The First Sunday of



ADVENT



HOPE

First Candle - The Candle of Hope

Promises of Blessing to Abraham and Sarah

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of the season of Advent. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus,* which means "coming" or "arrival." The liturgical season of Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. During Advent we remember the fulfillment of God's promise in Jesus' first coming and prepare our hearts for Jesus' Second Coming. Like the Patriarchs of old, we seek to be found faithfully serving God when Christ appears.

Today we recall God's promises spoken to Abraham and Sarah. God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed. Trusting God, Abraham put his hope in this promise. We too believe in God's promises. Jesus will come again to establish his kingdom upon the earth. On that day "he will wipe away every tear and death and mourning and crying and pain will be no more." *Revelation 21:4*

(A person lights the First Candle here) (blue)

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray

God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Messiah and our Lord. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. *Amen.*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

BCP – The Book of Common Prayer, H – The Hymnal 1982
S – Service Music in The Hymnal, A – Alleluia III Songbook

Prelude Dr. Elizabeth French

Advent Wreath Prayer and Candle Lighting

Processional Hymn *O Master, let me walk with Thee* H 660

O Master, le me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free; tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love; teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer company, in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining way far down the future's broadening way, in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

The Opening Sentences BCP 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen*

Celebrant
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.*

Song of Praise *Benedistus es, Domine* S 236

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise;

Glory to you for the radiance of your Holy Name; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever. *Amen*

The Collect

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 forever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

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 ears has perceived, no eye has seen any God beside 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 line 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, takes 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, we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 BCP 702

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

[3] Restore us, O God of hosts, *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
[4] O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people.
[5] You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
[6] You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
[7] Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
[16]Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
[17]And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
[18] Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

I 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, 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.

The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn *O Day of peace* H 597

O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes. May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release, till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small; as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all. Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord; the hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

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

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 the 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 branches becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that the 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 Som, 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 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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon The Rev. Linda Suzanne Borgen

The Nicene Creed *All say together* BCP 358

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, Form III BCP 387

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we may all be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That you Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The people may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin BCP 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 BCP 360

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 BCP 360

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

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence BCP 376

The Priest says Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,

an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

(Offerings may be mailed, given to the church office, or given securely online at www.stthomasgreenville.org)

Offertory Meditation Dr. Elizabeth French

Hymn at the Presentation *Doxology* *H 380 v 3*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A BCP 361

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

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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 proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *AMEN*

Sanctus S 128

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer BCP 364

People and Celebrants

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, thy Kingdome 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.

The Breaking of the Bread BCP 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*
Celebrant
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Ministration of Communion

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of you 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.

Communion Hymns Choir and Congregation

Surely the Presence A 155

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, I can hear the brush of angels' wings; I can feel His mighty power and His grace. I see glory on each face; Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Surely the Spirit of the Lord is here in love; and it brings God's peace as quietly as above. I can see the glow of angels' wings shining brightly from above. Surely the Spirit of the Lord is here in love.

Surely the blessing of the Lord is in my heart; and it's here when we're together or apart. I can feel the brush of angels' wings and I know how great Thou art. Surely the blessings of the Lord is in my heart.

The Summons A 168

Will you come and follow Me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let My love be shown, will you let My name be known? Will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare? Will you let Me answer prayer in you and you in Me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in Me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call you name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when You but call my name. Let me turn and follow You and never be the same. In your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show. Thus, I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

Prayer for Lay Eucharistic Visitor

Celebrant In the name of this congregation and our Lord Jesus Christ, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, so that those to whom you go share with us in this Holy Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People: For we who are many are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup.

Post-Communion Prayer BCP 366

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People
Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant blesses the congregation saying
The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Dismissal BCP 366

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia*

Recessional Hymn *Lo! He comes with clouds descending* H 58

Lo! he comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation! Slain; thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty; those who set at nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears, cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers; with what rapture, with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen! Let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne; Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own: Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Postlude Dr. Elizabeth French