

Christ Church Trumbull

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021, Year C

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

All His mercy endures forever.

Advent IV Candle Lighting

Holy and Gracious God, as we light this candle, we pray that you would kindle the fire of peace in our hearts. Help us to notice Your peace in the world and in our lives and make us ready to receive new visions of Peace. And may the Peace which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in knowledge and love of God and of the coming of the Prince of Peace in unexpected form and ways.

All Amen.

Gloria — Hymn No. 56 (v. 1-4) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The First Lesson.....Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

***All* Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15 The Song of Mary (*said responsively by whole verse*)

Reader And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

***All* Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.**

Reader His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

***All* He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

Reader He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

***All* He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.**

Reader He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

**All According to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'**

The Epistle Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 76 (v. 1-3) "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

The Gospel **Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon..... Dinushka De Silva

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

Celebrant As we begin this time of prayer for one another, our community, and our world, I invite any prayer requests for traveling, birthdays, anniversaries, or healing.

Celebrant prays for all prayer requests.

Prayer Leader As we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us offer prayers to God who stirs up strength and comes to help us.

For the coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory, for the coming of Wisdom to teach and guide us, for the coming of Emmanuel, the hope of all the peoples.

Silence

Prayer Leader Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Prayer Leader For this community, that God would guide us with his truth, fill us with his love, and provide for us from his bounty.

For God's justice, peace, and freedom in our community and our world.

For the leaders of our nation and those who serve on the frontlines especially police officers, fire fighters, medical professionals, and social justice advocates.

For all those who have suffered under the weight of racism. For all those who have been infected with COVID 19. For all those who are hungry and alone this Advent.

For all those in need of food, shelter, access to education and healthcare and for those facing financial hardship especially all the families who rely on the services and support of The McGivney Community Center in Bridgeport.

For all those who suffer in body, mind, and spirit, especially Justin, Evan, Grace, Anna, Max, Roger, Ellie, Rob, Doug, Sal, Maggie, Joanne, Stephen, Leslie, Diane, Amanda, Linda, Dorothy, Albert, Bill, Tom, Peter, and Sue.

For those who have gone before us under the sign of faith, and for all the departed.

Joining our voices with the blessed Virgin Mary, and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

All To you, O Lord.

Celebrant O King of all the nations, only joy of every heart, keystone of the mighty arch who makes us one: Come and save the creature you fashioned from clay. Glory to you for ever.

All Amen.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

All **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.**

Celebrant 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.

All Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Announcements

Christmas Services 4pm service on Christmas Eve – in person and online
9am service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 26th – in person and online. All are welcome.

Holiday Outreach Please support our holiday outreach efforts! Specifically:
The Jesse Tree - new, wrapped gifts of warm winter clothes (sweaters, pants, socks, etc.) for the clients of Prospect House in Bridgeport. Email Maryanne in the parish office for a “gift tag.” Wrapped gifts - with a gift tag on the outside of the package with gender and size - need to be received by Sunday, December 19th.
St. Nicholas Coat Drive – new and/or gently used winter outerwear (coats, hats, scarves, gloves). Donations need to be received by Sunday, December 19th.

Pies for Sale! We have a few pies left – apple (double crust) and blueberry crumb. The price per pie (frozen) is \$15. Payment by cash or check (made out to Christ Church Trumbull). Payment due at pick up. To place your order and arrange pick up, email: info@christchurchtrumbull.org.

Meditation Group Join us at noon on zoom for Meditation Group. All are welcome to join in for meditation and fellowship. Contact the parish office or check the weekly eNews for the zoom link.
1st & 3rd Mondays

Prayer Group Our Prayer Group will meet at noon on zoom. This is a virtual space to pray as a group for those in need and to give thanks for prayers answered. All are welcome to join. Contact the parish office or check the weekly eNews for the zoom link.
2nd, 4th & 5th Mondays

Bible Study with St. Timothy's Join Rev. Kevin Olds for virtual Bible Study every Thursday evening at 7:30. Contact the parish office for the zoom link.

Communion As we serve communion, please come down the side aisle and come to the altar railing one household at a time. At this time we serve grape juice only. You may deposit your juice cups in the waste basket and find your seat walking down the aisle to your left. If you are in person, do not feel obligated to receive. If you receive physically or spiritually, please silently prayer the post-communion prayer or the prayer of spiritual reception.

Offering If this is your first time at Christ Church, we invite you simply to receive, but if this is your regular church home we ask that you give by placing your offering in the offering plate or via PayPal on our website. We thank everyone who helps support the ministry and outreach of this community. We could not continue this work without you.

Celebrant Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God.

Solo by Matthew Johnson “Mary, Did You Know?” .Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

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.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

All **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 Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being

sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Nicholas, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

All **Amen.**

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

**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.

All **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; grant us peace.**

Celebrant 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.

Communion Hymn 68 “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh;
up, watch with expectation! at the midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
The marriage-feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand;
Rise up, ye heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

As you listen to the music selections, we invite you to pray silently the prayer of spiritual communion if you are virtually joining us or the post-communion prayer if you are in person and have received communion.

Prayer of Spiritual Reception *(silently)*

Lord Jesus, I cannot now worship you at the altar of the church in this Sacrament of your Body and Blood, yet in spirit I receive this bread and this wine in my heart, mind, and spirit. Visit me, I pray, with your mercy, pardon, and blessing, and fill me with faith and love and repentance, and so strengthen and sustain me by your grace that I may with pure heart and mind follow you, the only God, now and ever. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer *(silently)*

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.

We encourage you in this time to reflect on what has stood out for you in our worship together. What is God inviting you to in the week ahead?

Blessing (*please stand*)

Celebrant Remember friends, as we go, that life is short. And we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. Amen.

Closing Hymn WLP 724 “People, Look East”

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**