

Watch, for you do not know when the master
of the house will come . . .

Mark 13:35a

We worship today according to the appointed order for Morning Prayer, Rite Two,
beginning on page 75 of the Book of Common Prayer.

We begin the service in silence.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

I light this candle to remind us that we must prepare our hearts for
the coming of the Christ Child.

**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.**

We will stand for the Processional Hymn.

Processional Hymn: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*.....66

Watch, for you do not know when the master of the house will
come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the
morning, lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of
Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear
his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others,
those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so
that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let
us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess
our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness
and mercy.

Silence. Please stand or kneel as you are able.

**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.**

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 (*we stand*)

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 for ever. Amen.
Alleluia.**

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany First Sunday of Advent Morning Prayer December 2, 2018, 10:30 am

The earth is the Lord's for he made it: Come let us adore him.

Venite - Psalm 95.....S-35

We sit for the Psalm.

The Psalm - Psalm 25:1-9

*We recite the psalm together, alternating by whole verse as
shown between the right and left sides of the nave.*

- L To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- R Let none who look to you be put to shame;
Let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- L Show me your ways, O Lord,
And teach me your paths.
- R Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- L Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
- R Remember not the sins of my youth and my
transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- L Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- R He guides the humble in doing right
And teaches his way to the lowly.
- L All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness
To those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

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

The Lessons

The First Lesson – Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the
promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In
those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to
spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and
righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and
Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it
will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We will stand and sing Hymn 437, which is based on the Song of Mary, in place of Canticle 15.

Hymn: *Tell Out, My Soul*.....437

We will sit for the lesson.

The Epistle – 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We will stand for the Hymn.

Hymn: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.....56:1-2

We will sit for the lesson.

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Homily.....Mike Harber

The Apostles' Creed (*we all stand*)

**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 Peace

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

Gathering Hymn: *Alleluia, He Is Comin'*SH 72:1
(*When the music begins, please begin singing
and find your seat*)

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Offering

Offertory Hymn (*we remain seated*) *In His Time*.....SH 3

Presentation Hymn: (*we stand*) *Prepare the Way, O Zion*.....65:1

The Prayers (*we stand or kneel*)

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.**

Suffrage

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

Govern and uphold them, now and always.

Day by day we bless you;

We praise your Name for ever.

Lord, keep us from all sin today;

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Lord, show us your love and mercy;

For we put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope;

And we shall never hope in vain.

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for this Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

In our parish we pray for those who are sick or recovering from illness, including **Brian** Hudson, **Jere** Van Etten, **Greg** Dubay, **Barbara** Trogdon, **Laura** Foss, **John** Haynie. and the others we now name.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for our Companion Diocese of the Virgin Islands and its bishop, Ambrose; our Bishop, Kee Sloan; the Diocesan Council; the Diocesan Standing Committee; the Diocesan Department of Finance; and Cathedral Church of the Advent, Birmingham.

A Prayer for Our New Growth and Development Team

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 our selves 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.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*..... 68

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ADVENT, from the Latin *adventus*, means COMING. We know that Christmas is coming, but the season of Advent reminds us there is more to Christmas preparations than gift lists, frantic shopping, school plays and party schedules, etc. All the December activities make it easy to put off preparing our hearts for the true meaning of our Christmas celebration.

The Advent wreath helps us keep a balance in our lives during the weeks of expectancy. The tradition of lighting Advent candles, saying Advent prayers, and sharing appropriate readings helps us to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child -- as for many centuries God prepared the world for the birth of Jesus. The circle of the wreath reminds us that God has no beginning and no end. The evergreens represent the promise of eternal life. The candles represent Jesus' overcoming the darkness of hatred and evil with the light of joy and love. (From *Episcopal Church Foundation - Vital Practices* - ecfp.org)

Make sure you're here at Epiphany next Sunday afternoon, December 9, for selected choruses from Handel's *Messiah*. The musicians will gather at 1:00 pm to run through the music, and the concert will begin at 2:00 pm. Invite a friend to join you and be present for this delightful holiday tradition. This will be our sixth year running! For more information, contact Amanda Borden.

Serving at Epiphany this week:

Ushers: Pam and Eddie Harper
Altar Guild: Pam Van Etten
Lay Reader: Lee Borden
Officiant: Mike Harber
Piano: Esther Hart
Refreshments: Betty Weldon

And next:

Ushers: Dana Barlow and Mike Rallo
Altar Guild: Cathy Jones
Lay Reader: Kay Dickey
Eucharistic Lay Minister: Lee Borden
Piano: Esther Hart
Refreshments: Lavonne Hart

From the Episcopal Church:

As Advent begins this week, we invite you to orient yourself to the coming of Jesus at Christmas through the practices of Journeying the Way of Love. This journey begins by saying "yes" to God's call to birth new life into the world—a call that is both powerful and gentle, a call that will, if fully embraced, grow beyond our imaginations, spilling out of ourselves and into our family, friends, community, and the whole world. Over the course of this holy season, we invite you to respond to that call using these daily practices, and encourage you to offer them to your friends, family, and neighbors.



Sunday, December 2 **WORSHIP**. Pay attention during worship today. What part of the service fills your heart?

Monday, December 3 **GO** Take time to listen closely to someone you may not ordinarily take seriously, or who has a different perspective than you.

Tuesday, December 4 **LEARN** Read Luke 1:26-38. What is God calling you to say "yes" to?

Wednesday, December 5 **PRAY** Set a timer for five minutes. Silently repeat this prayer: "Come, Lord Jesus."

Thursday, December 6 **BLESS** In the spirit of St. Nicholas, practice a random act of kindness today.

Friday, December 7 **TURN** Reflect: Where have I fallen short this week? How can I make amends?

Saturday, December 8 **REST** Do something today that replenishes your spirit

It's not too late to take part in our remaining confirmation classes in the Little House.

- We will not meet next Sunday, December 9, because it will be such a long day for many of us with *Messiah*.
- Maurice will lead a conversation about the Church's Teachings on December 16.
- There will be no confirmation class on December 23.
- Kathy Haynie will lead us on December 30 to talk about Spirituality.
- There will be no confirmation class on January 6.
- Amanda and Lee Borden will lead a discussion of The Church's Ministry and Organizations on January 13.
- Our classes will conclude on January 20 with a conversation about the Church's Mission led by Mike Harber.

Here's the text we're using: Webber, Christopher L., *Welcome to the Episcopal Church: An Introduction To Its History, Faith, and Worship*. Morehouse, 1999. <http://a.co/d/1LN117W>