

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

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:

- ♦ We welcome all people to meet Christ in the sharing of our sacred meal. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of the sacraments of bread and wine, please come forward during communion and place your arms across your chest.
- ♦ **A gluten-free alternative** is available. Please communicate this preference to our 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.

In this first service in our Be Born in Us Today series for Advent, we recall that God promised Abraham that an offspring from his line would bring blessing to all. That offspring was Jesus. And he is born in us today.

HOLY EUCHARIST - Rite II

PROCESSIONAL HYMN*

Praise to the Lord

Hymn 390

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
join the great throng,
psaltery, organ, and song,
sounding in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord; over all things he gloriously reigneth:
borne as on eagle-wings, safely his saints he sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen
how all thou needest hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee;
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
sound from his people again;
gladly for ever adore him.

INVOCATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

(The first blue or purple candle is lit.)

We light the first candle on the Advent wreath as we rejoice in the blessings that have come to us through the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. God told Abraham that through one of his descendants "all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12: 3)

Holy Child of Bethlehem, you were born among us to live and die and rise in fulfillment of God's promise to bless all nations.

The promised descendant of Abraham, Jesus Christ, is a blessing for people of all nations who trust in him for salvation. "So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith." (Galatians 3: 7-8)

Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Through faith in your name, Lord Jesus, we have the blessings of forgiveness and salvation!

Come to Jesus, you who are thirsty.

Alleluia!

Drink deeply of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia!

Let your heart overflow with the living water that renews the face of the earth.

Hallelujah; thanks be to God.

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

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.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 2: 1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 13: 11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN*

My Lord, What a Morning

LEVAS 13

**My Lord, what a morning,
My Lord, what a morning,
O my Lord, what a morning,
When the stars begin to fall.**

**You'll hear the trumpet sound,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.**

**You'll hear the sinner mourn,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.**

**You'll hear the Christian shout,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.**

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 24: 36-44

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

(A brief silence.)

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants Gavin Johnson, Lizbeth Hayes Mackey, Romaine Morgan, Jennifer Royal, and Genevieve Seabrook 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. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Lord and Savior, have mercy on those who are suffering through illness and loss, especially Norma Agnew, Marc Albertson, Trey Bankhead, Mary Carter, Alexander Corbett, Anaya Gavins, Kevin Giggetts, Harris Greene, Marvis Hazel, Eva Hicks, Francine L. Johnson, Alaina LaVonne, Mary Little, Steven Little, Barbara Lowe, Elinor Martinez, Christian Miller, Robinette Miller, Edmund Moore, Romaine Morgan, Lela Morris, Hortense Powell, Pam Southall, Inez Tuck, Clementine Washington, Ed West, Louise White, Cynthia Smith Williams, and John Williams. Watch over them and comfort them through the promises of your holy Word. Lead us as we seek ways to help and serve those in need so that we might share our blessings with them. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

Be born in us today. As we have been blessed through your birth, help us to bless others in your name.

Lord and Savior, you were born among us in fulfillment of the promise to Abraham, that one of his descendants would be a blessing to people of all nations. By your suffering and death, you atoned for the sins of the world. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

Be born in us today. Like Abraham, we too are blessed to be a blessing to others. Guide and protect the pastors, teachers, missionaries and other workers who carry the good news of Jesus to every nation. Help us to support them with our gifts and prayers.

Lord and Savior, Abraham believed your promise and his faith was counted as righteousness. Through faith in your name, we too are counted righteous. Through your suffering, death and resurrection, we have received the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

Be born in us today. We pray that the Holy Spirit will work through our acts of love and our words of witness so that others will come to know and worship you as Lord.

Holy Savior, Lord of all nations, hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise. **Amen.**

CONFESSION 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 be al - ways with you, And may God's

6 grace be al - ways in your heart. And may His love keep

11 you in per - fect peace, The love of God, the love of God,

17 *rit.* the love of God keep you in per - fect 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.

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

Glory to you for ever and ever.

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.

By your will they were created and have their being.

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.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

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.

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

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:

**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.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, 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 Lord.

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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob, Leah, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord 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 his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, 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. **AMEN.**

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

Our Father, which 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**My God, Thy Table Now Is Spread*

Hymn 321

My God, thy table now is spread,
thy cup with love doth overflow;
be all thy children thither led,
and let them thy sweet mercies know.

O let thy table honored be,
and furnished well with joyful guests;
and may each soul salvation see,
that here its sacred pledges tastes.

Drawn by thy quickening grace, O Lord,
in countless number let them come
and gather from their Father's board
the Bread that lives beyond the tomb.

Nor let thy spreading Gospel rest
till through the world thy truth has run,
till with this Bread shall all be blessed
who see the light or feel the sun.

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 Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

(Refrain:)

Hosanna, hosanna!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

With all the angel choirs,
with all the saints of earth,
pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
true rapture, noblest mirth. *(Refrain)*

Your clear hosannas raise
and alleluias loud;
while answering echoes upward float,
like wreaths of incense cloud. *(Refrain)*

Yes, on through life's long path,
still chanting as ye go;
from youth to age, by night and day,
in gladness and in woe. *(Refrain)*

Still lift your standard high,
still march in firm array,
as warriors through the darkness toil,
till dawns the golden day. *(Refrain)*

At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their Father's house,
Jerusalem the blessed. *(Refrain)*

Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King. *(Refrain)*

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)

Monte Carroll and Henry Davis (10:30 am)

Lectors:

Thomas Beatty (8 am)

Paulette Yates (10:30 am)

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

Verger: Nathaniel Lewis

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