Ryoko Roberts, Beth Plumeri, Leah Underwood, Becky Toole, David Robbins, Sarah Robbins, Valerie Aguirre, Vickie LoMonte, Judy Wray, David Myher, Elayne Karickoff, Ruth Mufandaedza, Lee Witcher, Audrey Witcher, Deanna Hill, Sophia Vaughan Morning, Mary Mainwaring, Katie Critcher, Dave Bowman, Denise Davis,**

Carmen Reeve, James Barber, Celia Nail, Betty Johnson, William Nail, Ginny Barber, Janice Fowlkes, Harriet Banner, Susan Tobie, Hugh Stohler and RPaul Smith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
For Margaret Apps (6th) who celebrates a birthday this week. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

For those who have died violent deaths rooted in racism, misogyny and homophobia and for those who mourn them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died from COVID-19 and for those who mourn them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For Gillian Rodrigues, longtime friend of Denise Davis, who died last week and for all who have died in the peace of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Deacon For the forgiveness of our sins; for the times we have failed to love, for the moments when we didn't speak out against injustice and for our complicitness in oppressive and dehumanizing systems. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The People may kneel or bow.

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.

The Presider offers the absolution

The Exchange of Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

Song: O come, O come Emmanuel (sung a' Capella)

O Come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

[Refrain] Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the Law, in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave. [Refrain]

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: All things come from you, O God.

People: **And of your own have we given you.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 (say):

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 [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. 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread also known as 'The Fraction'.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Please remain masked during the distribution of Communion. You may wish to hold your communion bread/wafer until the end of distribution, so we may all commune together.

Prayer after Communion

The people stand.

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.

THE SENDING

The Advent Blessing

The people stand.

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the only Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**The Rev. Tyrone Fowlkes, Presider
The Rev. Dr. Ruthann Savage-King, Preacher**



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