

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CLINTON PARISH
Diocese of Washington
ESTABLISHED 1875

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT A SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS DECEMBER 22, 2013



The Rev. Cassandra Mateo Burton, Rector

*We welcome you as we worship together this morning.
The Eucharist will not be celebrated this morning.*

PRELUDE “An Advent Prayer” [LOUISE STAIRS]

All stand.

PROCESSIONAL “O come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*The Hymnal 1982, #56, stz. 1 – 6
(Veni, veni, Emmanuel)*

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

By The Rev. Sheila N. McJilton, St David's Episcopal Church, Wilmington, DE. © 2006

Reader #1: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world.

Reader #2: How does this happen?

Reader #1: God’s light comes through Jesus, who became a human being just like you and me, so that he could show us the way back to God’s divine love and light.

People: **Purify us, O God, by your daily visitation, so that when your Son Jesus Christ comes, he will find in us a mansion prepared for himself. We thank you for this time of waiting. We thank you that our time of waiting for Jesus is almost over. May we await the Light of the World with joyful anticipation, through Christ our Lord.**

Reader #3: A reading from the prophet Micah: “The Lord will choose one of your people to rule the nation—someone whose family goes back to ancient times. The LORD will abandon Israel only until this ruler is born, and the rest of his family returns to Israel. Like a shepherd taking care of his sheep, this ruler will lead and care for his people by the power and glorious name of the LORD his God. His people will live securely, and the whole earth will know his true greatness, because he will bring peace.

Reader #1: We continue to wait for the coming of Jesus. Each Sunday during Advent, we have begun in the dark, then we have lit candles. Today, we light all four candles.

All four Advent candles are lit. *While this is being done, the following is read:*

Reader #2: Each candle that we light reminds us that the Light of the World will soon come to us in the human form of Jesus. Now, at the end of Advent, all four candles burn bright with the hope of God who will come to us. On December 24, when we celebrate the birth of our Lord, we will finally light the center candle that symbolizes the Christ Child.

People: **Our time of waiting is almost over. Blessed are we who, with Mary and Elizabeth, believe there will be a fulfillment of God’s promise to us. May we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus. When he comes to us, may we be ready to help him scatter the proud, bring down the powerful, lift up the lowly. May God fill the hungry with good things. May all of God’s people know fullness, justice, peace and love when the**

Light shines its brightness over our world, when the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us. Amen.

THE BIDDING PRAYER *All stand.*

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in Clinton.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, singing:

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Officiant and People*

Lift Every Voice Hymnal, #264

[ALBERT HAY MALOTTE]

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS *The people sit.*

A reading from the Book of Genesis 3:1 – 22 **Reading 1**

(LEM 1)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and

they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them. Then the LORD God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever."

CAROL "Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers" (*Llangloffan*)

The Hymnal 1982, # 68

A reading from the Book of Isaiah 40:1 – 11 **Reading 2**

(LECTOR)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

CAROL "Prepare the Way, O Zion" (*Bereden väg för Herren*)

The Hymnal 1982, # 65

A reading from the Book of Isaiah 7: 10 – 15 **Reading 3**

(LEM 1)

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

CAROL "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (*Stuttgart*)

The Hymnal 1982, # 66

A reading from the Gospel of Luke 1:26 – 38 **Reading 4**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL "The Angel Gabriel" (*Gabriel's Message*)

The Hymnal 1982, # 265

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 1: 18 – 23 **Reading 5**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

CAROL "On Jordan's Bank" (*Winchester New*)

The Hymnal 1982, # 76

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark 1:1 – 15 **Reading 6**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 830, # 50

PRAYERS FOR THOSE TRAVELING

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 831, # 53

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

All stand.

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

People: **And also with you.**

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY HYMN “How Bright Appears the Morning Star” (*Wie schön leuchtet*)

The Hymnal 1982, #497

THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL "Joy to the World!" [G. F. HANDEL]

The Hymnal 1982, # 100

THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Joyful, Joyful" [G. F. HANDEL]

Assisting in the Service:

Organist: Cheryl Dolinger

Acolytes: Don Appold, Mahalia Morris, Amanda Clark

LEMS: Laura Mack (LEM 1); Eda Brawner (Lector)

Lessons for the Christmas Eve, December 24, 2013:

Isaiah 9:2 – 7, Ps 96; Titus 2:11; Luke 2:1 – 20

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR DECEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 28, 2013

Today	9:00 AM Lessons & Carols AA Meeting 8:30 PM – Dun Hall
Monday	
Tuesday	CHRISTMAS EVE. See page 9 for schedule. AA Meeting 1:00 PM – Dun Hall
Wednesday	CHRISTMAS DAY – NO SERVICE OFFICES CLOSED AA Meeting 8:30 PM – Dun Hall
Thursday	OA Meeting 1:00 PM – Choir Room
Friday	AA Meeting 1:00 PM – Dun Hall
Saturday	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL. Join us for a pilgrimage through scripture to gain a comprehensive overview of the Word. We'll be using a Bible curriculum called The Story. Our children and youth will cover one segment each week from **mid-September to mid-May**. Speak with Jo Appold if you would like more information.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT. Our upcoming Christmas Eve Pageant is titled **Flight From Egypt**. There will be a rehearsal **this morning** which will last approximately 30 minutes during and after 9AM service. **On December 24th there will be a rehearsal at 3PM.** The Pageant will take place at 6 PM.

ALTAR FLOWERS. Donations are now being accepted for all Sundays in 2014. The price remains \$20 per vase. Please contact Gail Russell to donate.

COFFEE HOUR. There's a sign-up sheet for folks to agree to bring something for coffee hour on January 12th, for the bishop's visit and confirmation.

OIL FUND. On the first Sunday of every month you can contribute toward the oil bill. Please utilize the envelopes labeled "Oil Fund" in the pews. Thank you again for contributing to the Oil Fund throughout the month. Weekly contributions were as follows: October 6th, \$225.00; October 13th, \$175.00; October 20th, \$0.00 and October 27th, \$0.00; November 3rd \$245.00, November 10th \$ 0.00; November 17th, \$100.00; November 24th, \$50.00; December 1, \$445.00; and December 8th, \$0.00; and December 15th, \$275.00.

THRIFT SHOP. Unadvertised special – in the pre-Christmas sale, EVERYTHING in the shop (including items marked "Firm") are 25% reduced. Note – although we are usually open on Tuesdays from 11-1 for sales and pricing, we will not be there on the 24th or the 31st. You are welcome to browse/buy on Sundays after services.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER. The next spaghetti supper is Saturday January 11th, from 4-6 PM. There's a sign-up sheet in Dun Hall, to help or to make a dessert.

WEEKLY PRAYER CONFERENCE CALL. Christ Church offers a Prayer Conference Call with Reverend Cassandra and Art Taylor each Thursday at 7:00 AM. The number is 641-715-3200. When prompted, please enter 941656. Please join and invite your relatives, friends and neighbors.

TRACT RACKS. Copies of the meditation booklet "Our Daily Bread" for December through February are now in the tract racks.

THIS WEEK'S HEALTH TIP. *Building a Healthy Parish One Tip at a Time.* **How to maintain your weight during the holidays.** USA Today recently published an article with helpful tips on ways to avoid holiday weight gain. **What should I do?** he article stresses: regular exercise, check

your weight daily, never go to a party hungry, scan a buffet table before you fill your plate, drink plenty of water and enjoy all of your favorite foods in moderation. For more information go to: www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/12/01/avoid-holiday-weight-gain/3653547/. Laura Shay, PhD, RN, C-NP, Diocesan Liaison, National Episcopal Health Ministries Episcopal Diocese of Washington. shayhealth@gmail.com



WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 24, Christmas Eve

6:00 PM, Lighting of the Luminaries

6:00 PM, Flight from Egypt –

The Children and Youth of Christ Church

6:30 PM, Choir Concert

7:00 PM Festival Eucharist

December 29, Christmas I

9:00 AM, Service of Christmas

Lessons & Carols

January 5, The Feast of the Epiphany

9:00 AM, Eucharist

**Welcome to
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Bill Hicks, Treasurer

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Betty Barclay-Hurley, Part-time Parish Administrator

Mission Statement

Don't put God in a box. With God all things are possible.



Welcome Visitors

Join us for refreshments after the service.