

Hope

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT





ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1676 SOUTH BELCHER ROAD
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33764-6517
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727-531-6020

The First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025
9:00 am

Announcements

Prelude: "Light In The Darkness"

James A. May

(Advent wreath candles are lighted during the Prelude)

Processional Hymn: 56 "O Come, O come Emmanuel" (vs. 1 & 2)

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant:

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: S102

Alexander Archangelsky

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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.

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.

Response: 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

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn: 596 “Judge eternal, throned in splendor”

Komm, o komm, du Geist des Lebens

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
(24:36-44)

People: **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.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Hugh Bell

Nicene Creed (Stand)

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 worshipped 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 Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; for the Diocese of Southwest Florida, especially Church of the Epiphany, Cape Coral; Iona-Hope, Lamb of God, St. Hilary's, St. Luke's, all of Fort Myers, St. Raphael's, Fort Myers Beach; Good Shepherd, LaBelle; St. Anselm's, Lehigh Acres; All Souls', North Fort Myers; St. Michael and All Angels, Sanibel, and St. John's, Pine Island; for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and their pastor Anne, and for the dioceses and provinces of the Anglican Communion, especially Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan;

That we all may be one.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Douglas our Bishop; for Hugh and Jim, our priests and Kevin our Deacon and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Especially those listed in our bulletin.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

in your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit

that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of your Name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: 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.**

Stewardship Testimony

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory: (*The people may sit*)

Offertory Hymn: 61 “Sleepers, wake! A voice astounds us”

Wachet auf

Presentation of Gifts (*Please stand as the gifts are brought forward*)

Doxology: 380 (vs. 3 with “Amen”)

Old 100th

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B (Stand)

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 our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: 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:

S124 “Holy, holy, holy”

David Hurd

Celebrant: 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,
Celebrant and People
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

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 St. John 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 for ever.

The Great AMEN: S146

McNeil Robinson II



Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People: **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 Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia ! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia !**

S161 Lamb of God

David Hurd

The Communion

All Baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion.

Please stand or kneel at the rail.

The priest will place the Sacrament in your outstretched hands.

Communion Hymn: 454 “Jesus came, adored by angels” Lowry

Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors *(as needed)*

Following the communion of the people, the Lay Eucharistic Ministers come forward and are commended for this ministry with the following words:

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ’s body and blood.

Celebrant: We who are many are one body,

People: **Because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Post Communion Prayer

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,**

to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

The Dismissal: **Response: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Closing Hymn: 57 “Lo! He comes, with clouds descending” Helmsley

Postlude: Voluntary on St. Thomas (Webbe) John Francis Wade

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Welcome Visitors!

Please sign the guest book at the welcoming stand where information is available.

Visit our Website: <https://stjohnsclearwater.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St.JohnsClearwater/>

Join us for coffee and fellowship in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.

Pray for the sick: James Bernard, Cathy Bixler, Barbara Bowdoin, Heather Bradlee, Sally Brown, Bob Cates, Bob Courdway, The Most. Rev. Michael B. Curry, Ann D’Alessandro, Kristy Foltz, Sharon Griffin, John Humpal, Jackie Hymes, Nan Lanham, James Logan McLeay, Tom McManus, Kimberly McMillan, Toni Medjuck, John Piatak, The Rev. George Razee, Eric Rummler, Nancy Sawyer, Amy Sheilds, Deborah Smith, Kitty Smith, Dan Sykes and Sandy Walton.

Pray for the homebound: Margarita Lopez.

Vestry minutes and financial summary are posted on a bulletin board in the entryway. These documents will be posted each month.

Good Neighbors: The loose offering on the first Sunday of each month will be for Good Neighbors.

Pack-a-Sack: If you would like to sponsor a child for one month- \$25, or for one year \$225, please mark your gift for Pack a Sack. For more information or to assist with the packing, contact Caroline Barnett.

Prayer Chapel: The Chapel is open for anyone wishing individual prayer. Everyone is welcome to go to the Chapel after communion to receive prayer with a member of The Daughters of the King. Prayer requests are held in strict confidence.

Thrift Shop Volunteers Needed! The Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers to work the front desk and the sorting/pricing room. Please contact Caroline Barnett if you are interested. (727) 459-3650.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – Wednesday, 10am in the Parish Hall. See Bob Courdway if you have any questions.

Deadline for submission of articles for the bulletin is Tuesday, 3pm for the following Sunday bulletin.

Weekly Schedule

Thrift Shop Hours - Tue, Thu, and Sat 9:30 – 3:30
Hand Bell Choir - Tuesdays, 6pm – Church Sanctuary
Voice Choir - Tuesdays, 7pm – Church Sanctuary.
Wednesday Morning Bible Study – Parish Hall – 10:00am.
Men's Cursillo Grouping - Parish Hall - Thursday 7:30 am
Rug Hookers – Parish Hall - Thursdays 10 am

Dates for your calendar

December 2, 9, 16 & 23: Advent book study and faith sharing, 11 a.m., Led by Pr. Anne. The book “Advent for Everyone” is available for \$9.33.

December 13: Decorate the Church for Christmas

December 20: Joint Christmas Party with St. Paul's, 3-5 p.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve service, 4 p.m.



The Diocese of Southwest Florida
The Rt. Rev. Douglas Scharf, Bishop
St. John's Mission Statement:
To love, to serve, to grow in Christ

Church Staff

Priest
Deacon
Office Administrator
Music Director
Sexton

The Rev. Hugh Bell
The Rev. Kevin Mort
Jan Davis
Jim May
Thomas Watts

Vestry

Marlene Eichelberger
Marti Moore
Bob Courdway
Sallie Devine
Bonnie Lovell
Diane Pfaus
Ellen Seto
Deb Hladky

Sr. Warden
Jr. Warden
Treasurer
Outreach
Parish Life
Communication & Evangelism
Worship
Stewardship