

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Processional Hymn – Hymnal 1982 - # 67 “Comfort, Comfort, Ye my People”

Leader: Advent calls us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. All around us people prepare for parties, dinners and presents. These events could distract us from the real reason for our anticipation. On the other hand, they also could prepare us; they could be the voice crying in a wilderness of materialism: “Prepare the way for the coming of what is really important.”

*People: Rather than get lost in the wilderness of distractions, we will let the music and the lights make us sensitive to the voice that is even now calling our name. We will listen for the Word in the words and even in the noise.*

Leader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, (11:1-10)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a

little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

***People: In this season of hustle and bustle we are tempted to get frantic and join the panic to shop our way into the holiday spirit. In this moment, we resist that temptation and choose instead to be at peace with who we are and where we are on this path. We will let this time prepare us, and we will hear God's call to be those who prepare the world.***

Leader: On this second Sunday of Advent we choose to be a peaceful presence in this midst of a frantic season. So, today, we light the second candle as an act of preparation and call it Peace.

## **The Word of God**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* ***His mercy endures forever.***

***Amen.***

*The Celebrant may say*

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.**

Hymnal 1982 – Kyrie S-95 (*service music is located in the front of the 1982 Hymnal and prefixed with the letter “s”*)

Lord, have mercy.

***Christ, have mercy***

Lord, have mercy

## **The Collect of the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

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.**

A reading from the book of Baruch (5:1-9)

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O

Jerusalem,

and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;

put on your head the diadem of the glory of the

Everlasting;

for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.  
For God will give you evermore the name,  
    "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."  
Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;  
    look toward the east,  
and see your children gathered from west and east  
    at the word of the Holy One,  
    rejoicing that God has remembered them.  
For they went out from you on foot,  
    led away by their enemies;  
but God will bring them back to you,  
    carried in glory, as on a royal throne.  
For God has ordered that every high mountain and the  
    everlasting hills be made low  
    and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,  
    so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.  
The woods and every fragrant tree  
    have shaded Israel at God's command.  
For God will lead Israel with joy,  
    in the light of his glory,  
    with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The Word of the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

**Canticle 16**

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**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 for ever.  
Amen.*

## **The Epistle**

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians (1:3-11)

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

**Gradual Hymn – Hymnal 1982 - # 65 “Prepare the Way, O Zion”**

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:1-6)**

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high

priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**Sermon Hymn – Hymnal 1982 - # 54** “Savior of the Nation, Come!”

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. George L. Hinchliffe

## **The Nicene Creed**

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**

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***

For this community, the nation, and the world;

***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

For the just and proper use of your creation;

***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

For all bishops and other ministers;

***For all who serve God in his Church.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence - The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;

***For your mercy is great.***

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence - The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence - The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
***Who put their trust in you.***

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

***Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

*The Priest says*

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**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

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

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

# The Holy Communion

**Offertory Hymn-1982 Hymnal- #657** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

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*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every- where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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:

**Hymnal 1982 - S129 – Sanctus** (*service music is located in the front of the 1982 Hymnal and prefixed with the letter “s”*)

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*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 is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

*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 for ever. **AMEN.**

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

*People and Celebrant*

***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.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
***Therefore let us keep the feast.***

**Hymnal 1982 – S161 – Agnus Dei** (*service music is located in the front of the 1982 Hymnal and prefixed with the letter “s”*)

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

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 Communion of the People** (*All Baptized Christians are invited and encouraged to receive the Holy Sacraments of Bread and Wine*)

**Communion Hymn –Hymnal 1982 - # 641** “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

***Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your 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.*

**Blessing:** *The Priest offers a blessing.*

**Recessional Hymn – Hymnal 1982 - # 76 “On Jordan’s Bank”**

*The Deacon, dismisses them with these words*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*The People respond* **Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER LIST** The prayers of the parish are requested for: Morgan Shrubbs, John Evan Burt, The family of Lew Walters, The family of Anthony Richichi, Flora McCall, Barbara Leone, , the survivors and families of victims of Hurricane Michael, Raymond George, Jeannie Bey, The Rev. Godsmark, Dotty Stone, Lucy DeMartino, Dina James, Bob Davis, Jim Poulos, Terrance Webb, James and Jackie Kent, Eleanor Bennett, Sue Mobley, Elaine Fletcher, Craig Jacobsen, Bill & Diana Kosty, Mildred Weaver, Tyla Edwards, Marjorie Harner, Jean Peters, Jane Davis, Gail Mickel, Martie Erskine, Laura Ann Fouraker Gardner, Linda Sealy, Austin Richmond, Hasan, Sister Maria Ann, Susanne Walters, Russell Johnson, Don Noel, Nikki Landrum, Phyllis Taylor, Bob Stross, Janice Revet, Pat Ritter, Robert Cannon, Chris and Kathy Thomas, The Thomas family, Cole Thomas, Gwyn Herrington, Carolyn Crosby, Mendy Morgan, Darlene Jones, Christine Bush, Mary Giddens, and Nick Poulos

Our soldiers deployed: Jonathan Richichi, James Smith, Casey

Brewer, Sean Beegle, Cody Beegle, Edward Owen and stateside; Marshall Boggus, Lincoln Queale, Brent Trost, Dillon Ellis, Andy Chamberlain, and Robert Ice.

Pray for the Diocese of Cuba, our companion church: Fielés á Jesus, and their rector Mtr. Tulia. Pray for Dukatole and the children. St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Madison, The Shepherd's Hands of the Suwannee Valley Free Clinic, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church - Newberry and their new school.

**CYCLE OF PRAYER:** St. Pauls' in Jacksonville, St. John's Cathedral in Jacksonville, Community of St. Philip at Suwannee Correctional, St. Cyprian's in St. Augustine, St. Luke's in Live Oak, Trinity in Melrose, Holy Comforter in Tallahassee, San Jose in Jacksonville

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** are given by Diane Stiles in celebration of family birthdays

**LABYRINTH COMMUNITY EVENT** is postponed to a later date. More details to follow.

**PANTRY SUNDAY** is today. Thank you for your generous contributions. 111 families were helped with food in November!

**ANNUAL RECTORY ~~CHRISTMAS~~ ADVENT OPEN HOUSE TONIGHT**

Father George and Mary Ellen would like to invite everyone to the annual rectory open house tonight, **December 9<sup>th</sup>** from 5:00 pm until 7:00pm. Finger foods, beverages, and great fellowship.

**YOUTH CAROLING** Mark your calendars for this Wednesday night, **Dec 12<sup>th</sup>**, and join the youth of St. Luke's to bring Christmas spirit to those who are homebound. We will leave St. Luke's immediately following the 6pm Eucharist on the Suwannee Valley Transit Trolley and return to the church around 8pm. Please let Fr. George or Katie know ASAP if you know someone who would like a visit from the carolers. Plenty of room so come join the fun!

\*\*\*There is a signup sheet in the parish hall if you would like to bring a treat or maybe some soup or chili to warm up the carolers when we return.

**CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY EUCHARIST** services at 6pm and 11pm December 24th. This marks the twelve days of the Christmas Season. Please join us to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**BISHOP'S VISIT** - Bishop Dorsey Henderson, Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of Florida and retired Bishop of Upper South Carolina will be visiting St. Luke's on **January 13th**. Confirmation classes for those wishing to be confirmed, received into the Episcopal Church, or renew their baptismal covenant will be held on December 5th, 12th, and 19th at 10:00, between the two services. Please let Father George know of your interest.