



ORDER OF SERVICE

RITE II

The First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, Trinity welcomes you.

WELCOME TO TRINITY

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church. We hope that you will feel the presence of God in this holy space. We believe that you will also find God in the community of people who worship here. Trinity is rich in the traditions of the Episcopal Church, and it is our prayer that you will feel warmly welcomed. May this place be to you a source of strength and spiritual renewal. May you also find it a place where all people are accepted. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, Trinity welcomes you!

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The Word of God

Organ Voluntary: Wachet auf! ruft uns die Stimme

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Hymn 59 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 “Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day.”
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.
Music: William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

Lighting of Advent Candle

While the first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit, the Celebrant says

This candle represents hope. Long ago, people had hope in their hearts as they waited for a savior, someone who would come to set people free. We hope, too, for the Savior’s love to be shared with our friends and to cover the world.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.**

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.**

Cantor or Choir *All* *Cantor or Choir*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

All *Cantor or Choir* *All*

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Qui regis Israel

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

**18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Church at Corinth.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence

Hymn 721 Signs of endings all around us

Ton-y-Botel

1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us— dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?
3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.

shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.
Life from death, and from our rend - ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?
Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.

Come, O Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:
Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through - out the earth;

Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.
 Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.
 your do - min-ion bring now near us; we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

Words: Dean W. Nelson (b. 1944) © 1988 Dean W. Nelson
 Music: Thomas John Williams (1869-1944)

Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Cheryl Harder

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Happy new year!! Today is Advent 1, the first day of our liturgical year, we have transitioned from Year A to year B in our 3 year lectionary cycle. You will notice that our altar looks different. We have lighted the first candle on the Advent wreath and we are now wearing our purple finery. This building is beautiful and reflects the love that this congregation has for God.

I know this song will date me, but...Carly Simon sang a song in the 70's – it was also used as a commercial for Heinz Ketchup –because it is so slow – the song was called “Anticipation”. Anticipation – it's making me wait

That is advent for me – anticipation – it's making me wait. I am not a “journey” person – I am more of a destination type gal. Let's get this journey thing done so we can get the important part. Let's get to the prize!!

I was out a few years ago, getting Advent calendars for the Sunday school classes up north, and I really didn't pay too much attention, because, an Advent calendar is just an Advent calendar, right? I thought, well what is Advent except waiting for the coming of Christ. All the calendars had Santa on them.- NOW THERE ARE Santas, Legos and Llamas - Advent went from being a Christian penitential season, to one that offers children 24 little gifts before the BIG presents for Santa . Holy cow, that was really a surprise for me to learn. Although Christmas has been hijacked as a secular commercial holiday all of my life (I mean it starts in September – pushing the Halloween things off to the side) But Advent? ” *Breath in and out – Heavy sigh*”

It seems like waiting is all we have done this year. We have waited for CoVid – we have waited for churches and businesses and to close – and then to reopen – and then reclose – we have waited for election results - we have waited for mask mandates, we have waited to catch up to technology - we have waited for people to die – we have waited for miracles- we have waited for a vaccine. Now today we are told to continue to wait, that Advent is a season of waiting...

How the heck can we be expected to patiently wait any longer???

And yet that is exactly what our Gospel today says, in part: ...”But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son”...What?!?!? Isn't it December 25? The Advent calendars are about Christmas and Christmas is about the coming of baby Jesus. Right?

Well yes, kinda. Advent certainly is a time of preparation, but our readings today's point to a different type of preparation.

Today's readings are eschatological in nature. (I know, impressive word – “ES-cat-uh-lodg-i-cul”) meaning. they deal with the end of the world, the end of times , the Judgment Day. It's a weird way to begin the new church year on the first Sunday of Advent – by talking about the end of the world.

As I just mentioned, our Gospel goes on to say that no one knows when that day will be – certainly we know when Christmas day is) but no one, not us, not the angels, not even Jesus knows time or date. (my little plug, then is to be wary of people who claim they know that these are clear signs of the end of times...) We are to use Advent as a training ground – a practice run, as it were, to prepare. We can use the next 4 weeks and “pretend” we are waiting for the end of the world. (I mean, I don't know if it is the end of times or not)

What would you do? How would you act? Would you make changes in your behaviors?

I said early on in this sermon that I am a destination person – if that is true, then I would only look towards heaven – because that is the ultimate destiny, right? But when it comes to the eschaton, I am more of a journey person. God put us on this earth to live our lives and revel in the glory of God – in the beauty of God's creation. God asked us to be good stewards – to take care – of this earth and each other. As we prepare for the end of times, the Gospel reminds us to put on the armor of light – the breastplate of truth...it reminds us that we are to share the light and truth to all that we encounter, and to continue to wait, that Advent is a season of waiting...waiting for the second coming of Christ in all His glory and to wait the coming of the baby king -Emmanuel (God is with us).

During this hectic time of the year and the craziness of 2020, is there a way to patiently wait????

Maybe. I will ask each of you to close your eyes for just a minute, take a deep breath (inhale—exhale) slow down. When everything about this season says hurry up – I will tell you to slow down. Remember the reason for this season is preparation. It is time to get your spiritual house in order .You cannot prepare in your heart when you are rushed. Slow down – read – listen – pray - inwardly digest the Gospel lessons and relax.

Relax – what an oxymoron for this time of the year, but relax and trust the Gospel message. The best is yet to come, and you can choose to be part of it. Share the light of Christ with all that you encounter. Share the message of hope. Share the message of love. You still have time, and you still have your best to offer

The 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

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church.
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our presiding Bishop; Poulson, our own Bishop; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for Donald our President, Joe, our President-elect, Kevin our Governor, G.T. our Mayor, and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on ([Barbara Sue; Odell; Nancy; Paulette; Alicia; Jeremy; Marjoree; Danny; Teresa; PK; Shirley; Philippe; Marie; Taylor; Jim and Mary; Elaine and Danny; Cameron; Alia; Kennetha; Finley; Susan, Diane, David and Katie; Kimberli; Lee B; Jo; Bill; All Medical And Cleaning Staffs; and all those affected by the wildfires in the US and by the Gulf Coast hurricanes; _____), and all those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed (including _____) eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Silence

Let us pray for our needs and those of others, either silently or aloud.

The People may add their own petitions

We give thanks for all who are worshipping with us today, especially for those worshipping with us for the first time.

The Deacon says

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Confession of Sin

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

**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 Priest stands and says.

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.

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

**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 Peace

Please stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

Offertory Anthem: O Thou the central orb

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

O Thou the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.
Come, quickly come, and let Thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.
Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,
As stars about Thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight
Gives measur'd grace to each, Thy power to prove.
Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day,
In fellowship with Thee, transforming day
To souls ere while unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 423 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

St. Denio

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt.

Music: Welsh hymn, from *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822-1877); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
 People **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary: Improvisation

Clergy: The Reverend Dr. W. Lee Domenick, *Rector*; The Reverend Cheryl Harder, *Associate Rector*; The Reverend Chris Cole, *Curate*; The Reverend Deborah Underwood, *Deacon*; The Reverend Bert Bibens, *Deacon*; The Reverend Linda Paul, *Deacon*; The Reverend Noel Doherty, *Assisting Clergy*

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