



December 15, 2024  
Saint Peter's Episcopal Church  
Hebron, Connecticut  
The Rev. Ronald Kolanowski, Rector

**THE THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT**  
**8:00 A.M. MORNING PRAYER: RITE I**  
**Book of Common Prayer page 37**

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

**The Third Sunday of Advent: Joy**

Reader: Last Sunday the candle of Peace was lit. We light it and the candle of Hope again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring to the world everlasting peace. The third candle of Advent is the candle of Joy. We light this candle to remember that Christ brings promise of a new life and to remember that He is the bringer of true and everlasting joy.

**The Candle of Joy is lit**

**Let us pray (*in unison*):** Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us to prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and do your word. Amen

*(All stand)*

**Opening Sentence for Advent:**

Officiant: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

## Confession of Sin

BCP, page 79

Officiant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

**All: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

Officiant: The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

*All Stand.*

## The Invitatory and Psalter

BCP, page 42

*Officiant:* O Lord, open thou our lips.

**People: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Officiant:* The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

O come let us adore him.

**Jubilate (Psalm 100) (*in unison*)**

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness and come before his  
presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

**For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**The Readings and Canticles** (*All are seated as the Reader leads  
the people in the psalm, readings and canticles.*)

**The Response: Cantic 9 The First Song of Isaiah** BCP, Page 86

**Surely, it is God who saves me; \***

**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.**

**Therefore, you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.**

**And on that day, you shall say, \***

**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;  
Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.**

**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **The First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

### **Canticle 4: The Song of Zechariah (*Said in unison*)      BCP page 50**

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \***

**for he hath visited and redeemed his people;**

**And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \***

**in the house of his servant David,**

**As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \***

which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies, \*  
and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \*  
and to remember his holy covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham\*  
that he would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \*  
might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him, \*  
all the days of our life.  
And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \*  
for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, \*  
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,\*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **The Second Lesson: 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 in 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.

**Canticle 7 We Praise Thee** (*said in unison*)

**We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.**

**All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.**

**To thee all Angels cry aloud,**

**the Heavens and all the Powers therein.**

**To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry:**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;**

**Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.**

**The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.**

**The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.**

**The noble army of martyrs praise thee.**

**The holy Church throughout all the world**

**doth acknowledge thee, the Father, of an infinite majesty,**

**thine adorable, true, and only Son,**

**also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.**

**Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.**

**Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.**

**When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,**

**thou didst humble thyself to be born of a Virgin.  
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,  
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.  
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.  
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,  
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered with thy saints,  
in glory everlasting.**

### **The Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1-6**

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.'"

**Sermon**

**Deacon Marge Roccoberton**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God  
the Father almighty.**

**From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. *Amen.***

**The Prayers** (*People may stand or kneel.*)

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

***People: And with thy spirit.***

Officiant: Let us pray.

**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.**



*Intercessor* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;  
*People* ***And grant us thy salvation.***

*Intercessor* Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
*People* ***And make thy chosen people joyful.***

*Intercessor* Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
*People* ***For only in thee can we live in safety.***

*Intercessor* Lord, keep this nation under thy care;  
*People* ***And guide us in the way of justice and truth.***

*Intercessor* Let thy way be known upon earth;  
*People* ***Thy saving health among all nations.***

*Intercessor* Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
*People* ***Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.***

*Intercessor* Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
*People* ***And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.***

**The Collect of the Day:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

**A Collect for Sundays** O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **A Collect for Peace**

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **A Collect for Mission**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## *Announcements*

*Officiant:* Walk in love as Christ loved us, and gave Himself to us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.

## **Offertory**

### **Prayers of the People**

**BCP page 328**

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our bishops, Jeff and Laura, our priest, Ron, our Seminarian Doug, our deacons Marge & Donna and all priests and deacons, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present and to those who are celebrating their birthdays this week remembering especially Erin Woods 12/15, Amy Stone 12/18, Elizabeth Cyr 12/19, John Gerke 12/19 and for those celebrating anniversaries, that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** we pray for St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport Those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely & the oppressed.  
*The Anglican Church of Tanzania.*

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially the President of the United States, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We pray especially for Maggie, Sue Sadalfo, Darlene, Steve Perkins, Ruth, Adrian Mandeville, Gloria, Judy, Nancy Kirkham, and for those who are listed in our Continuing Prayers list.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, remembering especially Michael Breen and Nelson Moore, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. ***Amen.***

**The Peace:**

*Officiant:*The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People: And with thy spirit.***

**Prayer of General Thanksgiving (*in unison*)**

**BCP page 58**

***All: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy***

**praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.***

*The Officiant concludes the service with the following prayer.*

**Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

**BCP page 59**

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. ***Amen.***

***All: Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.***

*The candles are extinguished; the Officiant then concludes the service with the dismissal.*

**The Dismissal**

*Officiant:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God***

**Advent/Christmas Memorial card**

You can memorialize loved ones and support our Advent and Christmas services by filling out the card (in your pew or at the back of the church). The card can be returned in its envelope by mail or placed in the offertory box. We would like to have the names to be remembered as soon as possible.

## **Parish Family Remembrances and Thanksgivings for December 15 2024**

**We pray for our clergy:** Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, the Presiding Bishop; Jeff & Laura, the Bishops of Connecticut; for our priest Ron; for our seminarian Doug, for our deacons Donna & Marge; and for all bishops, priests and deacons;

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** we pray for St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport Those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely & the oppressed. The Anglican Church of Tanzania

**In St Peter's Cycle of Prayer,** we pray for all our parish family, especially Sue Sadalfo, Darlene, Steve Perkins, Gloria, Judy, Nancy Kirkham and for those who are listed in our Continuing Prayers list.

**We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week** especially Erin Woods 12/15, Amy Stone 12/18, Elizabeth Cyr 12/19; and those celebrating anniversaries.

**We pray for the deceased,** remembering especially Michael Breen and Nelson Moore.

### **Continuing Prayer List**

Jeni, Loretta, Tim O'Shea, Bill Baldwin, Judy, Robin, Jeff Baez, Brenda, Richard Taylor, Jim, Lydia, David Rigby, Judy Knox, Deanne Bowen, June Beauvais; Star, Norm, Laura Beaudoin, Bill Houle, Aimee Goodrich, Cara Begin, Justin, Derek Anderson, Janet Nixon, Bill D., Steve Dubin, Ryan, Roberto Rodegher, Marlin Corbean; Brian; Joan Hamilton, Kathryn & Olivia; Caroline, Ron Lamp, Ella & Nicole, Rina Bettancourt; Susan Hicks & family, Ambrosio Vidal & Family, Jeannette Farren & Family; Noel, Daryl, Scott Goodrich, Patricia Angelou, Lou and Heidi Schluntz.

**St. Peter's is hosting a Red Cross blood drive from 1-6 on December 18. Please go on their website: [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call () and sign up to give this precious Christmas Gift.**

**Gilead Congregational Church is once again this year offering “A Quiet Christmas” on December 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. (672 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT) a service, which will offer comfort, healing, and hope in a season where those things may be hard to find.**

## **Advent and Christmas Services 2024**

- **December 19: Greening and Decorating the Church 10:00a.m.** Join fellow parishioners as we prepare our church for the Feast of Christmas
- **December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent – 8 a.m. Service (Rite 1 with no music), Christmas Pageant at the 10 a.m. service.** The Pageant is presented by our children and youth.
- **December 24: Christmas Eve 4:30p.m.** followed by Christmas Toast. Given that fewer and fewer people are comfortable driving at night we will have one large service planned for Christmas Eve with brass, special musicians, and Christmas carols. Please stay afterwards to toast in Christmas with champagne or mimosas, sparkling water, and a few goodies.
- **December 25: Christmas Day,** a single service with carols at 10:00 a.m.
- **December 29: First Sunday of Christmas: One Service of Lessons and Carols at 9 a.m.**
- **January 5: Feast of The Epiphany**  
8a.m. Rite I no music and 10:00a.m. Rite II with music;  
Sermon by Rev. Ron Kolanowski

