

MORNING PRAYER

ADVENT TWO

DECEMBER 6, 2020

PRELUDE: HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED

(SUNG BY MEMBERS OF ST. MATTHEW'S ADULT CHOIR)

OPENING SENTENCE

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

Isaiah 40:3

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

V: Lord, open our lips.

R: 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

THE VENITE

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

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Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

***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 PSALMS APPOINTED

Psalm 148 *Laudate Dominum*

- 1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.
- 2 ***Praise him, all you angels of his; *
praise him, all his host.***
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.
- 4 ***Praise him, heaven of heavens, *
and you waters above the heavens.***
- 5 Let them praise the Name of the LORD; *
for he commanded, and they were created.
- 6 ***He made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.***
- 7 Praise the LORD from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- 8 ***Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing his will;***
- 9 Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 ***Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and wingèd birds;***
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 ***Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.***

- 13 Let them praise the Name of the LORD, *
for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.
- 14 ***He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!***

Psalm 149 *Cantate Domino*

- 1 Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
- 2 ***Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.***
- 3 Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
- 4 ***For the LORD takes pleasure in his people *
and adorns the poor with victory.***
- 5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds.
- 6 ***Let the praises of God be in their throat *
and a two-edged sword in their hand;***
- 7 To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples;
- 8 ***To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron;***
- 9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!

Psalm 150 *Laudate Dominum*

- 1 Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple; *
praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 ***Praise him for his mighty acts; *
praise him for his excellent greatness.***
- 3 Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; *
Praise him with lyre and harp.
- 4 ***Praise him with timbrel and dance; *
praise him with strings and pipe.***
- 5 Praise him with resounding cymbals; *
praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.
- 6 ***Let everything that has breath *
praise the Lord. Hallelujah!***

***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

A READING 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 forever. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 9: THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH *ECCE, DEUS*

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

***For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.***

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

***Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.***

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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.

A READING FROM 2 PETER 3:8-15

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new

earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN #67: COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK 1:1-8

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."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Amy Peterson

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

V: The Lord be with you.

R: ***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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Sam and Anne our Bishops with all bishops, priests, and deacons. We pray for The Episcopal Church. We also pray for Pastor Holman and Dickerson Chapel AME.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for our President, our Congress, and our State Government. We pray for an easing of violence and for the spirit of peace to prevail. We pray for the feeding ministry of Orange Congregation in Mission.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. We pray for the work of the Eno River Association.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable in Orange County. We pray for inmates, first responders, and healthcare workers. We pray for educators, students, and parents of school-aged children. We pray for families unable to gather over the holidays.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for those in our parish family, especially: Jackie, Mildred, Katherine, Lois, Tom, Molly, Jim, Rowen & Jan, Ann, Anne, Daisy, Tom, Champe, Keyon, Andy & Barrie, Patrick, Laura, Sandra, Bartow, Joseph, Robert, Tricia & Don, and Nell.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Robert A. Swoyer, Sr., Robin Arcus' stepfather, that your will for them may be fulfilled, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

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.**

CLOSING HYMN #65: PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.**

2 Corinthians 13:14

VESTRY CAMEO

Today we continue our monthly “vestry cameos.” Steve Hutson, Liaison for Social Ministries, will speak briefly about his work on the vestry.

SUNDAY FORUM: JOLLY AND OLD

Margaret Brill introduces us to the life of St. Nicholas, whose feast day we also commemorate today, December 6. St Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, prostitutes, children, brewers, pawnbrokers, unmarried people, and students in various cities and countries around Europe. Come learn why and about some of the stories surrounding his generous life. We'll close our time with a brief meditation on the “adjectives” he leaves us with that draw us closer and closer towards Christ in this Advent season.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday (12/6): Advent Two

- **Morning Gathering for Worship & Formation including:**
 - **9:00** Gathering (Worship Zoom)
 - **9:15** Morning Prayer
 - **10:15 Children's Programming** (Formation Zoom)
 - **10:15 Sunday Forum (Worship Zoom):** “Jolly and Old” The Life of St. Nicholas led by Margaret Brill
- **Youth Confirmation Class** (Formation Zoom); 4pm

Monday (12/7):

- **Education for Ministry** (Formation Zoom); 6:30pm
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Tuesday (12/8):

- **Morning Silence** (Worship Zoom); 7:30am Gathering for Silent Meditation
- **Visio Divina** (Meeting Zoom); 7:00pm
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Wednesday (12/9):

- **Morning Prayer** (Worship Zoom); 8:00am
- **In-Person Outdoor Eucharist** (Memorial Garden); Noon
- **For Those Who Live Alone** (Meeting Zoom); 5:00pm / Margaret Brill hosting
- **Choir** (Meeting Zoom); 7:00pm
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Thursday (12/10)

- **Adult Bible Study** (Formation Zoom); 7:30pm
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Friday (12/11):

- **Morning Prayer** (Worship Zoom); 8:00am
- **Awareness thru Movement Class** (Meeting Zoom); 9:30am
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Sunday (12/13): Advent Three

- **Morning Gathering for Worship & Formation including:**

- **9:00** Gathering (Worship Zoom)
- **9:15** Morning Prayer
- **10:15 Children's Programming** (Formation Zoom):
- **10:15 Sunday Forum** (Worship Zoom): "Rest and Silence: Preparing for the Word"
Our Rector Robert+ will use the poetry of T.S. Eliot to explore Advent practices of spiritual rest and waiting for God. We will explore the primacy of rest in the Christian life as a way of preparing for God to come.
- **Youth Confirmation Class** (Formation Zoom); 4pm

PLEASE MASK UP IF YOU COME INTO ANY OF THE BUILDINGS ON THE CHURCH PROPERTY!!

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS OFFERED ON DECEMBER 6 AT 5:15PM

The Diocese of North Carolina has partnered with the Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill to offer Advent Lessons & Carols. The seasonal offering can be viewed on the Diocesan Facebook page, the Diocesan YouTube channel or via Twitter.

OUR NEXT, IN-PERSON, OUTSIDE EUCHARIST IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, THE 9TH, AT NOON. It'll be in the Memorial Garden where we can accommodate 24 easily. To sign up, first fill out the [health screening form here](#). Masks are required and physical distancing must be observed. We expect to continue having Wednesday Eucharists for as long as the weather allows.

VISIO DIVINA ON TUESDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 22

This Advent, join me, Amy Peterson, for Visio Divina! We'll meet once a week to share artwork and images related to the week's lectionary texts, and we'll reflect together on the Scripture and what the art shows us about it. If you're interested, email Amy Peterson (coamyp@gmail.com) for more details.

Tuesdays at 7pm

December 8 - reflecting on Advent 3

December 15 - reflecting on Advent 4

December 22 - reflecting on Christmas

ORANGE CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION

Providing Beef Stew to Orange Congregations in Mission Food's Pantry is a commitment St. Matthew's has made and kept for years now. We hope that you will consider contributing to OCIM's Holiday meals for Christmas. Bring your donated items by the church anytime. Drop them in the basket under the alcove of the Hayden Building or leave them by one of the doors.

Holiday Donations

The pantry will begin accepting items on October 1st.
Donations can be brought to OCIM's pantry Monday-Friday,
9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

* Stuffing * Pie Crust Mix
 * Mashed Potato Flakes * Canned Fruit Pie Filling
 * Gravy (packets, jars, or cans) * Canned Pumpkin Pie Filling
 * Cranberry Sauce * Evaporated Milk (5oz cans) * Canned Vegetables
 * Aluminum Turkey Pans
 * Flour * Clean Paper Grocery Bags
 * Sugar * Clean Reusable Grocery Bags
 * Cooking Oil

For financial donations, visit www.ocimnc.org for PayPal OR
mail to 300 Millstone Drive, Hillsborough, NC 27278

PRAYER LIST

We pray for all who are sick, or in any need or trouble, remembering especially the following members of our parish family: Jackie Fredericks, Mildred Pruessing, Katherine Nelson, Lois Horn, Tom Vail, Molly Zaragoza, Jim Fesperman, Rowen & Jan Grant, Ann Burdette, Anne Weaver, Daisy Huffman, Tom Sinn, Champe Davis, Keyon Hutson, Andy & Barrie Wallace, Patrick Craft, Laura Middlebrooks, Sandra Poffenbarger, Bartow Culp, Joseph Riddick, Robert Fruehwirth, Tricia & Don Hill, and Nell Schrader.

And these others for whom our prayers are desired: Melanie Maupin, Betsy Zaragoza, Gene & Lillian Thompson, Derek Kendall, Harry Dula, Mathew Thomas, Arnold Thomas, Gail Clifford, Dorothy Garton, Erin Vaughan, Bob Caldwell, Baylor Pisano, John Charton, Lucy Gradowski, Ken Foland, Savannah Fonvielle, Colleen Paisley, Ben Mueller, Richard Haase, Linda Saterfield, Chip Joyner, John Logan, the Spurlocks, the Tuckers, Anna Lawrence & Dan Bass, Fred Edoughs, Timothy, Gogi, Bob, Laura Merrill, Jeannine Beardslee, Brooke Harnisch & Dan Roberts, Amy, Evelyne Accad, Amalia, Maddie Powers, Joe & Pat McDonald, Allie, John & Rachel Hougom, Richard Stevens, Mary Beth, Peg Kinnaman, Sidney Cuthbert, and Sam Hammond.

We pray for all doctors and nurses, service workers, inmates, and the unemployed. We pray for educators, students, and parents of school-aged children. We pray for families facing separation during the holidays.