

The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

10:30am ~ Holy Eucharist with Joyful Noise! ~



John the Baptist, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56284> [retrieved December 4, 2024]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Schwabach_Stadtkirche_-_Katharinenaltar_Fl%C3%BCgel_4a.jpg.

~From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.~

1135 Walnut Street, Newton Highlands, MA 02461

617-527-6642

office@parishofstpaul.org www.parishofstpaul.org

SERVICE MINISTERS

Celebrant and Preacher:	The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney
Musician:	Dustin Ledgard
LEM:	Margaret Hummel
Reader 1:	Eliza Blay
Reader 2:	Bernice Cramer
Usher/ Attendance:	Phil Whitbeck
Altar Guild:	Ellie Pandorf and Mary Lou Pierron
Counting:	David Montgomery and Kathryn Anderson
Tech:	Will Holz

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's flowers are given by Phil and Bailey Whitbeck for the glory of God and in loving memory of Jean and Ken Ogden and Vail and Phil Whitbeck.

IN OUR DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:

For the Episcopal Church; for Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; for Julia Whitworth, our Diocesan Bishop, and Carol Gallagher, our Assistant Bishop; and for the following churches of the Alewife Deanery: St. Paul's Church, Bedford, All Saints' Church, Belmont, and St. Mark's Church, Burlington; and for the Officers of the Diocese Racial Justice Commission.

PARISH PRAYER LIST - PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

Sarah Conger, the Katz family, David and Susanna Lee, Mary Lou and Charlie Montgomery, Mandi Rice, David Murphy, Gary Koger, David Waters, David Tabors, Barry Koger, Joyce Conolly, Matt Beavin, Jim Nolan, Gordon Ledgard, the Global Village Children's Project, the Centre Street Food Pantry, and our friends in the NewCity Church.

STAFF

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney -- meghan@parishofstpaul.org. Office Hours: In-Person Wednesday 10am - 1pm and by appointment (please email Rev. Meghan directly if you would like to make an appointment).^{*}
Parish Administrator: Lise Brody – office@parishofstpaul.org. Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-1

^{*} Rev. Meghan's office hours the week of 12/8 will be on Thursday, 12/12 from 9am to noon.

10:30am ~ Second Sunday of Advent (Year C) ~
~ Holy Eucharist with Joyful Noise! ~

PRELUDE

Dustin Ledgard

ENTRANCE RITES

WELCOME: From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.

GATHERING HYMN (Please rise as you are comfortable)

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

HYMNAL #76

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Section: Advent Title: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Meter: LM Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

All: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: THE LIGHT OF PEACE

Choir

Light of Light, we humbly pray;
shine in our hearts today.
Dispel the gloom and dark of night;
fill all the world with love and light.

Congregation

Voi - ces cry out from a world in grief:
prayers of those who seek re - lief.
End their dark - ness, hear their call for
peace on earth, good will for all.

Prayers – Responsive Litany

Celebrant: Advent is a time to turn away from meaningless distractions.

All: **Bringer of Peace, clear our minds and calm our hearts.**

Celebrant: Advent is a time to notice and count our many blessings.

All: **Bringer of Peace, help us recognize all that is good in our lives.**

Celebrant: Advent is a time to let go of bitterness and resentment.

All: **Bringer of Peace, make us slow to anger and quick to forgive.**

Celebrant: Advent is a time to spread peace to the world around us.

All: **Bringer of Peace, open our eyes to the needs of others.**

(Candles are lighted)

Celebrant: Today we light two candles – the candle of hope and the candle of peace. This second candle reminds us that in sending Christ, God sent us peace that passes all understanding. Peace of heart and mind, because through God’s grace, we were given a Savior. Because of Christ we can live our lives with a sense of calm assurance, and we can be instruments that spread that peace out into the world.

Music and Prayers by Joel Raney. 2019 Hope Publishing Company.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

(This week's Psalm is from the St. Helena Psalter, and the other readings come from the NRSV.)

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Celebrant: God is with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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 FIRST READING *(Please be seated.)*

Baruch 5:1-9

Reader 1: A Reading from the Prophet Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever 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."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,

and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of God's glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from God.

Reader 1: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 16 (Page 92, BCP)

Luke 1: 68-79

The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Blessed be the Most High, the God of Israel;
who has come to their people and set them free.

God has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of God's servant David.

Through holy prophets God promised of old,
to would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

God promised to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember God's holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our parents,
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship the Most High without fear,
holy and righteous in God's sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before God to prepare the way,

To give God's 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.

All: **Glory to the Holy and Undivided Trinity, One God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Reader 2: A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

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.

Reader 2: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN (Please rise as you are comfortable) *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying* HYMNAL #75



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O _____ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 but the word of our God _____ en - du - reth, the _____



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst _____ of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The _____
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 flowers of the field they _____ per - ish, like
 feed his _____ flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our _____ God _____ may go!
 na - tions shall _____ pass like a dream _____ a - way;
 lead them, and _____ bring them _____ safe to his fold.

Section: Advent Title: There's a voice in the wilderness crying Meter: Irr. Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988) Copyright: Music: © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Fine

S Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

A Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

T Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

B Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat if desired.

Arr: Kevin Weed

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: **Glory to you, O 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 Holy One,
 make clear a straight path.
 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.'"

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

STATEMENT OF FAITH

LEM: Please rise as you are comfortable as we proclaim our Statement of Faith.

**We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
 Whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
 whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all,
 and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.
 Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt,
 we put our trust in God;
 and in the name of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves,
 in the service of others,
 to seek justice, and to live in peace;
 to care for the earth, and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness;
 to live in the freedom of forgiveness, and the power of the Spirit of love.
 And in the company of the faithful we will be the church,
 a community of flawed and forgiving disciples,
 for the glory of God alone.**

Amen.

Statement of Faith adapted from the Iona Abbey Worship Book, © 2001, The Iona Community.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LEM: In peace, we pray to you, O God.

Silence

LEM: For all people in their daily life and work;

All: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

LEM: For this community, the nation, and the world;

All: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

LEM: For the just and proper use of your creation;

All: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

LEM: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

All: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

LEM: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

All: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

LEM: For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Julia, our Diocesan Bishop, Carol, our Assistant Bishop; for all bishops and other ministers; and for the following churches of the Alewife Deanery: St. Paul's Church, Bedford, All Saints' Church, Belmont, and St. Mark's Church, Burlington; and for the Officers of the Diocese Racial Justice Commission.

All: For all who serve God in God's Church.

LEM: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation; and especially for Sarah Conger, the Katz family, David and Susanna Lee, Mary Lou and Charlie Montgomery, Mandi Rice, David Murphy, Gary Koger, David Waters, David Tabors, Barry Koger, Joyce Conolly, Matt Beavin, Jim Nolan, Gordon Ledgard, our friends in the NewCity Church, the Global Village Children's Project, and the Centre Street Food Pantry. Either silently or aloud, for whom and what else do we pray today?

(The People may add their own petitions.)

LEM: Hear us, O God;

All: For your mercy is great.

LEM: We thank you, O God, for all the blessings of this life. We pray especially today for Mandi Rice, who was ordained to the priesthood yesterday. Either silently or aloud, for whom and what do we give thanks today?

(The People may add their own thanksgivings.)

LEM: We will exalt you, O God;

All: And praise your Name for ever and ever.

LEM: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. We pray especially today for Jean and Ken Ogden and Vail and Phil Whitbeck, in whose memory today's altar flowers are given. Either silently or aloud, who do we name and remember this day?

(The People may add their own names.)

LEM: O God, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

All: Who put their trust in you.

PRAYER FOR THE SOCIAL ORDER (BCP P. 823)

LEM: Together let us pray.

All: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence

Celebrant offers a collect.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and ourselves.

Silence

All: O God, we bring you our failure, our hunger, our disappointment, our despair, our greed, our arrogance, and our fear. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not truly loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are sorry, we are humbled, and we pray that you will strengthen us with your grace. We turn to you, O God. We renounce evil, we claim love, we choose to be made whole. Forgive us and renew us now.

Celebrant: Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive your every sin through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All: Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of God be always with you.

All: And also with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Choir

THE DOXOLOGY *(Please rise as you are comfortable)*

HYMNAL #380

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above all life and death
Creator, Christ, and Holy Breath. Amen.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

Celebrant: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

All: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

All: By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

All: **Have mercy, O God, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

All: **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

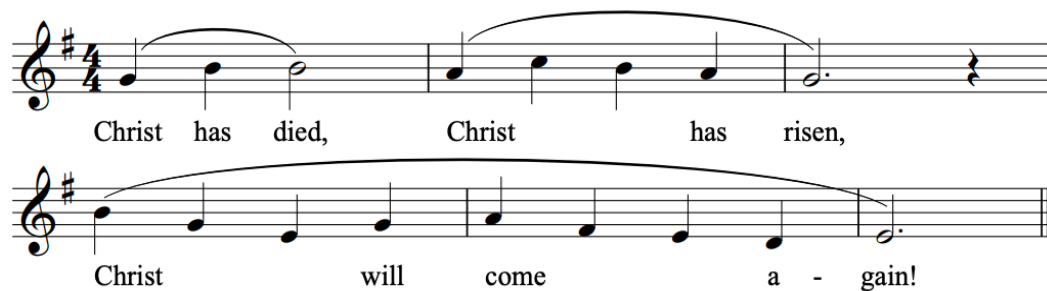
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, O God of glo - ry,
po - wer and might. Heav - en and earth are full, are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

And so, Holy God, we who have been redeemed by Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Holy God of our Mothers, our Fathers, our Parents; Holy God of our Savior Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in Christ's name.

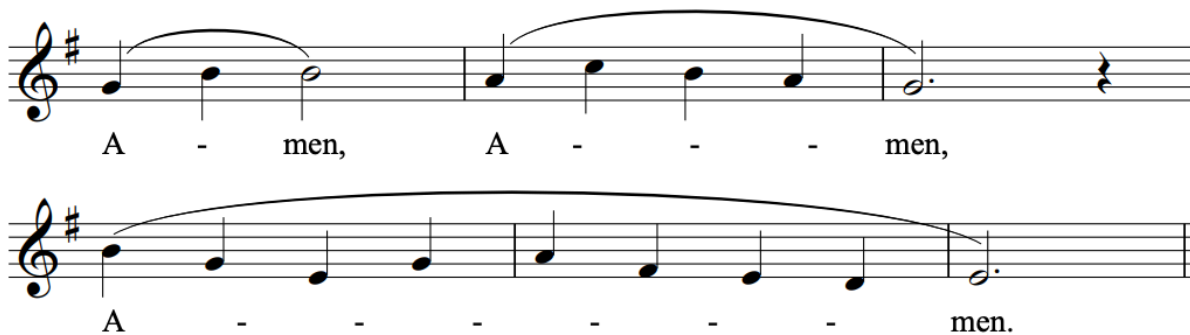
All: Risen Christ, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

(The celebrant continues...)

Accept these prayers and praises, Holy God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

THE GREAT AMEN

All:



Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, and Amen are arranged by Taylor Burton-Edwards. The General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. (Found in *The United Methodist Hymnal*, #211.)

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(We invite you to say whatever version of the Lord's Prayer is most meaningful for you.)*

Celebrant: As Jesus taught us, we now pray:

All: **Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And 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 forever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Section: The Holy Eucharist Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei* Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

1950) Copyright: Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant: These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived and loved, died, and rose again for you, and feed on Christ in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION

You are welcome at this table, exactly as you are, because of who you are.

If you feel called to the table, please come forward to receive Communion.

At this time, the Parish of St. Paul offers a common cup as well as individual cups for receiving the consecrated wine. Please either take an individual cup (found on a front pew on the right as you approach the altar for communion) or indicate to the Lay Eucharistic Minister that you would like to receive from the common cup.

If you do not wish to receive the consecrated wine, please know that receiving the consecrated bread alone constitutes a full Communion.

If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing – please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that a blessing is desired.

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

(This prayer of Spiritual Communion is said privately and is intended for individuals participating remotely, and for individuals who may not wish to receive Communion or a blessing.)

In union, O God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. And since I cannot receive you today in the sacrament of bread and wine, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Refrain



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Section: Advent Title: Prepare the way, O Zion Meter: 76. 76. 77 with Refrain Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999) Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt. Copyright: Words: © 1982, Charles P Price.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER *(Please rise as you are comfortable)*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of compassion. You have united us with Christ, and you have made us one with all peoples and creatures in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that our lives may give birth to your love in the world, and that we may continue to make our home in your life. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

1 Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there: give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple, look
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.

Section: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany Title: People, look East Words: Eleanor Farjeon Music: *Besançon Carol*, harm. Gary Fitzgerald Copyright: Words: © Harold Ober Associates, Inc. Harmonization: © Gary Fitzgerald. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PARISH NOTICES

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Our worship has ended, let our service begin. Go in peace to love and serve God and God’s people.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Dustin Ledgard



Events:

Advent Lessons and Carols at Grace Episcopal Church, Newton Corner – Sunday, December 15 at 4pm

St. Paul’s joins with Grace, Newton Corner and St. John’s, Newtonville in an annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols.

Service of Solace and Strength – Saturday, December 21 at 7:30pm

Our parish’s annual Holy Eucharist of Solace and Strength will be on Saturday evening, December 21, at 7:30pm. While Christmas can bring much joy, it’s a tender time that can also be difficult. Please join in this reflective and prayerful liturgy that holds space for myriad thoughts and feelings.

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24 at 7:30pm (music prelude begins at 7:15pm)

Celebrate the birth of Love into our world.

Christmas Morning – Morning Prayer at Grace Church, Newton Corner (time TBD)

Grace Church will offer a simple service of Morning Prayer. St Paul's parishioners are invited to attend.

First Sunday after Christmas – Holy Eucharist at Grace Church, Newton Corner, Sunday, December 29 at 10:30am

Rev. Meghan will be on vacation from December 25 - January 4. St. Paul's is invited to join with Grace Church, Newton Corner, to celebrate Holy Eucharist on the first Sunday after Christmas.

Ugly Sweater Sing-Along – Saturday, January 4 at 4:00pm

Come and sing some not-so-religious seasonal favorites in your festive holiday attire! Snacks and beverages provided. (You are also invited to bring something to share.) Please bring a food donation for the Centre Street Food Pantry.

Rev. Meghan on Vacation – December 25 - January 3

Rev. Meghan will be on vacation from December 25 - January 3. The parish is invited to join Grace Church, Newton Corner for Holy Eucharist on Sunday, December 29. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact the wardens.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers needed

The ministry of Lay Eucharistic Minister is an essential ministry to the sacramental life of our parish. If you find yourself curious about or drawn to serving as a LEM, please be in contact with Rev. Meghan.

Rental Committee

The Vestry seeks volunteers from the parish who would be interested in serving on a rental committee to explore how much and how often the parish might consider renting the building and grounds, rental fees, renter alignment with parish mission, overall space use, etc. If you would like to serve on such a committee, please let Rev. Meghan know.

Can Redemption Volunteers

Volunteers sought to assist with can redemption for the Plenty ministry. Please connect with Christopher Gruener if you can assist.

Episcopal Church, Diocesan, and Deanery Notices

Diocesan Grief Retreat

The Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., will host a Friday-Sunday, Dec. 20-22 retreat weekend, "You Are Not Alone: Responding to Grief and Trauma by Building Relationships"—to include optional overnight components on Friday and Sunday, alongside the Saturday retreat day structured around three presentations on facing loneliness and isolation; overcoming grief and trauma; and building relationships and social connection.

Retreat co-presenters are the Rev. Bob Davidson, an Episcopal priest and social worker who has served as a hospice chaplain and trauma counselor, and Dr. Anthony Valdini, Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Massachusetts Chan School of Medicine. For registration information, contact the center at info@bchcenter.org or 603-547-3400.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our Vestry!

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney
Co-Warden: Kim Koger, mkskoger5@gmail.com
Co-Warden: David Montgomery, dmontgomery@montlegal.com
Treasurer: Richard Pearce, Richard@northinfo.com
Clerk: Bernice Cramer, bernicecramer@gmail.com
Kathryn Anderson, kmanderson.english@gmail.com
Chris Gruener, crossroadscounseling101@gmail.com
Margaret Hummel, margarethummel@verizon.net
Dustin Ledgard, ledgarddustin@gmail.com

ADVENT CALENDAR

WE WONDER WHY WE ALL ARE CALLED TO COME TO BETHL'HEM'S CATTLE STALL.
 HOW COULD THE GOD WHO FORMED THE EARTH BE FOUND IN SUCH A LOWLY BIRTH?
 THIS INFANT WILL IN HUMBLE GUISE DISARM THE STRONG AND FOOL THE WISE
 AND BLESS THE POOR, ALL THOSE ONCE SCORNE, IN BEAUTY DRESS, BY GOD ADORNED.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE! 1  JER. 33:14-16	SEE THE MOON. 14  ISAIAH 55:12	SEEK OUT A FRIEND... 20  LUKE 1:39-40	... OR A STRANGER. 21  HEBREWS 13:1,2
CHOOSE PEACE. 16  ISAIAH 11:1-9	UNDERSTAND. 11  JOEL 2:28	BE READY. 3  ESTHER 4:14	IMAGINE HER CONFIDENCE. 19 Let it be to me... LUKE 1:26-38
FINISH IT. 7  PHIL. 1:3-6	LIGHT TWO CANDLES. 8  LUKE 3:1-6	SING! 17  PSALM 95:1,2	DO IT. 4  JAMES 1:22
FIND STILLNESS. 5  PSALM 46	MAKE ROOM. 23  LUKE 2:1-7	FOLLOW. 12  JOHN 8:12	LIGHT THREE CANDLES. 15  ZEPH. 3:14-20
REACH OUT. 13 Love ~ Prayer ~ Patience ~ Hospitality ~ Rejoice ~ Affection ROMANS 12:9-13	SEE NEWNESS. 2  ISAIAH 43:18,19	LIGHT FOUR CANDLES. 22  MICAH 5:2-5A	LISTEN WITH CARE. 10  PSALM 19:1-4A
HEAR A TEACHER. 9  ISAIAH 52:7	FEEL THE LIGHT. 18  ISAIAH 9:2	GIVE SECRETLY. 6 ST. NICHOLAS  2 COR. 9:6-8	24  JOHN 1:14

WE'LL COME TO THAT IMPOV'RISHED PLACE AND FIND OURSELVES IN NEED OF GRACE.
 WITH ALL THE WEAK, THE WOUNDED, LOST, WHO GATHER 'ROUND THE MANGER TROUGH.
 SO COME, DEAR FRIENDS, WITH WONDER, AWE AND WORSHIP AT HIS BED OF STRAW
 WITH SHEPHERDS AND THE HOST ABOVE, COME, WELCOME CHRIST, THE LORD OF LOVE.

DEVOTIONS: MERRY WATERS * ADVENT 2024 * POEM & DESIGN: THOMAS MOUSIN * thomasmousin.com