

8AM Sunday, December 22, 2024

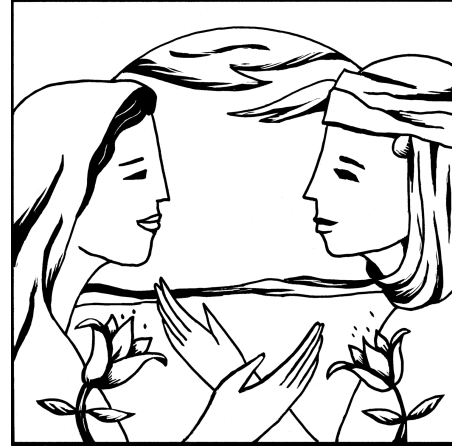
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Flowers given in memory of Ronald L Betts and James & Flora Yoho.

PRELUDE: Variations on *Gabriel's Message* (H265 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came)

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

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



Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

A Reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 3: The Song of Mary

My soul doth magnify the Lord, *
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

**For he hath regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.**

For behold from henceforth *
all generations shall call me blessed.

**For he that is mighty hath magnified me, *
and holy is his Name.**

And his mercy is on them that fear him *
throughout all generations.

**He hath showed strength with his arm; *
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, *
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

**He hath filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he hath sent empty away.**

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, *
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers [especially _____], that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land [especially _____], that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. For peace in Israel, Palestine, Gaza and Ukraine.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor [_____ and] all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. We have promised that with your help we will strive for justice and peace among all people and will respect the dignity of every human being. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot discrimination from our church, our society, our world and ourselves.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [especially _____], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of St. John and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 330)

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

**Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all your sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him. Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

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

Communion From the Reserved Sacrament

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY INTERLUDE/ANTHEM: Each Winter As the Year Grows Older
Carol of Hope William Gay, b. 1920, Annabeth Gay, b. 1925 arr. Ron Schmoltz (c)2017
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Deacon: Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have these tithes and offerings which are symbols of our life and labor; may they be used in Your Church for the work You have set before us for the furthering of Your Kingdom.

People: **Blessed be God forever.**

Deacon: Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have this Bread and this Wine which have been consecrated and have become for us the Body and Blood of Christ.

People: **Blessed be God forever.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE GRACE

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Hymn Tune: *Birmingham* (H437 Tell out my soul)

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Christmas Eve Services:

5:00pm Christmas Eucharist at Trinity Church, New Castle

8:00pm Christmas Candlelight Eucharist at St. John's, Sharon

Christmas Morning Services:

10:00am Christmas Day Eucharist at Trinity Church, New Castle

Hat and Glove Tree: The Love First Hat & Glove Tree is now up in the hallway by the Parish Office. All items are given to our ECS clients. Let's help make someone's winter a bit warmer this year!

Vestry Members

Senior Warden: John Kachursky

Junior Warden: Barb Sudzina

Clerk: Becky Yoho

Treasurer: Mark Perfilio

Members: Angie Lindsay, Heidi Marshall, Dick Steingrabe, Shane White.