

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Worship Bulletin for the Season of Advent December 6, 2020

Virtual Service 9:30 a.m. on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgestc/>

Welcome to St. George's! We are blessed by your attendance at our worship today.

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You can find our Current and Past Bulletins for Virtual Services on our website at:
<https://www.stgeorgestc.org/sunday-worship-services-online/>

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Word of God

Prelude Hymn

“On Jordan’s bank the Baptist's cry” Hymn 76

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

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

Advent ring lighting ceremony — lighting of the Advent wreath with its candles representing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

Every Sunday of Advent the candle lighting is preceded by a brief Call to Worship

Celebrant

Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope. We light it again as we remember that Christ will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us.

(a person lights the candle of hope)

The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace. It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle to remind us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

Peace is a gift that we must be prepared for. God gives us the gift of peace when we turn to him in faith.

The prophet Isaiah calls Christ "the Prince of Peace." Through John the Baptist and all the other prophets, God asks us to prepare our hearts so that he may come in.

Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ. Our peace is found in him. We light this candle today to remind us that he brings peace to all who trust in him.

(Light the Second Candle)

Loving God, thank you for the peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship. Guide us in all that we say and do. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

BCP 356

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.
People Christ, have mercy.
Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

The First Lesson

Reader A Reading (Lesson) from **Isaiah 40:1-11**

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 for ever.
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.

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

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

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.”

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Homily

The Rev. Robin Reeves-Kautz

We invite your prayers of Thanksgiving and Supplication as modeled in the Lord's Prayer.

Thank you God that you are _____.
(praise God for His character—sovereign, gracious, creator, redeemer, sustainer)

Thank you for blessing us with _____.
(a loving family, friends, nice weather)

We pray Thy Will Be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven,

Thank you for your provision of _____
(healing, provision, peace, . . .)
for _____.
(those with covid, . . .)

Forgive us for _____.
(our complacency, not putting you first, not having faith over fear, not trusting you)

We forgive others for _____.
(holding a different view than ours, not caring for the most vulnerable in our society, inciting violence, spreading fear with false news, betraying us)
as we have been forgiven.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil of _____.
(hatred, fear, apathy, luke-warm faith, doing life on our own and not relying on you)

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Confession of Sin

BCP 359

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

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**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.***

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

The 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.*

Offertory

The Peace

BCP 360

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

The Blessing

The Priest, gives the blessing.

Recessional Hymn

“Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates”

Hymn 436

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God. *Alleluia. Alleluia.***