

**Christ Episcopal Church  
Norwalk, Connecticut  
First Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2024**

**Prelude: Solitude ..... Harold De Cou**

**Opening Hymn # 66      Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

**Morning Prayer: Rite II  
*Advent Season***

**(BCP 77-102)**

Officiant: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

**Lighting of the Advent Candle (1<sup>st</sup> Candle in the Advent Wreath)**

**Hymn: To A Maid Engaged To Joseph (Insert)  
V. 1 & 2**

**Confession of Sin**

**BCP 79**

*Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor*

**Officiant and People:  
(All kneeling, if possible)**

**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.**

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

**Opening Versicle**  
**All stand**

**BCP 80**

**Officiant:** Lord open our lips.

**People:** And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Officiant and People:**

**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.**

Officiant: Our King and Savior now draws near.

**Response: Come let us adore him.**

**Jubilate**    *Psalm 100*

**BCP 82**

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 Lessons

### A Reading From 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."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

### Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

Read By Half Verse

- <sup>1</sup> 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.**
- <sup>2</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**
- <sup>3</sup> Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
**and teach me your paths.**
- <sup>4</sup> 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.**
- <sup>5</sup> Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
**for they are from everlasting.**
- <sup>6</sup> 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.**
- <sup>7</sup> Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
**therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**
- <sup>8</sup> He guides the humble in doing right \*  
**and teaches his way to the lowly.**
- <sup>9</sup> All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*  
**to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**
- <sup>10</sup> For your Name's sake, O Lord, \*  
**forgive my sin, for it is great.**

## **Epistle**

### **A Reading from 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn: #440 (1940 Hymn Book)**

**Watchman Tell Us Of The Night (Insert)**

**V. 1-2**

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### **GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

“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.”

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**

### **The Apostles Creed**

**Officiant & People Together, Standing**

**BCP 96**

**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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OFFERTORY**

**Offertory Hymn # 65      Prepare The Way O Zion**

**Doxology**

**The Prayers of the People Form III**  
**Standing or kneeling**

**BCP 387**

Officiant: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**Response: *That we all may be one.***

Officiant: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**Response: *That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

Officiant: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**Response: *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

Officiant: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world:

**Response: *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Officiant: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**Response: *That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Officiant: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**Response: *That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Officiant: Give to the departed eternal rest;

**Response: *Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Officiant: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy:

**Response: *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

**Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. (silence)**

**Especially for:** Sandy, Suzanne, Joan, Ron, Blaize, Shannon, Sarah, Norma, Kelly, Albert, Bruce, Lou, Heath, Alan, Franco, Maria, Graham, Jan, Stephen, Matthew, Mary, John, Judi, Larry, Stephen, Ray and Chris.

**ECCT CYCLE OF PRAYER:** With the Episcopal Church of Connecticut, today we pray for:

**Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam; Christ Church, Bethany**

**ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:** Together with the Anglican Communion throughout the world, today we pray for:

**Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God and in remembrance of Beatrice and Thomas Price given by their daughters, Betty Belcher and Leah Williams.

**VIGIL LIGHT:** The Vigil Light burns this week in loving memory of Judith McCue Parker by her sister Ruthie and brother-in-law Lou Lovallo.

### **Suffrages**

**Officiant says V, People say R**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**R. Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

**R. Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Officiant: 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 General Thanksgiving**

**Officiant and People (Read in Unison)**

**BCP 101**

**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.**

## **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

**BCP 102**

Officiant: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen

## **Dismissal**



**Word Search Books**  
**Playing cards**  
**Scarves/Hats**  
**Blanket Throws**  
**Hairbrushes**  
**Hair accessories for ladies**  
**Lipstick**  
**Pocket tissues (kleenex)- individual packages**

**THE CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FAMILY WELCOMES YOU!**

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**Vestry**

**Liz Conti Senior Warden, Ruth Lovallo Junior Warden**

**Debbie Ross Treasurer. George Helwig Clerk of the Vestry**

**Barbara Judson Vestry Member, Julie Chelminski Vestry Member, Matt McKinney  
Vestry Member**

**Organist: Betty Belcher**

**What is the mission of the Church?**

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. *Book of Common Prayer, Page 855*