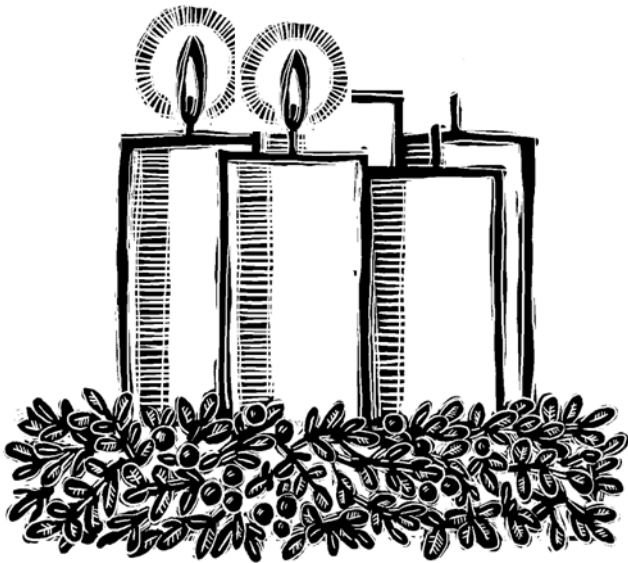


**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
YEAR B**

**DEC. 10, 2023, 11AM**



“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.” -Isaiah 40:1-2

**ST. PETER’S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

**Second 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**

**Air in F Major**

**G. F. Handel**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Candle Glowing (Verse 1,2)**

Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. The first candle is HOPE; the second candle is PEACE.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. Colossians 3:15

Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**

**Comfort, comfort ye my people**

**H 67**

**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.

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.**

**A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 40, Verses 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 Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

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.**

**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 The Second Letter of Peter, Chapter 3, verses 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn**

**On Jordan's banks**

**H 76**

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

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.”

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**

As heralds of God’s good tidings, let us lift up our voices with strength this day, praying to you, Lord, for you comfort, restore, and heal us and the earth.

Let us pray for all leaders and people of the world. We pray for an end to violence and war. You have created one human family to live in righteousness and peace. Until your reign of peace comes on this earth, we pray for those serving in the armed forces of this land, especially those on our prayer list, that they might serve with honor and return home safely. Give us the wisdom to order our common life according to your loving purposes, that your glory may be revealed, and all people shall see it together. **Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for your church. You have given us the gift of the Messiah so that your church may be steadfast and true. Give us strength to follow your Son until all have come to repentance and are reconciled by his love. Help us to be your loving presence in this world. **Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for those who are sick, who suffer need, who are exiled or in danger. We pray for all who have been torn from their homes by war, and who suffer from hunger and fear. We pray today for all on our prayer list, especially the Faibisys, who both have Covid, Cindy and Stanley Fields, Dot Wright, Joe Parker, and Khristina Childs, friend of the Saylor. You have made us for a holy purpose, to comfort and care for each other. We pray for all whose troubles and sorrows are known to you alone. Give us compassion to love our neighbor and patience to care for those in need. **Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for your creation. Your faithfulness springs up from the ground, and your goodness looks down from the sky. Rid us of the laziness and greed that diminish life as you teach us to care for your creation together. **Lord, have mercy.**

Let us remember those who have died. Ever-living God, one day in your presence is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like on day. Make us one with the saints, who have found their eternal home in you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **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**

**O Come to us, Emmanuel  
St Peter's Choir**

**J. M. Martin**

## **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**      **Let us break bread together** **LEVAS 152**

**Post-Communion Prayer** **BCP 365**

**The Blessing**

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,

the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**O day of God, draw nigh**

**H 601**

**Dismissal**

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

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

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**Resources**

Prayers of the People

Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year B, Vol 1, Kimberly Bracken Long,  
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>

**Happy Birthday – Talia Feliciano (Dec. 11), Nancy Long (Dec. 12), Cherry Everett (Dec. 14)**

**God's Garden. 10:15am . Children, ages 5-9 . Making Christmas cards.**

**Living Compass Advent devotional booklets are on the back pews.**

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

**Dec 10, Worship, On YouTube at 11am or afterward.**

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

**Tues, Dec. 12, Chancellor's Village Eucharist, 1PM.**

**Bible Study, Wed., Dec 13. , 10am-12pm. Parish House, reading the lectionary for Advent 3**

**[https://lectionarypage.net/YearB\\_RCL/Advent/BAdv3\\_RCL.html](https://lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Advent/BAdv3_RCL.html)**

**Wed., Dec 13, 12:15PM right after Bible study—Come all to help put together Advent/Christmas arrangements for the church windows.**

**Compline Thursdays during Advent, Dec. 14, 7PM on Zoom, 20 minutes! "The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night."**

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

**A Call to serve on the Vestry. Cookie Davis and Larry Saylor will be completing their terms on the Vestry in January.** Please consider running for Vestry and help shape St. Peter's ministry. If you feel called to serve or have questions, please contact Catherine or any Vestry member.

### Coming up:

- **Sun., Dec. 10 – Poinsettia orders due**
- **Thurs., Dec. 14 – Vestry, 2pm**
- **Sat., Dec. 16 – Christmas Play outside, 5PM. Download the poster to help us advertise. <https://bit.ly/4a2xHJn>**
- **Sun., Dec. 17 – Youth music during 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent, 11am**
- **Sun., Dec. 17– Last Sunday to donate for the Endowment Fund**

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

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

**Website: [www.news.churchsp.org](http://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](mailto:stpetersrev@gmail.com)**

**Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring**

**Prayer List**

**Stanley and Cindy Fields, 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**

**Kristina Childs, Cy and The Rev Deacon Linda Murphy (Saylor friends), Joe Parker, Dot Wright, Gordon Flesher, Beryl Harrison, Larry Saylor's family, Jesse Clarke's family, 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)**

**Serving in the Armed Forces**

PJ Koons

Scott Estes

Cliff Lance

Steven Lee

Greg Merkl

Grace Grimaldi

Alexis Rye

Michael Hobbs

Alex Long V