

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron, Connecticut

The Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2024

MORNING PRAYER Rite 2 ~ 10 a.m.

Book of Common Prayer page 75

Opening Hymn: #68 "Rejoice, rejoice, believers"

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

Introit Hymn #56 "O come, O come Emmanuel" vs 5, 6

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Refrain: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!*

6. O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Refrain: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!*

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: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

All stand.

The Invitatory and Psalter

BCP page 80

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your 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: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
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*)

The Response: Canticle 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.

The Second Song of Isaiah (*Isaiah 55:6-11*)

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *

call upon him when he draws near.

Let the wicked forsake their ways *

and the evil ones their thoughts;

And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion,*

and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.
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 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Canticle 21 You are God

**You are God: we praise you;
You are the Lord; we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father: All creation worships you.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, Cherubim and
Seraphim, sing in endless praise:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you; Father,
of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of
all worship, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.
When you became man to set us free
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.**

Sequence Anthem

The Holy Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Sermon

Deacon Marge Roccoberton

The Apostles' Creed (*The Officiant leads the people*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers (*The Intercessor leads the people, in the prayers.*)

Intercessor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Intercessor: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer (*Said in unison.*)

**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 Suffrages

Intercessor Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People *And grant us your salvation.*

Intercessor Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People *Let your people sing with joy.*

Intercessor Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People *For only in you can we live in safety.*

Intercessor Lord, keep this nation under your care;

People *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*

Intercessor Let your way be known upon earth;

People *Your 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 your 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 O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Announcements

Offertory

Offertory Hymn: LEVAS #14 “Soon and Very Soon”

The Prayers of the People: Form I

BCP page 388

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishops and all clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthdays especially Erin Woods 12/15, Amy Stone 12/18, Elizabeth Cyr 12/19, John Gerke 12/19 and those celebrating anniversaries, that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, remembering especially Sue Sadalfo, Darlene, Steve Perkins, Gloria, Judy, and for those who are listed in our Continuing Prayers list, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, remembering especially Michael Breen, Nelson Moore, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace. let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence.

The General Thanksgiving (all standing)

BCP page 101

Officiant: In thanksgiving for the many blessings of our lives, let us pray.

All: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable 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 pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Officiant concludes the service with the following prayer.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP page 102

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

The Blessing The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: #59 “Hark, a thrilling voice is Sounding”

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. Return the card in its envelope by mail or place it in the offertory box.

Parish Family Remembrances and Thanksgivings for Dec. 15, 2024

We pray for our Bishops and all clergy and people.

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, and for those who are listed in our Continuing Prayers list that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and

settle all wrongs. We pray for those who have died, remembering especially Michael Breen and Nelson Moore, and we pray for those who suffer the loss of family, friends, and neighbors that they may be comforted.

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

Continuing Prayer List

Jeni, Loretta, Tim O'Shea, Bill Baldwin, Judy, Robin, Brenda, Richard Taylor, Jim, Jeff Baez, 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, Rina Bettancourt; Susan Hicks & family, Ambrosio Vidal & Family, Jeannette Farren & Family; Noel, Daryl, Scott Goodrich, Ella & Nicole, Patricia Angelou, Lou and Heidi Schluntz.

On Going Activities

- Balance Class: Mondays 10:00 a.m. \$5 per session.
- Cub Scouts: 1st Mondays 5:30-7 p.m.
- Buildings & Grounds: first Tuesdays, 7 p.m.
- Hebron Greater Together Community Fund: 3rd Tuesdays 6-8 pm
- Boy Scouts: Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
- Vestry: Third Thursdays, 6 p.m.
- BNI (Business Networking International): Fridays, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Up and coming Events

St. Peter's is hosting a Red Cross blood drive from 1-6 on Dec. 18. Please go on their website (redcrossblood.org) or call (<tel:1-800-733-2767>) 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) in 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 15: Third Sunday of Advent** 8a.m. Morning Prayer Rite I and 10:00a.m Morning Prayer Rite 2. Sermon by Deacon Marge Roccoberton. Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant following the 10 am service
- **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

MLK