

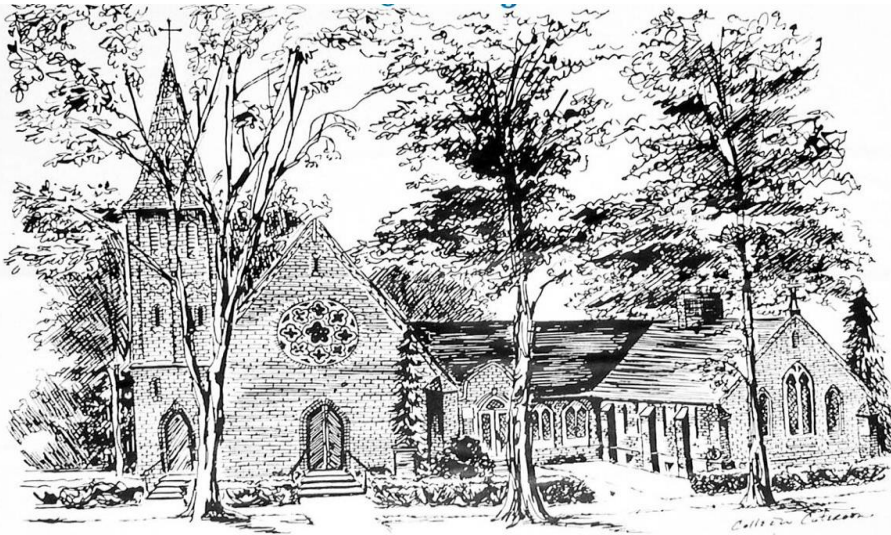
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Service of Morning Prayer

The First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020

Sunday Worship: 10:00AM - Online
Office Hours: 8:15am until 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

Serving Montrose and surrounding communities
With God's Love through Jesus Christ
Since 1831

SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Rockingham

Peter Pindar Stearns

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Introit:

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Hymn 56 v 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

OPENING SENTENCE

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift:

You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us. We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family. We have desired to live in freedom, while building walls between ourselves and others. We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are, while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience. We have tried to love our neighbors individually while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.

Forgive us, Holy God.

Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people. Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love. Restore us in your image, to be beloved community, united in our diversity, even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit, Holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE JUBILATE Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands:*
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God:*
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;*
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;*
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

THE PSALM – Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 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.

Reader: Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen!**

THE LESSONS

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING - 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 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, take 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 our 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God**

The Song of Zechariah Luke 1:68-79
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;*
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,*
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies,*
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers*
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,*
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear,*
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

***You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,*
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation*
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God*
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,*
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:.*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

THE EPISTLE READING - 1 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.

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

The Song of the Redeemed Revelation 15:3-4
***O ruler of the universe, Lord God,
great deeds are they that you have done,*
surpassing human understanding.
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth,*
O King of all the ages.
Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,
and sing the praises of your Name?****
***for you only are the Holy One.
All nations will draw near and fall down before you,*
because your just and holy works have been revealed.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:.*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

ORGAN MEDITATION

Fantasia

Tomas de Santa

THE GOSPEL - 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 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 branch becomes tender and puts 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 the 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 APOSTLES’ CREED

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

THE PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

***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 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us be alert and keep awake for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we offer our prayers to God who stirs up strength and comes to help us, saying: *Restore us, O God of hosts.*

For the Church: especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Kevin, our bishop, that in this time of waiting we may discover God's touch and God's love in all whom we serve. ***Restore us, O God of hosts.***

For this parish family, that as we are enriched by God's gifts, so may we wait upon God and be attentive to the opportunities of each day. ***Restore us, O God of hosts.***

For peace and justice in all places of violence, neglect, famine, persecution, and indifference. ***Restore us, O God of hosts.***

For all who have wandered from their relationship with God, that the memories and hopes of this season will open the doorway to God who loves them. ***Restore us, O God of hosts.***

For all those in any anguish of body, mind, and spirit, remembering especially, that they may see the light of God's countenance, and be saved. ***Restore us, O God of hosts.***

For those suffering from addiction and for those who love and support them, that we share God's healing love through our unity in witness and action. ***Restore us, O God of hosts.***

For all the departed, remembering especially, that we may rejoice in the knowledge that they have been called into fellowship with Christ, by the God who is faithful. ***Restore us, O God of hosts.***

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary, the God-bearer, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. ***To you, O Lord our God.***

Celebrant Creator God, tear open the heavens and come down! Hear our prayers and keep us faithful, alert to your presence, and blameless in our witness until the dawning of the day of our Savior Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

***Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.***

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Postlude on 'Slane'

Gordon Young

Officiant: John Warriner

Organist: Mary Ann DeWitt