

Advent II



**December 8, 2024
10 am**

Church of the Holy Nativity

**4238 Pimlico Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
www.holynativitybaltimore.org**

A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE CHURCH

**Celebrant: The Reverend Karen Mercer
Musician: Dr. Lior Leigh**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE.

The candles are lit.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. Colossians 3:15

Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. **Amen.**

Compiled and written by the Rev. Matthew Kozlowski

OPENING HYMN

1 Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.

*Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy Name.*

2 He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.

H65 – *Prepare the Way O Zion*

Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.

Refrain

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.

Refrain

Prepare the way, O Zion, #65 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P Price. Music: Bereden väg för Herran, melody from Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697; harm. Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan, 1939, alt.

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

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. 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.

KYRIE

S96

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord have mercy, have mercy.**

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Canticle 16

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
**holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God

SEQUENCE HYMN

1 Savior of the nations, come!
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, both heaven and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.

H54 – *Savior of the Nations, Come* (v. 1-2)

2 Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child
of the Virgin undefiled!
Mighty God and Mary's son,
eager now his race to run!

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

SEQUENCE HYMN

3 Thus on earth the Word appears,
gracing his created spheres;
hence to death and hell descends,
then the heavenly throne ascends.

H54 – *Savior of the Nations, Come* (v. 3 & 4)

4 Come, O Father's saving Son,
who o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be;
grant that we its glories see.

Savior of the nations, come, #54 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938). Sts. 3-4 Copyright © 1982, James Waring McCrady. Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616).

SERMON

The Rev. Karen Mercer

NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**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

Intercessor: Wherever we are, in the wilderness, the countryside, or the city, God, you are there. That our hearts may be stirred up in thanksgiving for the life you have given us, let us pray, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and stars that shelter the night: May our eyes be open to the beauty around us, the subtle changes in the sky, the delicate coating of soil from which breaks forth our food and flowers and in which animals make their home. Help us to protect and nurture your creation around us and ever proclaim its wonders. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For the church in every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of the church, the persons next to us in the pew, those in neighborhood churches, the national, international, and ecumenical church of every race, nation and economic circumstance. Let us give thanks for the web of friendship and trust that you give to those who are called the friends of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For those in authority: Let us pray for Christians who witness in places hostile to the gospel, and let us be thankful for our freedom to practice our faith. Let us pray for the leaders of nations that Christ may transform strangers into friends that all may see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For this community in our joys and sorrows: Let us remember those who have gone before us, those who have sacrificed for us. Help us to look for what is below the obvious, and from this depth to reach out to others. Help us to know the joy that is mingled even with our utmost grief. Let us give thanks for this gathering of God's people and for the renewal of life we are given. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Let us pray for our parish prayer list: Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James, Diamond, Jamie, King, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Norman, Dorian, Noleen, Leonard, Daniel, Nicole and Michael. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For those at greatest risk among us: Let us pray for those lonely, rejected, or oppressed, for the sick and those who struggle to regain their strength, for those among us with the longest memories to link us to the past, and for the newborn, in whose baptism our baptism is again renewed. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: You may add your own intercessions at this time.

A period of silence follows after which the Celebrant concludes with the following prayers

Celebrant: Lord, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place, and as you prepare the way, making every valley filled and every mountain brought low in blessing and adoration, guide us to Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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.

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.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

WELCOME

Senior Warden

THE HOLY COMMUNION

What follows is the Holy Communion, the sacred meal of the Christian faith. The Episcopal Church, as do all other denominations rooted in the historic Christian faith, affirms that the sacrament of Baptism is the ancient and normative entry point for receiving the sacrament of Eucharist, yet no one who comes forward to receive the bread and wine at communion is ever turned away from God's table. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, the Episcopal Church welcomes you, and we invite you to explore with us what baptism may mean for you. Want to know more? Please see Rev. Mercer following the service.

OFFERTORY HYMN

1 Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.

*God will take care of you,
Through ev'ry day,
O'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.*

2 Through days of toil when heart doth
fail,
God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.

LEVAS 183 – *God Will Take Care of You*

Refrain

3 All you may need He will provide,
God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.

Refrain

4 No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon His breast,
God will take care of you.

Refrain

God Will Take Care of You, #183 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Civilla D. Martin (1869-1948). Music: W. Stillman Martin (1862-1935).

DOXOLOGY

H 380

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God 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 our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

+ *The Celebrant adds a Proper Preface, then continues,*

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:

SANCTUS

S130

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 Hosanna in the

highest

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son,

the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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. **Amen.**

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

LORD'S PRAYER

LEVAS 264

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

S164

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy upon us.
Jesus redeemer, redeemer of the world,
Give us your peace, give us your peace.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION HYMN

AAH190 – *While We are Waiting, Come*

1 While we are waiting, come;
While we are waiting come.
With pow'r and glory come

*Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting come.*

2 With pow'r and glory, come;
With pow'r and glory, come.

Refrain

3 Come savior, quickly come;
Come savior, quickly come.

Refrain

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

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.

CLOSING HYMN

H68 – *Rejoice, rejoice Believers!*

1 Rejoice! rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising,
and soon he will draw nigh;
up, watch in expectation!
at midnight comes the cry.

The marriage-feast is waiting,
the gates wide open stand;
rise up, ye heirs of glory,
the Bridegroom is at hand!

2 See that your lamps are burning,
replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation,
the end of sin and toil.

3 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for,
above this darkened sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption,
and ever be with thee!

Rejoice! rejoice, believers, #68 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt. Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865.

THE DISMISSAL

The Rev. Karen Mercer

As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission as a congregation:

We are committed to sharing God's love with all through our worship and ministries.

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Our Prayer List

Your prayers are requested for members and friends of The Church of the Holy Nativity: Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James, Diamond, Jamie, King, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Norman, Dorian, Noleen, Leonard, Daniel, Nicole and Michael.

We continue to ask for prayers for all those impacted by the coronavirus, those impacted by war and gun violence, those in our midst who are struggling with anxiety depression and addiction, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and the unhoused.

Announcements

Prayer Service – Wednesdays – 12 Noon

December 15	Advent 3	10 am
December 20	Blue Christmas Service	3 pm
December 22	Advent 4	10 am
December 24	Christmas Eve Luncheon	1 pm
	Christmas Eve Service	2 pm
December 29	The Feast of the First Sunday after Christmas	10 am

ZOOM LINK FOR BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study: Isaiah, on Wednesdays beginning 10/23@ 7:30 pm until 12/18

Meeting ID: 869 7275 3486

Passcode: 145505

Notes

Today is: _____ Sermon Title: _____

Key Verses:

Worship Songs:

Prayers:
