



Celtic Evensong and Communion

Advent II

5 December 2021 4:00 pm

We are so happy you are here.

*We come from many places to be together for a little while.
Each of us brings our own experience and traditions to this gathering.
So here in this place, let us take time together to encounter the holy.*

Please remember to silence all devices

The Opening Rite

Musical Meditation

St. Mark's Berkeley

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Meditation

Our brokenness is the wound
through which the full power of God
can penetrate our being and transfigure us in God.
Loneliness is not something from which we must flee
but the place from where we can cry out to God,
where God will find us and we can find God.
Yes, through our wounds
the power of God can penetrate us
and become like rivers of living water
to irrigate the arid earth within us.
Thus we may irrigate the arid earth of others,
so that hope and love are reborn.

- Jean Vanier The Broken Body (1988, Paulist Press)

Please stand

Confession (said by all)

**Most Holy God, In the midst of this season of new life we confess:
We have resisted the light of your love; we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us;
And we have not treasure the gifts of others around us. We stand in need of your love.
Holy Father, make us holy. Holy Jesus, make us holy. Holy Spirit, make us holy.
Holy God, make us whole. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

God forgives us and loves us, and invites us to continue the journey. As a woman is delivered from the pain of her labor to the joy of cradling her child, so are we delivered into God's grace.

The Invitatory and Psalm

Be strong and let your heart take courage,
All you who wait for the Lord
Even in the waiting.
God is with us.
Praise the Lord, O my soul.
Praise God's holy name.

Psalm 114

- 1 Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.
3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.
4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.
5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?
6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?
7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Officiant and People

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 Lessons

Listen now to the Word of God

The First Reading

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

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

Carol of the Birds

The Second Reading

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.'"

Lector For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us,
and for the Word of God within us,

People Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Kourtnei Patten

Music for Meditation

Prepare the way, O Zion

Evening Prayer

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.**

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Leader In the beginning, it is dark, cool, and quiet, and we ask you:

People **Invite us into your presence, O Christ.**

Leader I ask your prayers for those who work, or watch, or weep this night.

Leader We do not know your works, Holy One, yet still we ask you:

People **Invite us into your presence, O Christ.**

Leader I ask your prayers for those who are confused, alone, and disquieted.

Leader We will look to the rising sun and trust that you

People **Invite us into your presence, O Christ.**

Leader Let us now name before God those for whom we offer our personal prayers, either silently or aloud.

The people may add their intercessions silently or aloud.

Leader Lord, you have called us to serve you.

People **Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills, until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Leader Jesus says, "Come to me you who are troubled and I will give you rest." So come, you who are broken in body or in spirit, you who are torn by relationships and doubt, you who feel deeply within yourselves the divisions of the world. Come, for Jesus invites us to bring our brokenness.

Light Prayers

From now until the end of the service, you are invited to come to the Lady Altar and light a candle and kneel at the rail for prayers. The laying on of hands is also offered at the healing station near the door at the back of the Chapel. Please move about as the Spirit leads you.

Music during Prayers

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

Hymn during the Prayers

Blest be the God of Israel

1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us
2. With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re -
3. My child, as pro - phet of the Lord you will pre - pare the
free and rais - es up new hope for us; a Branch from Da - vid's
call, the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham; from foes to save us
way, to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal
tree. So have the pro - phets long de - clared that with his might - y
all; that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of
sway. Then shall God's mcr - cy from on high shine forth and nev - cr
arm God would turn back our en - e - mies and all that wish us harm.
praise, in ho - li - ness and right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.
cease, to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Tune by William Bradley. Used with permission through St. James Music Press

The Grace Come, Emmanuel, come dwell with us. Hope of the world and Word of Life: Come, Emmanuel, and dwell within us.

The Peace

The Holy Communion

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts
People **We lift them to the Lord**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is our joy and delight to give you thanks and praise Emmanuel, God with us. We give you thanks and praise for your hallowing of human flesh. We rejoice at your light which shines out of darkness and enlightens all who seek you. We praise you that you brought forth new life in the family of Mary and Joseph as you do today from all who faithfully await the fulfillment of your word. We praise you that you were known first by poor shepherds and wise seekers as you are known today by the poor and outcast. We rejoice with the angels at your promise of peace for those who trust in you. We rejoice that the extraordinary is given birth in the ordinary places of life.

So with the angels who sing "Glory" and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we sing together:

:

People 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.

Celebrant We bless you for Jesus, born of the Spirit's love and a woman's body and blood. We bless you for Jesus who shows us how to live the fullness of our humanity and thus become one with you. We remember Jesus who laughed and wept and felt tiredness and fear; who praised Mary when she anointed him for death and blessed a woman of the city who washed his feet with tears. We remember Jesus who touched lepers and the sick and feasted with tax collectors and sinners. We remember Christ who lives on in all who courageously and faithfully bring forth the light of your love in earth's darkest places.

We remember Jesus who, on the night before he died, shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them saying:

People "Take and eat. This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me."

Celebrant After supper he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and gave it to them saying:

People "This is my life-blood given for you. Do this to remember me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant Come now, Spirit of God, and as we eat and drink these bodily things, make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new age of justice and peace. We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one and his blood that we might find new life. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

The Invitation

Celebrant This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,

You who have been here often, and you who have not been here long,

you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Beloved Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you in this life or in the life to come. Amen.

Communion

The Priest will come and give you communion in your pew.

Concluding Prayer

Loving God, whose holy name defies our definition but whose will is known in freeing the oppressed, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Communion. Make us one with all who cry for justice, that we who speak your praise may struggle for your truth; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessing

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

Dismissal

Officiant The Lord almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.
All Thanks be to God.

Concluding Musical Meditation *Sussex Carol*

***Please leave immediately and quietly at the end of the service
as we wish to continue to contemplate the sacred mysteries we have received.
We continue to practice social distancing while entering and leaving the space.***

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Debbie Phillips	<i>Officiant</i>
Ryan Patten, Debbie Phillips, Eric Wagner	<i>Musicians</i>
Eric Wagner and Paul Massari	<i>Assisting</i>
Kourtni Patten	<i>Reflection</i>
Jane Stewart	<i>Usher</i>

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Parish Prayer List

Max Joyce, Inga and Todd and their family, Jono Gray, Gardner Gray, Mel, Barbara Hawlena, Melissa Glassman, Corey MacNeil, Cliff Cutler, Helen Phillips, John Gourley, Martin Ryan, Kristin Gourley, Scott Tucker, Zan Duffy, Dianne, Sarah Colvin Duffy, Michael Towey, Jesse Kamp, Stacia, Bob Peterson, Brian Peterson, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and Family, the people of Palestine, Afghanistan, and Haiti, and the Salem Public Schools. For an end to racism, gun violence and oppression. If you have prayer requests, please email regathering@gracechurchsalem.org by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's e-news.

Advent Outreach Project

As we contemplate the meaning of this season and begin to slow down, get quiet and still, and prepare our hearts for the most wonderful gift of our Lord, the Regathering Committee invites you to offer your own gift to some of our most marginalized people in the city. During Advent, please bring a 'gift' for a Lifebridge Basket which will be at the entrance of the Church. A member of the Regathering team will take the week's donations to Lifebridge after services each week. The most needed, and heartbreakingly simple things needed are: **Gloves, Hats, Socks, Pocket Handwarmers, Toothpaste, Women's Sanitary Products, and Disposable Razors.** Thank you for whatever you can provide materially, and if that is not possible for you, we thank you for directing your thoughts and prayers to this segment of our community. Look for the Lifebridge Basket as you enter the church.

Thank you,

The Regathering Team

Week Two of Advent Calendar: Love in Action

Sunday - Slow down: Take some time today and listen to music by Black artists such as Samuel Coleridge Taylor, Chevalier de Saint-George, and Francis Johnson for classical music, as well as such artists as Mahalia Jackson, Thelonious Monk and Sam Cooke.

Monday - Vulnerability: Call someone with a differing view than you on race and ask them to share how they got to where they are, especially if you disagree. How can we call each other in rather than calling another out?

Tuesday - Prepare: Become consciously aware today of all the different people who serve you in one way or another. Make an effort to thank each one.

Wednesday - Mary said "Yes": In the Magnificat, Mary sings, "He fills the hungry with good things." Plan on doing just that during Advent. There are many places that serve the hungry on the North Shore and Boston. Give of your time.

Thursday - Joseph made a choice: Joseph took responsibility for one "not his own," his adopted son Jesus. Find one action you can take to spend time with someone different than you that could lead to a sense of belonging to one another.

Friday - Sanitizing Christmas: This year, put out a non-white crèche. Find a set with BIPOC or use other objects for your crèche. Change your image from a white Holy Family.

Saturday - Community: Order something or shop from a Black owned business today.

Holiday Cookie Walk: December 18th

This year, we will be reviving our extremely popular Cookie Walk! The Cookie Walk will take place on Saturday, December 18, 2021. In addition to regular Christmas cookies, we also plan to sell gluten-free cookies and dog treats. The more bakers we have, the greater our variety and the better our sales. So, pull out your cookbooks and start thinking about what you can bake for this year's sale!

LOVING LIBERATING LIFE GIVING *the Jesus Movement*

— Grace Episcopal Church —

A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry
The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates
The Right Reverend Gayle E. Harris
The Reverend Deborah A. Phillips
Larry Kamp
Tom and Karen Tucker
Hugh MacKay and Joanne Moar

*Presiding Bishop
Bishop Diocesan
Bishop Suffragan
Rector
Director of Music
Property Stewards
Vergers*

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten
Peggy Carter
Ryan Patten
Joanne Moar

*Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Clerk
Treasurer*

Laura Beasley-Topliffe, Andrew Bishop
Lisa Duffy, Katie LaBonte
Angela Williams

Members of Vestry