

# Holy Eucharist, Rite II



The First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

## **Welcome!**

*Welcome to 'Old Durham' Church. However you got here, whatever your background, you are welcome here for worship, service, and fellowship in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The church is part of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and has been feeding souls on this site for over 350 years. It is our prayer that you will encounter God's love, peace, and hope here. As Christians in the Anglican tradition, our worship is rooted in Holy Scripture and in the Book of Common Prayer, which for centuries has united Christians all over the world in a common, ever-evolving, format of prayer and worship. You, the members of the congregation, play an important role in our worship; please follow along in this leaflet and speak your parts with confidence. The hymns we sing this morning will be found in this leaflet or in the blue hymnal in the pews.*

*We worship every Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. There is an adult Christian formation class most Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM in the Parish Hall, and we are up to all sorts of other things during the week.*

*Our historic church building has no running water. Restrooms are located in the Parish Hall, across the parking lot from the church.*

## **Announcements**

### **Prelude**

### Entrance Rites

*The Hymnal 1982 #73 The King shall come when morning dawns*

1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and  
 2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to  
 3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and  
 4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by  
 5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the  
 2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry  
 3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing  
 4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph  
 5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
 2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.  
 3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;  
 4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.  
 5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925) Music: *St. Stephen*, William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

## Opening Acclamation

**Presider** Blessed are you, holy and living One.

**People** *You come to your people and set them free.*

## 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.*

## Trisagion

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #102*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

## Collect of the Day

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.*

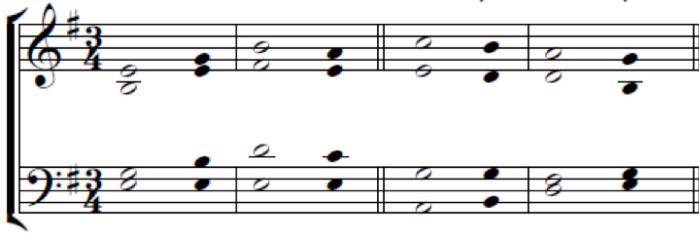
# The Word of God

## **First Reading**

A reading from The Book of Jeremiah (33:14-16).

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

adapated from *Veni, veni Emmanuel*  
by William Bradley Roberts



**Psalm 25:1-9**

*BCP p. 614*

*Ad te, Domine, levavi*

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

## **Second Reading**

A reading from The First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (3:9-13).

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. <sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## Sequence Hymn

*The Hymnal 1982 #57 Lo! he comes with clouds descending*



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Helmsley*, melody Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

## Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (21:25-36).

<sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” <sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

## Sermon

### The Nicene Creed

*All say together*

**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**

**Intercessor** My brothers and sisters, may God strengthen your hearts in holiness. Trusting in God, let us pray, “O come, o come, Emmanuel; be our hope and our salvation.”

God our hope, make us increase and abound in love for one another. Keep your Church on the paths of love and faithfulness. *Silence.* O come, o come, Emmanuel;

**Be our hope and our salvation.**

God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. May all the world know your peace and safety. *Silence.* O come, o come, Emmanuel;

**Be our hope and our salvation.**

God our hope, you place signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. Give us the eyes to see, the wisdom to prepare, and the faith to trust in you. *Silence.* O come, o come, Emmanuel;

**Be our hope and our salvation.**

God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity restored: bring the people of this region—from city, village and town—together in a spirit of love and respect. *Invite the congregation to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.* O come, o come, Emmanuel;

**Be our hope and our salvation.**

God our hope, remember your compassion and love. Heal and restore the sick and the suffering, the anxious and the grieving. *Invite the congregation to add their petitions, followed by silence.* O come, o come, Emmanuel;

**Be our hope and our salvation.**

God our hope, keep us blameless before you that we may meet the coming of our Lord Jesus with joy. May we, and all who have died, rise to life immortal with all your saints.

*Silence.* O come, o come, Emmanuel;

**Be our hope and our salvation.**

## **Collect**

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

## **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The people kneel as they are able.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*All say together*

**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.**

## **Absolution**

*Bishop or Priest*

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**

**Presider**           The peace of Christ be always with you.

**People**             *And also with you.*

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



## The Holy Communion

*Seeing how greatly God loves us, we share freely of the good things we have received. Place your gifts of money for the poor and for the work of the church in the offering plates as the ushers bring them around. These gifts of money, along with symbolic gifts of bread and wine, will be brought to the altar to be blessed and shared in the body and blood of Christ. If this is your first time here, we'd like you to be our guest, as well as Jesus' guest. Instead of making an offering, spend this week noticing all the ways that God blesses you. Then, next time you come back, give generously in thanksgiving for all that you have been given.*

*The Priest says*

I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

### **Anthem**

'An Advent prayer,' Allen Pote

## The Great Thanksgiving

**Presider**           The Lord be with you.  
**People**             *And also with you.*  
**Presider**           Lift up your hearts.  
**People**             *We lift them to the Lord.*  
**Presider**           Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People**             *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

*Presider*

It is right, it is good, it is fitting that we praise you, our God, at all times and in all places. For at the beginning of time you brought order out of chaos, light out of darkness, and life out of your Spirit. At the end of time you call all things back to yourself, drawing all creation into eternity.

Between the beginning and the end, in your great love you made us in your image, giving us time for our dwelling, and calling us to love you and all that you have made. But we have not loved you, or one another, or your creation as you have loved us. We have turned away from you and given our love to vain things, and become subject to sin and death. Yet in your love, through prophets, apostles, saints, and teachers, you continue to remind us of that love for which we are made.

So great is your love for us that when all else failed, you came among us, clothing your creative Word in human flesh as Jesus, so that by your divinity becoming human, our humanity might be made divine. Jesus, born of Mary in a humble manger, dying in agony on a shameful cross, rising in glory to your right hand, raises all things, the humble and the glorious, to new life in him, who is himself Alpha and Omega, beginning and end.

We bless you for this great gift of our salvation, O God, and with your holy angels and all the saints who have gone before us, we sing,



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Presider continues*

Before Jesus was taken away to be killed, he had supper with his friends. At the table. He took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, saying, “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, gave thanks, 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, sharing bread and wine as Jesus commanded, proclaim the eternal mystery:

*Presider and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory.**

*The Presider continues*

We ask you, O God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus. And we ask that you send your Spirit upon us, your family, that we may be united in the Body of Jesus your Anointed One, and live the new life of love to which you raise us.

All this we ask through Christ who was, and with Christ who is, and in Christ who will be, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #146*



## **Lord's Prayer**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast.*

*The Priest invites the people to Communion*

Behold what you are; may you become what you receive.

*The Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine. All baptized Christians regardless of denomination are welcome to come to the altar rail to share in this meal of life. If you prefer not to receive Communion, you may come forward and cross your arms over your chest, and the priest will offer a prayer of blessing.*

*We offer both wine and grape juice at Communion. The first (larger) cup has wine and the second (smaller) cup has grape juice. You may drink or intinct from either.*

*The bread will be placed in your hand. You may either, (1) Eat the bread and drink from the*

*cup which follows; or (2) Hold the bread, dipping it in the cup and then eating the bread. If you do not wish to receive wine, please cross your arms after receiving the bread.*

*If you prefer to receive Communion at your seat in the pew, we will be happy to bring it to you.*

## **Postcommunion Prayer**

*Presider and People*

**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.**

## **Blessing**

*The Bishop or Priest says*

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. ***Amen.***

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.***

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. ***Amen.***

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. ***Amen.***

## **Closing Hymn**

*The Hymnal 1982 #59 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding*

*Descant*

2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

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,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.  
 5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

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: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)  
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## Dismissal

**Deacon** Let us bless the Lord.

**People** *Thanks be to God.*

## Postlude

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## Prayer List

### Let us pray...

**...in thanksgiving for the members of our congregation:** Ann Bluey, Mabel Bowie, Linda Buffalo, and Chris Busey.

**...for support and protection for those who serve our country at home and abroad:** Mike Busey, Christopher Walker, Steven Mattingly, Sam Gray, Wes Dyson, Michael Petrusic, and Thomas J. Hunt.

**...for those in need of God's healing grace:** Missy Bowie; Chris Bowie; Sam Linton; Dian Lockamy; Lindy Lynch; Jean Santora; Joan Shoemaker; Lisa Tuono. *Our continuing prayers are offered for:* Mabel Bowie; Hope Cameron; Conor Doyle; George Dyson; Butch Helwig; Carol Hindle; Buddy Linton; Rhonda McGraw; Jeanne Read; Tom Saxton; Rose Speake; Roy Squires; The Rev. Arnold Taylor; Luci Wright.

**...for those who have died:** Anna Boswell, Tasha Harrison.

**The Diocese of Washington cycle of prayer:** Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry; St. Nicholas' Parish, Germantown; Diocesan Latino Ministry; Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington; Pray for all Jewish people as they celebrate Chanukah (December 2-10).

**The Anglican Communion cycle of prayer:** The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain, The Rt Revd Carlos López-Lozano.

## Announcements

**Thank You!** “Transforming Generosity, ” our annual pledge campaign, officially wrapped up on Nov. 18. Thank you to everyone who has pledged to support the church in 2019. The Vestry has started working on allocating the pledged funds to the mission and ministries of the church. Of course, it's not too late to submit your pledge card if you have not yet done so. Last year we had pledge cards from almost every single household that is regularly represented here on Sunday, and it looks like we're on track to have the same level of participation this year!

**Trying something different.** We are trying out a change to the 'elements' of our Communion service. In order to be hospitable to people who prefer not to consume wine, we will be offering grape juice in addition to wine. The first (larger) chalice will have the wine, and the second (smaller) chalice will have the grape juice. You may sip from or dip in either cup. There is no requirement to consume either one; you are always welcome to come forward for the bread only or for a blessing only. We will try this system out through Epiphany, and then re-evaluate. Please speak up with your thoughts.

**Adult Forum** is watching a video lecture series on church history from the Reformation to the present. Join us Sundays at 9:15am in the Parish Hall. Note that there will be no Adult Forum on Dec. 23 or Dec. 30.

**Coffee After Church.** Join us for a chat and a cup of coffee in the Parish Hall after the

service.

**St. James', Indian Head** is holding a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Monday, Dec. 3rd from 5 to 6:30 pm.

**The Daughters of the King and Men's Group** will be having a joint 'Christmas' Dinner on December 3rd.

**Jam Session:** Friday Dec. 7th at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

**The Health and Wellness Ministry Discernment Group's** next meeting will be Tues., December 11th at 11am. We will not meet on Jan. 8th. Contact Rev. Catharine if you are interested or have questions.

**The Ladies Mites** are meeting on Tues., Dec. 11th at 1:30pm in the Parish Hall.

**Joe's Place Food Pantry** distributions will be Dec. 13 (regular distribution), and Dec. 20, from 4:30-6pm in the Parish Hall. We will have special holiday items on Dec. 20. Volunteers are always welcome to help sort and distribute food to our neighbors.

**Lessons and Carols.** We will hold a service of Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 16th at our regular 10:30am service time, and a service of Christmas Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 30th at 10:30am. We will need lots of readers for these services. Please let Dian or Rev. Catharine know if you are interested in reading. These services are beautiful and a wonderful introduction to the church for friends and neighbors.

**Poinsettias!** If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church for Christmas please see or call Dian Lockamy at 301-609-9664. The flowers are \$7.50 for a 6" pot. You may pay by check or cash. If paying by check please make it out to the Ladies Mite Society with a notation in whose name you would like the memorial or thanksgiving and by whom the flowers are given.

**Holiday gifts and food for our neighbors.** Just as at Thanksgiving, NETS (Neighbors Eager to Serve) is coordinating holiday meals for families that could use some help from Mt. Hope Nanjemoy Elementary School. We have been assigned the same four families that we fed at Thanksgiving, and the arrangements are basically the same: please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church and bring your food item, labelled as to which family it goes to, and set it in that family's box. (Frozen turkeys welcome in the Parish Hall freezer.) The food is to be delivered to the school on Thursday, Dec. 20.

**Bishop's Visitation:** Bishop Mariann will be here for her official visitation on the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 23rd. If you or someone in your family is/are interested in being baptized that day, please speak to Rev. Catharine.

**Christmas Eve:** We will have a festive reception hosted by the Vestry at 6:30pm, followed by a candle-lit worship service at 7:30pm. Invite your friends and neighbors!

## Today's Collect

'Collects' are prayers that collect our thoughts and intentions and offer them to God in a specific form, sort of the way sonnets are poems that express their thoughts and themes in a specific form. To create a collect 'Mad-Libs' style you would do something like this:

"O God who \_\_\_\_\_[name a characteristic of God], please \_\_\_\_\_[name a request] so that

\_\_\_\_\_ [name a reason you want the requested outcome].”

Collects are some of the literary gems of the Anglican tradition, and the collects of Advent are some of the most well-loved in the *Book of Common Prayer*. Each Sunday in Advent I will share with you a little of the background of the Collect of the Day, drawing from Marion Hatchett’s 1981 *Commentary on the American Prayer Book*.

The collect for this Sunday was composed for the 1549 Prayer Book. It is based on Romans 13:12 ("the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;"). The conclusion of the prayer relates closely to a post-communion prayer in a prayer book from the 700s: "that they who rejoice at the advent of your only begotten according to the flesh, may at the second advent, when he shall come in his majesty, receive the reward of eternal life."

The strong opposites in this prayer are striking: cast away darkness, put on light; mortal life, life immortal; great humility, glorious majesty. The word "now" is crucial: remembering the First Advent and looking toward the Second, we are now, in this time, to cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. From 1662 until the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* this collect was expected to be repeated daily throughout the Advent season.

## **Ministers in Today's Service**

**Crucifer and Acolyte:** Carl Lockamy; **Readers:** Jane Linton and Patrice Rohde; **Preacher and Presider:** The Rev. Catharine T. Gibson; **Intercessor:** Linda Buffalo; **Chalicians:** George Chisholm; **Altar Guild:** Ruth White.

*The Prayers of the People are drawn from Praying the Scriptures. The Eucharistic Prayer was composed by The Rev. Bill Doggett. The cover image was found here: <https://i.pinimg.com/736x/ff/e6/bd/ffe6bd6321283f3654d37ad1d4856d51.jpg> No further provenance is available.*

Dear Friends in Christ,

When Christmas is celebrated from after dinner on Thanksgiving to the morning of December 25th, we miss out on both Advent and Christmas.

Advent, the name of the first season of the church year, comes from the Latin word “*adventus*,” a word that refers to the “coming” of the Messiah, the Christ, first in history at Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem, and then in mystery in Christ’s presence in the church, and finally in majesty at his anticipated Second Coming, the great Day of the Lord.

In Advent, as we prepare for Christ’s coming, the focus is on hope, expectation, and self-preparation. With Advent we begin again the cycle of seasons of the church year that helps the Christian community remember the life of Christ, form a life centered around Christ, and enter into the promises of God for us in our future.

Advent was first observed in the 6th century as a penitential season in which festivities were discouraged, but with less strictness than at Lent. It arose as a parallel to the season of Lent—the time of preparation and repentance prior to baptism at the Easter feast. Just as Easter had a season of preparation, the early church must have reckoned, so should Christmas.

Because Christmas in our culture has become so commercial and has been celebrated to such excess, we have almost lost sight of how earlier Christians prepared for the Christmas season through prayer, meditation, and fasting.

To observe Advent in our world today is counter-cultural. Although the world around us is hustling madly to prepare for Christmas, Advent asks us to take a deep breath and to slow down. While the world around us is adding and acquiring things, Advent asks us to clear things away and make room for Christ. It is a time for self-examination and prayer — a time to think about how we are living as followers of Christ and to examine anew how we respond to God’s call to us.

Advent is a season of both renewal and hope. May you have a blessed Advent in preparation for the coming of our Lord this Christmastide.

Faithfully,  
Catharine+

CE

LD

JSU

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**George Chisholm, Bill White, Tom Saxton, Rick Posey**

**Carl Lockamy - Parish Treasurer**

**The Rev. Arnold Taylor - Rector Emeritus**

**The Rt Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of Washington**

*Established 1661 - Chartered 1692*