

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 a.m.

November 29, 2020



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

Welcome to the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth.

Wherever you are on your faith journey, we are delighted you are here and we welcome you into fellowship with all who seek the presence of Christ in their lives.

Through the Season of Advent, please join us in beginning our worship services with prayer and contemplation, observing the incense that thickens the air, reminding us the Holy Spirit is with us. Observe the lit candle on the Advent wreath, helping us mark time as we anticipate Christ's birth anew in our hearts and lives. Join in the singing of the Taize refrain that calls our attention to the ongoing need for justice and peace for all God's children.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O God. You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread his light of love to all. Bless us and accept this wreath of light lit by our hands. May its ever-increasing brightness be a sign of the approaching nearness of your Son, that we might prepare in joy for his humble birth in the manger and be ready to receive him at his coming again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The First Advent Candle

The first advent candle represents the hope we have in the promise of Christ's presence with us. God's promise will be fulfilled to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. A righteous Branch will spring up from David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Opening Meditation

The Kingdom of God

The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and
 joy in the Ho - ly Spir - it. Come, Lord, and
 o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom.

Text: Taizé Community
Tune: Taizé Community
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The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of oppression, and put on the armor of justice, 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 forever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

The People sit for

The First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

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 for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *(Spoken in unison)*

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

3 Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears,

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

6 You make us the scorn of our neighbours;

our enemies laugh among themselves.

**7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

**16 They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.**

**17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

**18 Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.**

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand

The Gospel Procession

O come, O come Emmanuel (vss. 1, 3)

HYMN 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain.*

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (13:24-37)

People **Glory to you, O 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.’

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Homily

The Rev. Allison Sandlin Liles

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;
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified;
who 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.**

The Prayers of the People

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray, saying "Christ, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; Scott, our bishop; for all bishops, ministers and lay leaders, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For Donald, our President; Joe, our President-elect; Greg, our Governor; and Betsy, our Mayor; for all who are in command in the military and first responders, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For healthcare providers and support staff worldwide and the patients in their care; for the aged and infirm, for refugees and victims; for the sick and the suffering; and for those we now name, _____, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to God. **To thee, Almighty God.**

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

**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 the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
All **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.**

Please stand

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Blessing

May the God of hope, fill you.
May the God of joy, overflow you.
May the God of peace, pour you into the world.*

May God Almighty: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer bless and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to seek justice for all God's children.
People **Thanks be to God**

Postlude

**Race and Prayer: Collected Voices, Many Dreams.* Malcolm Boyd and Chester Talton, editors. 2003.

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