

The First Lesson

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.

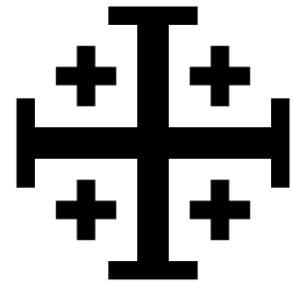
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

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.



The Psalm

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Benedixisti, Domine

- 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.

Said together:

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.

Second Lesson

II Peter 3:8-15a

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.

Hymn Prepare the way, O Zion

H 65

Gospel Lesson

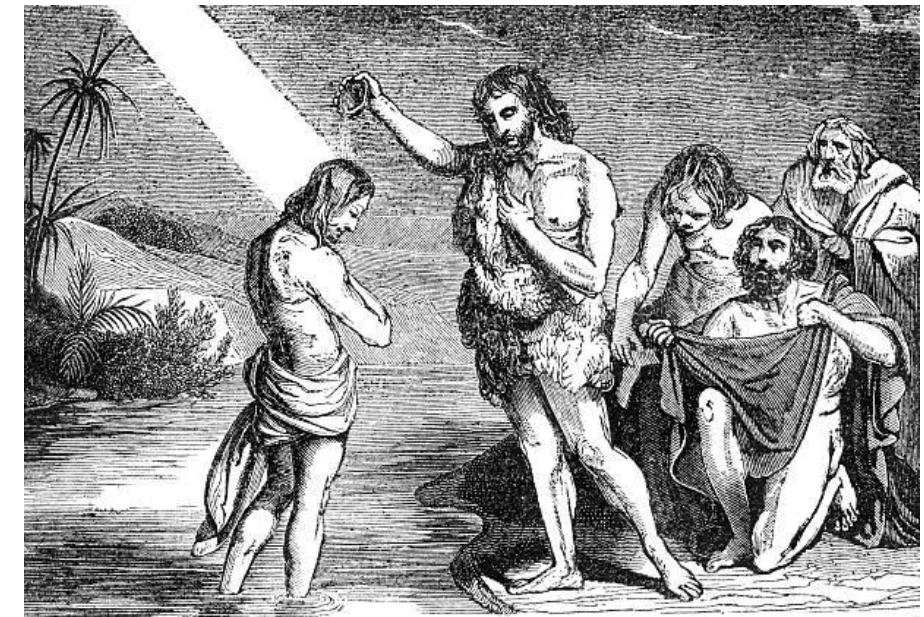
Mark 1:1-8

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 Sermon

BCP 327

The Nicene Creed

Written about 325 AD, this is the ancient statement of our faith

BCP 328

Prayers of the People

We pray together as the people of God

BCP 331

Confession & Absolution

We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon

The Peace

We share the joy of the Good News!

The Liturgy of the Eucharist, sometimes called the Mass

Kirk

Offertory *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

BCP 333

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the spirit, ever One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

From Hymn 63 vs. 5

Eucharistic Prayer "I"

BCP 333

Sanctus

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S113

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

Fraction Anthem

H-S 152

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to receive the sacrament. It is the tradition of this parish that 12 to 14 people at a time receive Communion at the altar rail, at which point all are dismissed together to return to their seats, and another group may move forward to the rail. Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.



Communion Hymns

*O saving Victim
Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless
“Thy Kingdom Come!” on bended knee*

Our Prayer after Communion

Hymn *Watchman, tell us of the night*

The Dismissal

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the Good News and the love of Christ! We respond to this instruction with: *Thanks be to God!*

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted today by

Mary Catherine Williams.

This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. Please join us!

The Altar Flowers are given today by
Mr. Joe Graham in memory of loved ones.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Acolyte	Becky Kersey
Chalicist	Teresa Paine
Lector	Linda Ammar
Altar Guild	Patty Richardson
	Carol Georgis

Elizabeth Burton
Becky Kersey
Teresa Paine
Becky Beckett

Attendance Last Sunday

Birthdays This Week:
Shane Cyrus, Valerie Mahood, Fr. Chad Slater

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Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes - Wanda Myers - Tom Blevins - Bonnie Taylor - Joe Sanders - Edi - Marlene - Lee Puckett, Sr. - Sierra - Linda - Valerie Mahood - Thomas Jaworski - Alex B. - Toni R - Brian - Phyllis & Nelson Walker - Linda Sydeski - Judy Anderson - Zac Carter - Ellie Spencer

Calendar of Events

Sunday-December 10	Canterbury Club at the Beckett's 6pm
Wednesday-December 13	ECM Christmas Dinner 6pm
	Vestry Meeting 7pm
Tuesday-December 19	DoK Meeting 10:30am
Thursday-December 21	Food Pantry
Sunday-December 24	Morning Prayer 10am
	HE at St. Mary's 6pm
Sunday-January 7	HE at CEC 11pm
	ECW meeting after church

Announcements:

Food Pantry: We will be collecting blankets, hats, gloves, and scarves in December. Thank you for your donations.

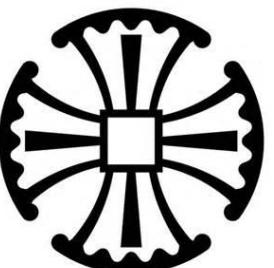
ECW: The Episcopal Church Women will meet after Coffee Hour today to elect new officers and plan for 2018 projects.

Christmas Poinsettias: If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for Christmas in honor or memory of a loved one, there will be a sign-up sheet at the usher's station beginning next Sunday. Poinsettias are \$15 each.

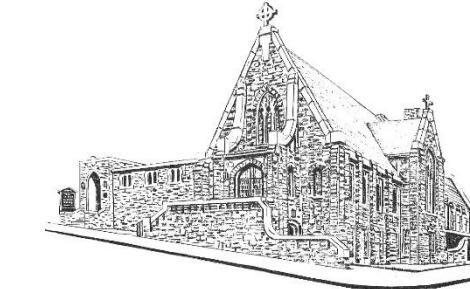
Coffee Hour Note: If you can volunteer for Coffee Hour, please contact Mary Catherine Williams. Your help will be much appreciated!

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

The Rev. Chad Slater	Rector
Ms. Emma Bennett	Parish Administrator
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.	Organist & Choirmaster
Mrs. Vanessa Hall	Sexton
Mr. David Hardin	Senior Warden
Mrs. Dee Puckett	Junior Warden



Christ Episcopal Church



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December 10, 2017

The Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to this Place of Prayer

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (found on the rack in front of you) and place it in the collect plate as it is passed. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

This bulletin will help guide you through today's service. The abbreviation "H" stands for "Hymnal." This is the larger red book located on the shelf in front of you. That music noted as "H-S" followed by a number is service music, and is found in the very first pages of the Hymnal. "BCP" is our abbreviation for "Book of Common Prayer," which is the smaller red book.

The Liturgy of the Word

Hymn *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry* **H 76**

The Service Begins

Gloria in Excelsis
The text to this ancient hymn of praise is found in the BCP

The Collect

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.*