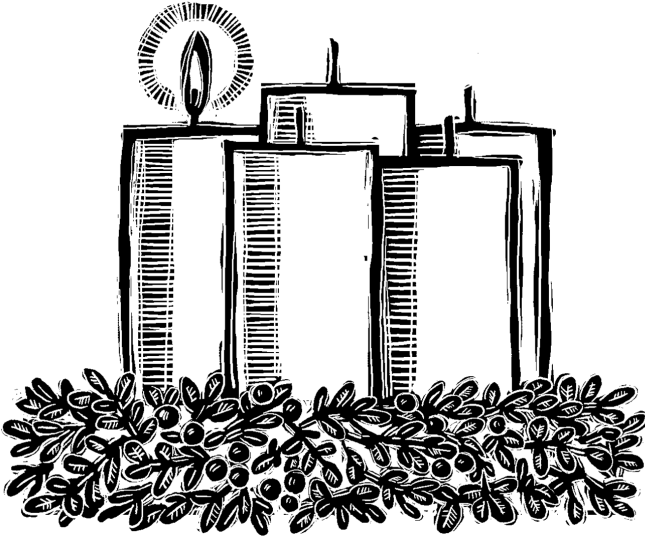


**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
YEAR B**

DEC. 3, 2023, 11AM



"Therefore, keep awake-- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake." – Mark 13: 35-37

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

First Sunday in Advent, Year B

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks
The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982; S Numbers are the service music found in the front of The Hymnal 1982; WLP-Wonder, Love and Praise) LEVAS-Lift Every Voice and Sing II)

In the name of Christ, we welcome you to this Church. May those who sorrow find comfort; the weary, rest; the unhappy, joy; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; and to all the sense of God's Presence in this holy place. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Port Royal, the Nandtaughtacund, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe.

The Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

Waiting

Larry Saylor

Larry Saylor, guitar

Lighting of the Advent candle

Candle Glowing (Verse 1)

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

“All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness, to those who keep the Lord's covenant and testimonies.” Ps 25:9

Eternal God, as we await the coming of our Savior, give us the desire to love one another. Give us grace to know your abiding love for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of all love. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Prepare the way, O Zion

H 65

The Word of God

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God forever and ever.

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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lessons

A Reading from The Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 64, verses 1-9.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasse, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

**18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in
the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 1, vs 3-9.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Judge eternal, throned in splendor

H 596

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very

gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Tom Hughes

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People

At the beginning of this Advent season, let us offer our prayers to God.

That our gracious Savior may rouse us from sleep and make us attentive to the nearness of his presence, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may discover God’s word in every sound of this world, God’s touch in every embrace, and God’s love in every gesture of self-sacrifice among us, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may come to recognize in our church and in the church around the world that Jesus Christ is with us to make our songs of praise and pleading his own, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That God’s coming into the days and years of our human history may always be new, always brimming with light to drive all darkness away, that all violence and war may come to an end, and that peace may cover the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That those serving in the armed forces of our land, especially those on our prayer list, may serve with honor and return home safely when their work is done, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That those on our prayer list, and those caring for them, may experience your profound, healing love in their bodies, minds, and in their spirits, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That those who have died, especially David Griffin, may rest in peace and receive the everlasting joys of your eternal kingdom. **Lord, have mercy.**

Make ready our hearts for your coming, O Lord, and receive our prayers in the name of the one who comes to be among us, our gracious Savior, Jesus, the Christ. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

BCP 830 #51/431

Offertory

Welcome to our world
Larry Saylor, Guitar

Chris Rice

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer 2, Enriching our Worship

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing

Celebrant and People (Service music S 125)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us and proclaimed your dream of peace.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and spoke out the good news of hope.

He gave himself for our weary world,
Accepting death so that we might live,
And held our darkness deep within
until through the cross and grave and empty tomb
he set us free for love.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and our lives in thanks and praise.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, a people of grace and truth, carrying your good news of joy into every season.

And bring us at the last with Mary and Joseph, and all your saints from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer **BCP 364**

The Breaking of the Bread **BCP 364**

The Communion of the People of God

Communion Hymn **Have thine own way, Lord** **LEVAS 145**

Post-Communion Prayer **BCP 365**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn **Lift up your heads** **H 436**

Dismissal

Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Resources:

Prayers of the People, [Intercessions for the Christian People](#), Gail Ramshaw, ed.

Announcements

Welcome to St Peter's. May you find God's love present with you in this place and return here often to worship. The communion bread is gluten free. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

The offering plates are in the back next to the doors. Your gifts help support God's work through this church. Mail - PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. online - <https://news.churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

Catherine is away this weekend at a relative's wedding in North Carolina.

Happy Birthday- Charles McGuire, Carolyn Duke (Dec. 6), Linneth Feliciano, Laura Long, Terry Collins (Dec. 8), Bill Lauck (Dec.9)

Coffee Hour after the service in the Parish House. All are welcome.

Poinsettia and Gifts to the Endowment Fund forms are on the back pew, due Sun., Dec. 10th.(Poinsettia), Dec. 17 (Endowment).

Living Compass Advent devotional booklets are on the back pews.

Advent Resources online - <https://bit.ly/3GqR9IE>

Dec. 3, God's Garden (10:15am). Children ages 5-9 . Learn about Advent. Dec 11, Making Christmas cards.

Dec. 3, Worship, On YouTube at 11am or afterward.

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepiscopalchurchpo677/streams>

Episcopal Church Men (ECM) , Christmas gift cards project. To donate, write a check to St Peter's with ECM Christmas in the memo by today.

ECW takes dinner to the "House", Tuesday, Dec. 5, 5pm

Bible Study, Weds, Dec 6. , 10am-12pm. Parish House, reading the lectionary for Advent 2

https://lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Advent/BAAdv2_RCL.html

Compline Thursdays during Advent, Dec. 7 on Zoom, 20 minutes

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86334877905?pwd=TOFsSEpvUmRIMmkyR09DL2NBWnnpnUT09> Meeting ID: 863 3487 7905 Pass 868383

Coming up:

- **Sat., Dec. 16 – Christmas Play outside, 5PM. Download the poster to help us advertise. <https://bit.ly/4a2xHJn>**
- **Sun., Dec. 17 – Youth music during 3rd Advent, 11am**
- **Sun., Dec. 17 – Last Sunday to donate for the Endowment Fund if you would like to have your donation in the Christmas bulletin.**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535

Website: www.news.churchsp.org Parish Office: (804) 742-5908

The Vestry

Cookie Davis, Larry Saylor (2024)

Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025)

Linda Upshaw (2026)

Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar

Senior Warden, Elizabeth Heimbach

Junior Warden, Cookie Davis

Brad Volland – Music Director & Organist

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector

The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(540) 809-7489, (540) 898-1586, stpetersrev@gmail.com

Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring

Prayer List

Marion Mahoney, The Wisdoms, The Pogues, Laura Carey, The Pannells, The Linne von Bergs, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, The Segars, The Faibisys, The Felicianos, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Bill Wick, Jim Heimbach

**Gordon Flesher, Beryl Harrison, Larry Saylor's family, Jesse Clarke's family, Cy and The Rev Deacon Linda Murphy (Saylor friends), Daryl Potter (Hughes friend), Joanne and Herbert Wilkerson, Jimmy and Nancy Davis, Julie Davis, Otis Felts (family and friends of Johnny Davis), Dale Brittle, Ruth and Joyce Smith (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), Lisa Herbert, John Ryan Kirwin (Jean Devitt's son), Max and Rita Jensen (Duke friends), Barbara Deal, Roberta Rutledge, (Pogue friend), Patterson family, Valerie Leitch, Liz Ruthven, Charlene Schnakenberg, Nathaniel Schnakenberg, (Fisher family), Albert Barnett, Wayne Cohen (Pogue family), , Mrs. Watson, Hyacinth Wallace, Orville Watson, The Glasgows (Feliciano family and friends), Sylvia and Jonathan Coleman (Cleo's daughter and son), Ann Pyle (Carolyn Duke's mother), Harvey Yarus (friend of Tom Kramer), Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear (BJ's grandson), Gloria Jewell, The Hill family (Lydia O'Neil's family), G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat , Joan Pemberton (Brad's family), Louise Chapman (Barbara Segar's cousin)
Passed into eternal life: David Griffin**

Serving in the Armed Forces

PJ Koons

Scott Estes

Cliff Lance

Steven Lee

Greg Merkl

Grace Grimaldi

Alexis Rye

Michael Hobbs

Alex Long V