



Christ Episcopal Church Kensington  
Evening Prayer  
Second Sunday of Advent  
December 6, 2020

*Welcome! We are so glad you've joined us for worship this day.  
We invite you to participate fully, singing and saying the responses out loud at home.  
Please keep yourself muted during the service, except for the Lord's Prayer,  
to add your individual prayers, at the peace, and the dismissal.*

Welcome

Prelude      *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*

Spiritual, arr. Rebecca Bonam

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

In Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ, the true light, into the world.  
**Bring us peace, Lord Christ.**

Christ is coming. Christ is among us already: entering a troubled world,  
a wounded heart, a broken spirit.  
**Bring us peace, Lord Christ.**

Lord God, as your prophets called us to your healing work of justice and peace,  
**May this shining light kindle in us a passion for reconciliation and  
compassion in our church, country and world.**

Giver of Life, let your healing light shine in our darkness.  
**Bring us peace, Lord Christ.**

*the candles of hope and peace are lit*

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Advent season.  
Show us how to live in hope.  
Teach us that true peace is only possible with justice and mercy.  
**Transform us, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

**Opening Acclamation**

Presider      Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
People      **You come to your people and set them free.**

## The Collect of the Day

Presider        God dwells in you.  
**People**        **And also in you.**  
Presider        Let us pray.

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.**

## A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (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.

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

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

- 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 you LORD God are saying, \*  
**for you are speaking peace to your faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to you.**
- 9 Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, \*  
**that your 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 you, \*  
**and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.**

**The Epistle**

**A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter** (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.

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

Hymn 67 *Comfort, comfort ye my people*

Jason Saffell, Tenor



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.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*

## **The Gospel    Mark 1:1-8**

Gospeller:     The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Mark

**All:                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.”

Gospeller:     The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:                Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **Homily**

The Rev. Emily Guthrie

## **Affirmation of Faith**

*Originally from Grace Episcopal Cathedral, San Francisco.*

**We believe in God the Creator,  
by whom every person in heaven and earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.  
We believe in one God:  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen**

## **Confession & Absolution**

Presider:        Let us confess our sins to God

**Merciful God, we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with all our heart. We have not loved others as Christ loves us. We are truly sorry. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*The Presider offers absolution.*

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 Prayers

**Presider** The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

**Presider** Let us pray.

**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.**

## The Prayers of the People

We are called to watch and pray, therefore let us pray together saying:

Christ, in your mercy,  
**come to your people.**

Gracious God, we thank you for coming to us in flesh at Bethlehem, and for coming to us whenever we gather in your name. Keep us alert and watchful through the dark night of this world, and give us confidence as we await your coming in glory.

*Silence*

Christ, in your mercy,  
**come to your people.**

We pray for your church—its people and its leaders. Keep us alert and watchful in support of one another, guard us from everything false and untrue, and shine on us with the light of your holy word.

*Silence*

Christ, in your mercy,  
**come to your people.**

We pray for our country and all nations. Lift the hearts of those in authority that they may govern wisely and well, for the good of all. Bring your peace to all communities torn by division, violence and war. Keep us alert and watchful that we might serve you by giving good service to others in our daily lives.

*Silence*

Christ, in your mercy,  
**come to your people.**

We thank you, O God, for providing for our needs. We give thanks for those celebrating their birthdays this week including Carl Keith, and for the ordination yesterday of Hope Christensen to the sacred order of deacons. Keep us alert and watchful for the blessings in our lives, and move us to give generously out of our abundance.

*All are invited to unmute themselves and add your prayers of thanksgiving*

Christ, in your mercy,  
**come to your people.**

Loving Christ, stand by all who need your comfort. Give rest to those who are weary. Soothe those who suffer. Be with those whom we know in particular need, especially Florence Crozier, Mary Lou Cumberpatch, Bill Daisley, Kate Ganascioli, Carl Keith, Jon Martineau, Mary Padgett, Lissa Ramsepaul, Betsy Robbins, Amy Saylor, and Kitty Shuler.

*All are invited to unmute themselves and add your petitions*

Christ, in your mercy,  
**come to your people.**

We pray for all who have died. We remember especially Jo Crozier, Alex Governatori, and Lisa Davies, in whose memory the flowers are dedicated this week.

*All are invited to unmute themselves and add names of the departed*

May light perpetual shine upon them, and their souls rest in peace.

Lord Jesus, we do not know the day or the hour of your arrival. Keep us always alert and watchful that we may welcome you with joy. For you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

Presider	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People	<b>And also with you.</b>

### **Announcements**

- Help bring Christmas cheer to a child at Arcola Elementary School! Details and the link to the Sign-Up to sponsor a child for Christmas are in the Christ Church Connection.
- One service at 10:00am on Dec 13<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Pageant and Holy Communion. All are invited to dress as their favorite character in the Nativity story. This is your chance to wear your bathrobe, scarf and tie to church...and be a shepherd *On the way to Bethlehem.*

**Offertory Anthem** *Hymn 65 -- Prepare the way, O Zion*

Bereden vag for Herran  
Richard Giarusso, Baritone

### **Electronic Offering**

Even though we are not able to meet together during this time, the work of the Church continues. Please mail your offering to Christ Church, 4001 Franklin St., Kensington, MD 20895, or take this time to contribute online <https://christchurchkensington.org/give/>  
*We are so very grateful for your generosity.*

### **Benediction**

### **Dismissal**

Presider	Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.
People	<b>Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.</b>



### **welcome to all our visitors**

If you'd like more information about Christ Church, please email Parish Administrator Jen Luna [administrator@ccpk.org](mailto:administrator@ccpk.org), we'll add you to our weekly e-newsletter, or call us at 301-942-4673.

Send an email to the Rector, the Rev. Emily Guthrie, at [emily@ccpk.org](mailto:emily@ccpk.org).

We are better for your presence with us today, and would love to get to know you!



### **thank you to our worship leaders this evening**

Nikki, Jackson, Aiden and Chase Beatty, Wreath Lighting Litany

Lee Puricelli, Reader Coordinator

All our volunteer readers and prayer leaders

The Rev. Hope Christensen, Deacon & Seminarian

Bill Davies, Virtual Verger

### **Musicians**

Teddy Guerrant, Organist Choir master, Christ Church

Richard Giarusso, Baritone; Jason Saffell, Tenor;

Christine Taylor, Soprano



### **virtual flower dedication**

The virtual flowers this week are given by Bill Davies in loving memory of his sister, Lisa.

*If you would like to dedicate virtual flowers that appear in the weekly email,  
please contact Jen Luna, [administrator@ccpk.org](mailto:administrator@ccpk.org).*

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### **Christ Episcopal Church**

4001 Franklin Street, Kensington, MD 20895

301-942-4673

[www.ChristChurchKensington.org](http://www.ChristChurchKensington.org)