



Grace Episcopal Church

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Morning Prayer, Rite 2

Book of Common Prayer

GREETING

PRELUDE

Awake, Awake! A Voice is Calling - M. Reger

OPENING SENTENCE

Watch for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning, lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ~Mark 13:35,36~

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

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The Officiant says to the people.

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

CONFESSION

Officiant and People together,

**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.**

THE ABSOLUTION

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Almighty God have mercy upon 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 you in eternal life.
Amen.

Officiant: Lord open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**GLORIA (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 for ever. Amen.**

ANTIPHON Our King and Savior now draws near:
Come let us adore Him.

VENITE *In Unison*

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ANTIPHON Our King and Savior now draws near:
Come let us adore Him.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending - setting by J. W. Kerr

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

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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.

⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

¹⁶ **Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁷ And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

¹⁸ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

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.

A READING FROM 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people: **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME OF SILENCE/A TIME FOR LISTENING

a bell will ring the beginning and ending

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK 13:24-37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Hear what the Holy Spirit is Saying to the Church: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Chorale and Fughetta on "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" - C. Callahan

THE HOMILY

The Rev. M. Alton Plummer

A TIME OF SILENCE/A TIME FOR LISTENING

a bell will ring the beginning and ending

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

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THE LORD'S PRAYER *traditional*

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SUFFRAGES "A"

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THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

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.**

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR MISSION OF THE CHURCH

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.**

AND FOR ALL OF US WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 VIRUS, THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND THOSE WHO MOURN.

Silence

AS WE PRAYERS FOR THE FOLKS ON OUR PRAYER LIST ...

for all who are traveling, especially **Josey** Parker and **Cameron** Klass

and those with special needs:

Mark Adkins, **Chris** Alexander, **Cora** Alexander, **Amanda** Amon, **Ella** Asebes, **Barbara** Beck, **Alice** Brandon & family, **Baylee** Brown, **Andrea** Cain, **Russell** Cinque, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Morgan** Curia, **Barbara** Dixon, **Johanna** Dresser, **Mike** Egan, **Aubrie** Gallen, **Shana** Garland, **Frances** Garner, **Marlon** Gaskins, **Susan** Gibson, **Jane** Grimes, **George** Hanna, **Rob** Hare, **Kristen** Harris, **Elizabeth** Harvey, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris and Mike** Hodges, **Will** Holmes, **Jon** Huff, **Nancy** Hutchins, **Brinkley** Johnson, **Anne** King, **Lindsay** Layfield, **Lynn** Mack, **Carol** May, **Kate** McKenzie, **Nicholas** Melomo, **Molly** Michael, **Roan** Mitchell, **O'Lema** Morgan, **Kathie and Scott** Nelson, **Page** Onorato, **Lynn** Parsley, **Gabby** Plott, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Suzy** Sheets, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Amy** Burkhart Smith, **Dan Griff** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Clarice and Henry** Surratt, **Robin** Tilley, **Jackie** Touchton, **Toni** Underwood, **Frances** Welch, **Courtney** Weller, **Susan** Whetmore, **Bill** Whitehurst, **Flynn** Williams, and **Charlotte** Young.

✦ *At this time you may offer your prayers in the comments bar on Facebook so that we may pray with you through the week.*

MUSICAL MEDITATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - J. Engel

A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS

DISMISSAL Let us bless the Lord. *Thanks be to God!*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** ~Romans 15:13~

POSTLUDE

Lift Up Your Heads - M. Burkhardt