

The First Sunday of



ADVENT



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

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(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

Rhonda Bentley

Advent Wreath Prayer and Candle Lighting

Processional Hymn

Rejoice! rejoice, believers

H 68

Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear! The evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh; up, watch in expectation! at midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil; look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil. The marriage feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand; rise up, ye heirs of glory, the bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere! With hearts and hands uplifted we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption and ever be with thee!

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.*

Gloria in excelsis (spoken)

BCP 356

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God, the Father. *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 liveth and reigneth with you and the Holy Ghost, 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 the 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 ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides 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 like 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,

you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O 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 Ephriam, 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 Jesus, 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

Blessed Jesus at thy Word

H 440

Blessed Jesus at thy word, we are gathered all to hear thee; let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear thee; by thy teachings pure and holy, drawn from earth to love thee solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in the deepest darkness shrouded, till thy Spirit breaks our night with the beams of truth unclouded; thou alone to God canst win us; thou must work all good within us.

Gracious Lord, thyself impart! Light of Light, from God proceeding, open thou our ears and heart, help us by thy Spirit's pleading. Hear the cry thy Church upraises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

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

Jesus said, "In those days, after the suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from 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 end of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branches become tender and put forth its leaves, you know that 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 Son, 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

Intercessor

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 your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for the 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.
Lord, in your mercy
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 the 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.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

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

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory

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

Rhonda Bentley

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

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant 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.

The people stand or kneel.

Sanctus

Tune: *Land of Rest*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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 has risen.

Christ will come again.

Then 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.*

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to pray,

Celebrant and People

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Let Us Break Bread Together

A 107

Let us break bread together on our knees. Let us break bread together on our knees. When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees. Let us drink wine together on our knees. When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees. Let us praise God together on our knees. When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord have mercy on me.

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

A 79

I will arise and go to Jesus. He will embrace me in his arms; in the arms of my dear Savior, oh, there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and power.

Come ye thirsty. Come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify, true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall; if you tarry 'til you're better, you will never come at all.

O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see? There's light for a look at the Savior, and life more abundant and free! Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

Through death into life everlasting He passed, and we follow Him there; Over us sin no more hath dominion for more than conquerors we are! Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

His Word shall not fail you He promised; believe Him, and all will be well: Then go to a world that is dying, His perfect salvation to tell! Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

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.

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.*

Prayer for Lay Eucharistic Visitors

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 may 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.

The Postcommunion 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 for ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing (Titus 2:13)

God fill you with His own peace as we wait for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with now and evermore. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn

Come down, O Love Divine

H 516

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine, and visit it with thine own ardor glowing; O comforter, draw near, within my heart appears, and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O Let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn to dust and ashes in its heat consuming; and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight, and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so, the yearning strong, with which the soul will long, shall far out-pass the
power of human telling; for none can guess it's grace, till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

Rhonda Bentley