

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 6, 2020

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROUS SUPPORT OF ST. MARY OF THE HILLS!

Your financial contributions enable this mission and ministry of this parish to continue.

Gifts may be received online at <https://www.stmaryofthehills.org/donate>
or via mail (P.O. Box 14, Blowing Rock, NC 28607).

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



*If you've not yet made your pledge for 2021, we invite you to do so today.
You may submit your pledge online – [HERE](#).*

Credits and References

**Liturgical references are from the Book of Common Prayer (1979), The Hymnal 1982, and the Book of Occasional Services (2018)*

***Biblical references are from the Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version (1989)*

MORNING PRAYER

RITE II

Join the service via YouTube here –
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSIER6UDGf9FyTvPRGs8_1A

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*A prayerful silence precedes the service.
The tower bells ring the hour.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE INTROIT

Lord, we beseech thee

Adrian Batten (1591-1637)

Lord, we beseech thee, give ear unto our prayers,
and by thy gracious visitation lighten the darkness of our hearts,
by our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE OPENING SENTENCES

Watch , for you know not 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

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 79

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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 Celebrant pronounces the absolution and the people respond, Amen.

THE INVITATORY

BCP 80

Officiant Lord, open our lips.
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

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.**

Alleluia.

All say the Antiphon:

Our King and Savior now draws near: **Come, let us adore him.**

THE JUBILATE

BCP 81

Psalm 100

**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.**

All repeat the Antiphon:

Our King and Savior now draws near: **Come, let us adore him.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *Benedixisti, Domine*

The Cantors sing the appointed portion of the Psalm.

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

At the end of the Psalms is sung

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.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 60: 1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.

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

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way;
 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is

coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 16

BCP 92

Luke 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
 he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
 born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
 from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
 and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his 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.

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 HOMILY

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege

A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.

Officiant and People together, all standing

**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

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**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.**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. **And grant us your salvation.**
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

*Free intercessions may be offered.
The people add their own petitions and thanksgivings.
These may be shared with one another in the comment box on YouTube.*

The Officiant concludes the prayers with this collect,

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.**

HYMN 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Psalm 42



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



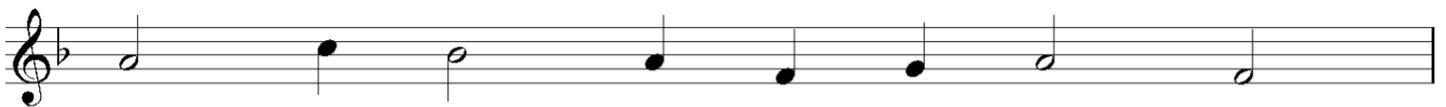
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

THE BLESSING

The Officiant pronounces God's blessing, and the people respond, Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 102

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GRACE

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.**

2 Corinthians 13:14

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

COFFEE MINUTE

Are you missing the opportunity to connect with St. Mary's friends during Coffee Minute? We are too! After worship, join us for an online Coffee Minute on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84753510585>

Password: coffee

Please Pray for the Following in Your Daily Prayers

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, Andrew our rector, Sam and Gary our assisting clergy, for our Vestry and staff, for all bishops and ministers, and for all God's people throughout the world.

For Donald, our President, Joseph, our President-Elect, Roy, our Governor, those who hold elected office, and all those in positions of public trust.

For all medical personnel and all ministering to the needs of those affected by COVID-19.

For all those affected by natural disaster, most especially those affected by hurricanes, fires, and floods.

For healing: Alice Holt, Bria McKnight, Richard Miller, Erby Miller, Anna, Chantz, Ann Greene, Tom Veale, Kathy, Bill T., Tina, Blaine Smith, Bob Amos, Frank Thomas, Mills Poole, Pam Ayoub, Jim Ayoub, Eartha McKnight, Pat R., Gerry H., George Eden, Jo Barbre, Joe Dyer, McDonough family, Peter, Terry, Judy, Barbara Horton, Sherri

****(Please note that the names on this list will remain for four weeks, unless the office is notified that the person(s) needs to remain on the list for a longer period of time.)****

For those who have died: Tom Dillard, Tae McAlpin, Shana, Della, Sonny Howard, Ginny Peterson, Barbara Collier, Wendy, Kilton B., Nick, Mabel Jones

For safe pregnancy and delivery for: Anna, Kristen, Amanda, Claire, Kimmi, Falconer

For those celebrating birthdays this week:

12/06 Patty Patella, Bill Tessien, Sue Wilder, Barbara Yale-Read

12/07 Sam Milner

12/08 Dick Kitchell

12/09 Rachel Capen Blackburn, Andrew Capen

12/11 Sharon Battaglia, Angela King

Parish Prayer Cycle:

12/06 Helene Harper and Mike Tinka

12/07 Graeme and Maureen Justice

12/08 Lisa Kaufmann

12/09 Butch and Donna Kerns

12/10 Dick and Louann Kitchell

12/11 Dave and Nell Kline

12/12 Robert Kling and Tom Veale

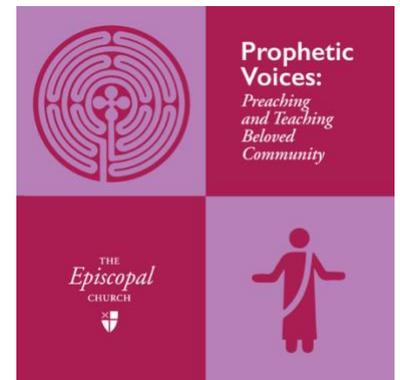
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rector's Forum – During the season of Advent, Fr. Andrew will offer reflections and invite conversation using the appointed Sunday Gospel texts and familiar hymns of the season. This Sunday the Gospel text is Mark 1:1-8 and the hymn we'll consider is, 'On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry.' We meet via Zoom each Sunday morning, 9:00-9:30AM. Use the link – [HERE](#) – to connect (password: forum) All are welcome!

Lessons and Carols – Though we are unable to gather for our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols at St. Mary of the Hills, our friends at Sewanee: The University of the South will premiere a recorded service from All Saints Chapel TONIGHT at 8:00PM. The service will be available online – [HERE](#).

Christmas Flower & Greenery Offering – In a few short weeks, our worship space will be decorated with greenery and flowers to usher in the Christmas season. Though we will not be able to gather in large groups, as is our custom, the Church will continue to proclaim the beauty of Christ among us. For many, it is a tradition to make a gift toward flowers and greenery in honor or memory of a loved one, to be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletin. If you'd like to do so, contact Parish Administrator, Greta Wilson (office@stmaryofthehills.org or 828.295.7323) by December 15th.

Advent Prophetic Voices – On Mondays between now and Christmas, there will be a Zoom discussion group using the Episcopal Church podcast series, Prophetic Voices: Preaching & Teaching Beloved Community. Each week, the preparation expected will be a one-hour podcast available by computer, tablet, or phone that focuses on each Sunday's Old Testament & Gospel readings through the lens of social justice. Each session, facilitated by a different St. Mary's parishioner, will engage the scripture readings of Advent with our time of needing to heal our deep divisions. Sessions will be from 3:30-4:45 and available by Zoom, whether in-person or asynchronously by recording. Please let Fr. Sam (sam@stmaryofthehills.org) know of your interest and especially whether you wish to participate by receiving the recording link each week.



Advent Heifer Fair (Online) - This year, in lieu of our annual in-person Advent Heifer Fair, we invite you to remember Heifer International as a part of your holiday shopping. A contribution to the work of Heifer International makes a great gift for friends and family. Learn more about the work of Heifer International by clicking the image of their logo above to visit their website. Wondering how much to give or how your dollars are used?

Check out Heifer's Shopping List - [HERE](#). To contribute, you may use our online giving portal - [HERE](#) - select 'Other' in the drop-down menu and type 'Heifer' in the text box. Alternatively, you may place a check in the mail, addressed to St. Mary of the Hills, with 'Heifer' in the memo line.

St. Mary of the Hills on YouTube – Did you know that all services are available for streaming and are also archived on YouTube? Visit our channel – [HERE](#) - and don't forget to subscribe.

Reverse Advent Calendar to support Blowing Rock CARES – This has been an unprecedented year for food instability in our area. During the month of December, all St. Mary's members are invited to donate to our local Blowing Rock CARES Food Pantry. In years past we have collected bags at the back of the Church with some suggested items to collect for our [Reverse Advent Calendar](#). Due to pandemic restrictions on Church gatherings, you can bring bags directly to BR CARES, located across the street at Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church or simply make a \$25 donation to Rumble Church (*marked Xmas for BR CareS*) toward purchasing food items during Christmas Season.



Responding to Natural Disaster – As hurricanes and fires continue to afflict many in our nation, please remember the work of Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). ERD is an international relief and development agency and a compassionate response to human suffering on behalf of the Episcopal Church. As an organization, ERD continues to work diligently in response to the needs

of those affected by multiple natural disasters, including areas of the Gulf Coast Impacted by hurricanes and along the West Coast as communities confront the destruction of wildfires. Visit their website – [HERE](#) – to learn more and support our efforts

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PARISH STAFF

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| The Reverend Andrew J. Hege | Rector |
| The Reverend Samuel V. Tallman | Priest Associate |
| The Right Reverend J. Gary Gloster | Assisting Clergy |
| Dr. James Bumgardner | Organist/Choirmaster |
| Greta Wilson | Parish Administrator |
| Joe Raulerson | Financial Secretary |
| Bill Stroh | Sexton |
| Caleb Brigman, Emme Hooks, Kathryn Santiago, Jacob Smith | Choral Scholars |
| Megan Redford, Alex Scheurer, Chloe Shaut | Nursery Assistants |

THE VESTRY

2020

Crawford Cleveland
Bill Furr
Jane Milner
Chip Myers, Sr. Warden

2021

Sterling Hutcheson
Gigi Poole
E.B. Springs
Jim West

2022

Doug Galke
Lisa Kaufmann
Roy McCraw
Tim Silver, Jr. Warden

Amanda White, Treasurer
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk

+++

St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church

P. O. Box 14 - 140 Chestnut Drive
Blowing Rock, North Carolina 28605-0014

www.stmaryofthehills.org

828.295.7323