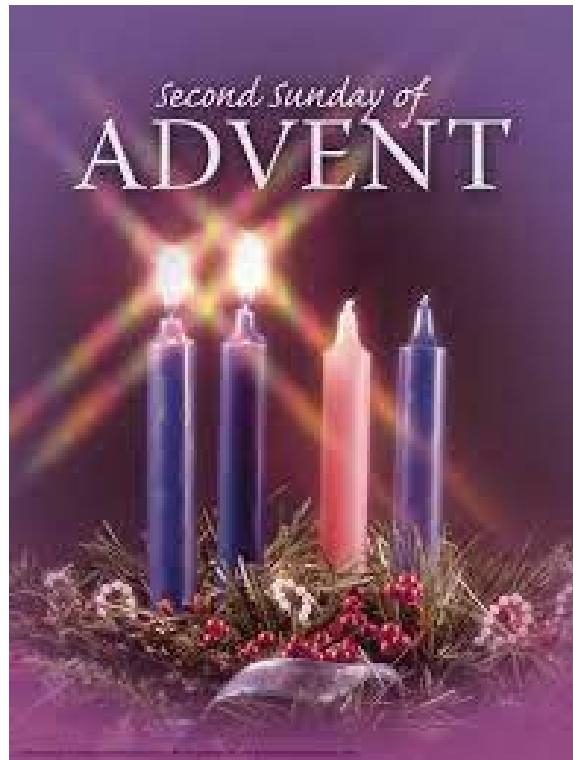


St. Philip's Episcopal Church

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

8:00 am and 10:30 am



The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest, Rector

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WELCOME!

We are so glad you are here, and I hope you find worship at St. Philip's Episcopal Church to be inspiring, spirit-filled, and nurturing for your faith journey. Here are two ways to take a next step:

- 1) Simply fill out the visitor card in the pew. Completed cards may be placed in the offering plate or given to an usher. Your responses are confidential, and we will contact you only if you make that request.
- 2) A calendar of events can be found on our website at stphilipsrva.org or in our e-News (subscribe on the website) as an invitation to you! All of our classes, services, and programs are open to all. If you are interested in learning more about St. Philip's or the Episcopal Church, please let me know!

As you prepare your heart, soul, mind, and body for worship, may the love of God and the mercy of Christ fill your heart with peace.

The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest

Rector of St. Philip's

About Today's Worship: About Today's Worship:

We welcome all people to meet Christ in the sharing of our sacred meal.

♦ Options at Communion

- 1 **Intinction** is the practice of dipping the bread into the wine in the chalice rather than eating the bread first and then drinking the wine. It is entirely acceptable to receive the Sacrament by intinction. **Intinction** will be done by verbally indicating to the priest of your desire. The priest will **intinct for you** and place the wafer in your hand for you to consume.
- 2 You may **ONLY Sip** from the common cup that will be held by the Lay Eucharistic Minister. Drinking from the common cup is also an acceptable way to receive the Blood of Christ (wine).
- 3 You may **choose to not receive wine** with the knowledge that the Body of Christ (wafer) is full and sufficient. Should you wish to not receive wine you may return to your seat after receiving the wafer.
- 4 Should you desire a **blessing**, cross your arms over your chest to indicate your desire to the priest. If you seek a deeper relationship with Christ through baptism, please speak with a priest after the service.
- 5 Should you need a **Gluten-Free wafer** please indicate your need to the priest.

Holy Baptism is our rite of initiation into the Christian faith and primary to membership in our parish. If you would like to learn more about this sacred rite and membership in our church, please speak with Rev. Marlene or contact our office at 804-321-1266.

HOLY EUCHARIST - Rite II

PROCESSIONAL HYMN* *Come, thou*

1982 Hymnal #66

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

(The second purple candle is lit.)

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

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

TRISAGION (*sung three times*)

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

- 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.

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Once he came in blessing,
All our ills redressing;
came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
bore the cross to save us,
hope and freedom gave us.**

**Still he comes within us,
still his voice would win us
from the sins that hurt us,
would to Truth convert us:
not in torment hold us,
but in love enfold us.**

**Thus if thou canst name him,
not ashamed to claim him,
but wilt trust him boldly,
nor dost love him coldly,
he will then receive thee,
heal thee, and forgive thee.**

**One who thus endureth
bright reward secureth.
Come then, O Lord Jesus,
from our sins release us;
let us here confess thee
till in heaven we bless thee.**

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. By the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In this Advent season, let us offer our prayers to God, saying: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

(A brief silence.)

That our gracious Savior may rouse us from sleep and make us attentive to the nearness of his presence, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord in your mercy, hear our Prayer.

That we may discover God’s word in every sound of this world, God’s touch in every human embrace, and God’s love in every gesture of self-sacrifice among us, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord in your mercy, hear our Prayer.

That divine energy and holy grace may bring our hearts to vigilance and make us see with uncovered eyes the Christ who suffers in his people's agonies, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord in your mercy, hear our Prayer.

That we may come to recognize in our holy assembly gathered for prayer that Jesus Christ is with us here to make our songs of praise and pleading his own, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord in your mercy, hear our Prayer.

That God's coming into the days and years of our human history may always be new, always brimming with light to drive all darkness away, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord in your mercy, hear our Prayer.

That our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants Avery McGilvary, Alan Savage, Andrew Savage, Bryan Guthrie, Nathaniel Lewis, Roger Lee, and Sarah Lee as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord in your mercy, hear our Prayer.

That all who suffer in mind, body or spirit might find new the light of hope in our prayers especially Cynthia Bentley, Shirley Brown, Raymond Boone, Jr., Regina Boone, Mary Carter, Yvonne Carter, Alex Corbett, Rosa Chance, Simone DeJean, Ibrahim Elbalola, Lorraine Fasset, Christine Forrest, Rueben Greene, Yolanda Haynes, Eva Hicks, Ester Hyatt, Bill James, Ollie Jordan, Deborah Little-Bowser, Robinette Miller, Lela Morris, Robert Myers, Hortense Powell, Nancy Shadt, Anice Saunders, Mary Saunders. Barbara Forrest Thompson, Clementine Washington and Wendall White. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord in your mercy, hear our Prayer.

That we may follow the example of the faithful who have gone before us, especially Eva Hicks and be reunited with them in the joy of everlasting life. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord in your mercy, hear our Prayer.

Make ready our hearts for your coming, O Lord., and receive our prayers in the name of the one who comes, our gracious Savior, Jesus, the Christ. **Amen**

CONFESSON OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Peace of God

by Eudora L. Forrest

**The Peace of God be always with you,
And may God's grace be always with
your heart. And may His love keep you
in perfect peace, The love of God, the
love of God, the love of God Keep you
in perfect peace.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, AND TRAVEL BLESSINGS

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY*

LEVAS 56

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures, here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life, that when he shall come again, in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death. We proclaim his resurrection. We await his coming in glory.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Philip, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

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.

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

FRACTION ANTHEM*

Lamb of God

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

COMMUNION HYMN* *In remembrance of Me* LEVAS II Hymn 149

**In remembrance of Me eat this bread
In remembrance of Me drink this wine
In remembrance of Me pray for the time
When God's own will is done**

Fraction

Also called the Breaking of the Bread, both recalls Jesus breaking bread at the Last Supper, and it also reminds us that Jesus' body was broken on the cross for us. Therefore we keep a moment of silence for prayers of awe and gratitude.

Receiving Communion All are welcome at God's table. Those who are Baptized in any tradition are invited to receive the bread and wine. Hold out your hands. Indicate verbally to the priest if you would like to intinct or sip. should you desire intinction you will be given the dipped bread from the priest to intinct. If you choose to drink from the common cup, consume your wafer. Help the cupbearer by guiding the chalice to your lips by the base. Gluten-free wafers are available by request.

**In remembrance of me heal the sick
In remembrance of me feed the poor
In remembrance of me open the door
And let your brother in, let him in**

**Take eat and be comforted
Drink and remember too
That this is my body and precious blood
Shed for you, shed for you**

**In remembrance of me search for truth
In remembrance of me always love
In remembrance of me don't look above
But in your heart, in your heart
Look in your heart for God**

**Do this in remembrance of Me
Do this in remembrance of Me
In remembrance of Me**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you above and beyond what you could ask or imagine.
May the Lord's face shine upon you revealing the depths of God's infinite love.
May the Lord be gracious to you breaking your heart open with new mercies.
May the Lord's countenance be upon you reminding you that you are chosen and valued.
May the Lord give you peace assuring you of the Holy Ones constant faithful care.
And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever more. **Amen.**

**1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.**

**2 Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.**

**3 Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**4 Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.**

DISMISSAL

Our worship has ended, but our service to the world begins. Let us depart in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Music referenced is for the 10:30 am service.*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Lay Eucharistic Ministers:

Pauletta James (*8 am*)

Diane Beatty and Deborah Bowser (*10:30 am*)

Lectors:

Mark Jones (*8 am*)

Lydia Johnson (*10:30 am*)

Organist/Minister of Music: Dr. Willis L. Barnett

Verger: Nathaniel Lewis

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This Week at St. Philip's Church

Monday, December 11

7:00 p.m. N.A. Meeting

Tuesday, December 12

Newsletter Submission must be emailed to Diem, office@stphilipsrva.org by Noon

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

7:00 p.m. Advent Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, December 13

12:00 p.m. Noon Prayer; Circle of Love

Thursday, December 14

8:00 a.m. Food Pantry Set-up in Parish Hall

7:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service & Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 15

9:00 a.m. Food Pantry

1:00 p.m. Eva Wilkins Hick's Funeral

Saturday, December 16

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Links Meeting and Luncheon

5:30 p.m. - Soul Fire Saturday; All Things Christmas

Sunday, December 17; The Third Sunday in Advent; Sunday School

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist/Rite II

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist/Rite II

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Your financial gifts to St. Philip's are of vital importance to support our ongoing ministries and our outreach to the most vulnerable among us. Please continue to offer your faithful gifts.