

# PREVIEW

Holy Eucharist, Rite II



**PRE  
PARE  
THE  
WAY  
FOR  
THE  
LORD,**

**SMOOTHEN  
THE PATH  
FOR OUR GOD**

The Second Sunday of Advent

**December 9, 2018**

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Prayer List

## Let us pray...

**...in thanksgiving for the members of our congregation:** Chuck Busey, Deb Carr, George Chisholm, and Phyllis Chisholm.

**...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; Lindy Lynch; Erin Macri; Bonnie Santora; Jean Santora. *Our continuing prayers are offered for:* Mabel Bowie; Hope Cameron; Conor Doyle; George Dyson; Butch Helwig; Carol Hindle; Dian Lockamy; Buddy Linton; Rhonda McGraw; Jeanne Read; Tom Saxton; Rose Speake; Joan Shoemaker; Roy Squires; The Rev. Arnold Taylor; Lisa Tuono; Luci Wright.

**...for those who have died:** Hilda Cameron.

**The Diocese of Washington cycle of prayer:** Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry; Episcopal Church Women; United Thank Offering; International Human Rights Day (December 10); all Jewish people as they celebrate Chanukah (December 2-10). **The Anglican Communion cycle of prayer:** Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury), The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton.

## Announcements

**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.

**A funeral** will be held on Monday, December 10 at 11am for Hilda Cameron, who passed away last week. The viewing is at Arehart Echols this afternoon from 2pm to 4pm and from 6pm to 8pm.

**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.

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**The Ladies Mites** are meeting on Tues., Dec. 17th at 1:00pm in the Parish Hall.  
**Joe's Place Food Pantry** distribution 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, and could especially use extra hands that day. 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!

**The Daughters of the King and the Men's Group** will meet on Jan. 7th.

## The Collects of Advent

'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*.

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*Second Sunday of Advent.  
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.*

This collect was written for the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*, and is based on that for the third Sunday of Advent in the *Book of Common Worship* of the Church of South India; the theme is "The Fore-runner." The request it makes of God is similar to that of the first of the collects for Christmas Day: "Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge."

The prayer might be compared to this collect for the third Sunday in Advent which entered the *Prayer Book* in 1662:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

The essential difference between the 1662 collect and the one we use today is that today's version places responsibility on all of us, not just on the "ministers and stewards" to be prepared for Christ's coming again.

## **Saint of the Week: Saint Lucy**

Lucy, or Lucia, was martyred at Syracuse, in Sicily, during Diocletian's reign of terror of 303-304, among the most dramatic of the persecutions of early Christians. Her tomb can still be found in the catacombs at Syracuse. She was venerated soon after her death and her cult spread quickly throughout the church. She is among the saints and martyrs named in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

Most of the details of Lucy's life are obscure. In the tradition she is remembered for the purity of her life and the gentleness of her spirit. Because her name means "light," she is sometimes thought of as the patron saint of those who suffer from diseases of the eyes. In popular piety, Lucy is perhaps most revered because her feast day, December 13, was for many centuries the shortest day of the year. (The reform of the calendar by Pope Gregory VIII (1582) would shift the shortest day to December 21/22, depending upon the year.) It was on Lucy's day that the light began gradually to return and the days to lengthen. This was particularly powerful in northern Europe where the days of winter were quite short. In Scandinavian countries, particularly Sweden, Lucy's day has long been a festival of light that is kept as both an ecclesiastical commemoration and a domestic observance.

In the domestic celebration of Lucia-fest, a young girl in the family dresses in pure white (a symbol of Lucy's faith, purity, and martyrdom) and wears a crown of lighted candles upon

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her head (a sign that on Lucy's day the light is returning) and serves her family special foods prepared especially for the day. In place of her service, the young girl is called Lucy for the day.

*Loving God, for the salvation of all you gave Jesus Christ as light to a world in darkness: Illumine us, with your daughter Lucy, with the light of Christ, that by the merits of his passion we may be led to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

*[Psalm : 131; Lessons: Song of Solomon 6:1–9; Revelation 19:5–8; John 1:9–13]*

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

**Crucifer and Acolyte:** Carl Lockamy; **Readers:** June Leyland, Cynthia Shoemaker; **Preacher and Presider:** The Rev. Catharine T. Gibson; **Intercessor:** Carl Lockamy; **Chalicians:** Carl Lockamy, Linda Buffalo; **Altar Guild:** Dian Lockamy.

*The Prayers of the People are drawn from Praying the Scriptures. The Eucharistic Prayer was composed by The Rev. Bill Doggett.*

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Millie Hamman - Senior Warden

Bernard Torreyson - Junior Warden

Roy Squires - Secretary of the Vestry

Members of the Vestry:

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

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