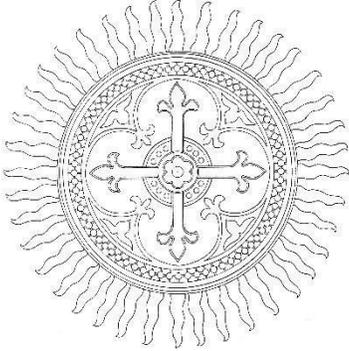


St. John's Episcopal Church

Montgomery, Alabama



The Second Sunday of Advent

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

10:30 am • December 6th, 2020

A Note to Guests and Newcomers to the Episcopal Church

Welcome! We are glad you have chosen to worship at St. John's today.

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion from the Lord's Table. If you have not been baptized and would like to learn more about this sacrament, please contact one of the clergy. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest. Guests are expected and welcome! For your convenience, we offer Nursery Care for children 3 years old and younger. The nursery is located through doors on the front right of the church, and at the end of the hall on your right. Also, children's activity bags are available in the narthex and in the main hallway

Opening Voluntaries

Savior of the Nations, Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome and Announcements

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Celebrant says

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.**

The following is sung by vocalists, all standing

*O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant 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.**

The Lessons

The people sit.

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 for ever.

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.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

Remain seated. The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse.

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.**

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

**9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

**13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

At this time children are invited to join the procession to the Children's Chapel .

The Gospel Reading: Mark 1: 1-8

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

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.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon: The Rev. John P. Leach

The Nicene Creed

All stand, saying together:

**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

Kneeling as you are able.

Let us pray for the Church and for the World:

We pray for the universal church to be a beacon of hope in the world; give your voice to the church, its ministers and its people; especially to; Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Kee and Glenda our Bishops, and John and Deonna our clergy.

Intercessor: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

People: **And Comfort us your people**

We pray for the leaders of the nation and all in authority. Shower your grace on them and inspire in them a message of peace and love among all people; prepare in them a dwelling to receive your message of truth this Advent season. We pray especially for: Donald, our President; Joseph, our President-elect; Kay, our Governor; and Steven, our Mayor.

Intercessor: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

People: **And Comfort us your people**

We pray for all those who have suffered death, injury and affliction from earthly trials around the world, especially from the global pandemic, storms, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, drought and fires; help those who have survived to find your light in their times of darkness.

Intercessor: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

People: **And Comfort us your people**

We pray that you will teach us how to protect and enrich our natural environment.

Intercessor: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

People: **And Comfort us your people**

-We pray for awareness to respect the dignity of all members of our community that we may love our neighbors as ourselves; Guide us by the light of your Word so that we may walk through the darkness of poverty, racism, misunderstanding, and hatred, and may be reconciled to our neighbors.

Intercessor: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

People: **And Comfort us your people**

We pray for the safety of our armed forces and all who serve with them, especially Jonathan Joyner, Jack Durkee, Ben Klein, and Curtis Buzard; Our companion parish of Espiritu Santo, in Tela, Honduras; and for all first responders and all healthcare personnel.

Intercessor: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

People: **And Comfort us your people**

We pray for those who suffer or are in any trouble, may they have the faith of the shepherd and accept your healing power. We pray especially for _____.

Intercessor: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

People: **And Comfort us your people**

May those who are departed rest in your peace and live in the presence of your light.

Intercessor: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

People: **And Comfort us your people**

The Deacon reads this Concluding Collect:

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

**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.**

The Priest stands and 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.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please keep appropriate social distancing.

The Holy Communion

The celebrant will say an offertory sentence.

The people may sit while the altar is being prepared.

The Great Thanksgiving

The People stand.

Celebrant 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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sung by vocalists

*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 kneel.

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,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection.

We await his coming in glory.

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 [_____ 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 forever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The following fraction anthem will be sung by vocalists.

Blessed are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

Praise the Lord, all you nations; laud him, all you peoples. For his loving-kindness toward us is great, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

The Celebrant says

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.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People say together, kneeling as you are able

**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.**

Advent Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand as the clergy depart.

Hymn Tune

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Basse de Trompette & Plein Jeu (Suite on the Magnificat)* Jean-Adam Guilan

Advent and Christmas Schedule 2020

December 20

7:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am Advent Lessons & Carols

December 24

12:00pm Carillon Concert (Tower Bells)
4:30pm Carillon Concert (Tower Bells)
5:00 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II Children's Pageant, Brass Ensemble, Organ
7:00 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II Instrumentalists & Organ
10:00pm Prelude Concert Instrumentalists & Organ
10:30 pm Holy Eucharist Rite I Instrumentalists & Organ

December 25

10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I

December 27

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Announcements

Theologies for the Season: Led on Wednesday evenings at 6.30pm by the Rev. John Leach. The class on December 9th will focus on *How the Grinch Stole Christmas & Christmas Vacation*
Advent Reflection Groups Continue: Please contact Carrie Shaw at graycegray@gmail.com.

Angel Tree: Adopt a family in need this Advent season! Items should be ordered online & delivered by a shipping company to adopted families NO LATER than December 16th.

Stewardship 2020: Thank you to all who have returned a pledge card. We are aware that many of you never received your pledge card in the mail. If this is the case, please contact us and we will provide another one. There is also an online pledge option on the St. John's website.

Advent Wreath Supplies: Last day! Email sarah@stjohnsmontgomery.org with questions.

Today's Servers

Advent Wreath Lighters: The Collier family

Lector: Fairley McDonald **Intercessor:** Mary Hughes **Children's Chapel:** Sarah Collier

Greeters/Ushers: Radney Ramsey, Katie Keller, Brice Johnson, J.R. Marshall

Musicians: Lauren Simpson, *alto*; Robert Scott, *flute*; Barbara Shanks, *oboe*; David Simpson, *bassoon*

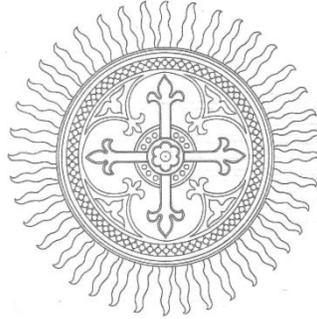
The Prayers of the People were written by: Tracey Campbell, John and Melissa Carter; Kitty Coleman; Jon and Kat Dailey; Rosa Davis; Anne and Reggie Hamner; Mary Helen Mahan; and Will Hill Tankersley.

Joy and Concern

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Christine Dillard, Bonner Engelhardt, Karen Jarrell, Caroline Majors, Christopher Marshall, Joe McGough, Marilyn Pickett, Anne Ramsey, Caroline Clark Calhoun Serrato, Sarah Stone, George Wakefield.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Betsy Arnold, Bethany Burger, Dottie Campbell, Margaret Carlson, Larry Dixon, Raye Gregory, Pee Wee Kohn, Diane Kuehndorf, Charlie Leisy, Mike Luckett, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Lavada Spears Persons, Ernie Reddick, Debbie Steindorf, Jeff Webb, Mark Wimble.

Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care. The prayer list will be updated monthly, please notify us if names need to remain longer.



St. John's Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

The Right Reverend John McKee Sloan, *Bishop of Alabama*

The Right Reverend Dr. Glenda S. Curry, *Bishop Coadjutor*

The Reverend John P. Leach, *Rector*

The Reverend Dr. Deonna D. Neal, *Priest Associate*

Joel Gregory, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Sarah Collier, *Director of Children's Christian Formation*

Joleen George, *Director of Youth Ministries and Parish Communications*

Heather Herring, *Financial Administrator*

Anne Tippett, *Assistant to the Rector*

Mike Jarrell, *Maintenance Superintendent*

Myron Smoke, *Maintenance Staff*

Judson George, *Maintenance Staff*

Vestry and Officers

Jimmy McLemore, *Senior Warden*

Radney Ramsey, *Junior Warden*

Richard Bradford, *Treasurer*

Phillip Brown, *Assistant Treasurer*

Todd Westhauser, Stephanie Norrell, Mike Jenkins,

Kat Dailey, Virginia Banister, Richard Bradford,

Emily Wise, Nick Prillaman, Mary Nelms Parsons,

Katie Keller, Will Gunter, John Carter,

Will Hill Tankersley, Dudley Perry, Scott Mitchell,

JR Marshall, Cissy Johnson, Brice Johnston, Betsy Cannon

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