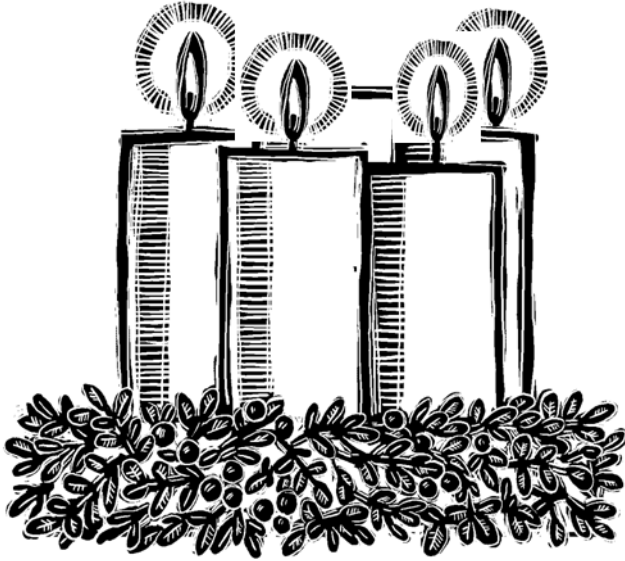


FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2022, 11AM



Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." – Matthew 1:18-22

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday in Advent, Year A

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.

Bell ringing

Prelude

Come thou long expected Jesus

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Restore us, Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. Ps 80:18

Let us pray.

Shepherd of Israel, may Jesus, Emmanuel and son of Mary, be more than just a dream in our hearts. With the apostles, prophets, and saints, save us, restore us, and lead us in the way of grace and peace, that we may bear your promise into the world. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel

H 56

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Song of Praise

**Creator of the stars of night
(Verses 1, 4-6)**

H 60

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Ever faithful God, through prophets and angels you promised to raise up a holy child who would establish a household of peace and justice. Open our hearts to receive your Son, that we may open our doors to welcome all people as sisters and brothers, and establish your household in our time. **Amen.**

A reading from Isaiah, Chapter 7, verses 10-16.

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 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 Letter to the Romans, Chapter 1, verses 1-7.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Catherine Hicks

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People

We seek the mighty God in the most unlikely places, as a child in a stable, and in an empty tomb. May God hear these prayers and come from the unlikely corners of our lives.

Holy One, who astonishes us with surprising gifts, we pray for your church and for people of faith in every language and belief, that your wisdom will lead us in our common life, and that all people may rejoice in what you create. **O God, who is with us, hear our prayer.**

Giver of the stars and planets, creator of rivers and oceans, and creatures large and small, we pray for wisdom as we live on and with

your earth. Evoke in us awe for your goodness in these familiar surroundings: our hills and valleys, forests and fields, that the powers you have placed here to move through soil, air and water will remind us always of your bounty and your love. **O God, who is with us, hear our prayer.**

Power above all powers, we pray for the leaders of governments in every nation, and for our President, the Congress and the Supreme Court, that they may have the wisdom to choose what serves the common good. We pray for a speedy end to the war in Ukraine. Until your reign of peace is realized on this earth, we pray for all who serve in the armed forces of this nation, especially those on our prayer list, that they may carry out their work honorably and return safely home. **O God, who is with us, hear our prayer.**

Lover of all creation, we pray for all those we too easily forget: those of your children who are poor, or homeless, or in prison; those who are sick, or lonely, or frightened; all who hunger for faith and hope. Care for them, that they may be strengthened by joy in your healing. We pray especially for Susan Linne von Berg, and for all on our prayer list. **O God, who is with us, hear our prayer.**

Holy One, in whose community we thrive, we pray for those with whom we share our daily lives: our families, friends, and neighbors, those with whom we work and play, those whose names we do not know who provide for us, that we may be renewed in courage and nurtured in hope. **O God, who is with us, hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we pray for those who have died, especially David Johnston, and for those who mourn this day. May they cast their care on you and know the consolation of your love. **O God, who is with us, hear our prayer.**

Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch, that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

The Peace

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

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

BCP 830 #51/431

Offertory

He shall feed his flock

JS Bach

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer 2 from EOW

Enriching our Worship

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

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

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.*

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

The Lord's Prayer	BCP 364
The Breaking of the Bread	BCP 364
The Communion of the People of God	

Communion Hymn	Now the silence	H 333
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Post-Communion Prayer	BCP 365
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The Blessing

Closing Hymn	The King shall come when morning dawns	H 73
Dismissal		

Resources:

The Advent wreath candle lighting prayer and today's collect are both from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers.

Prayers of the People come from both Revised Common Lectionary Prayers and from Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Vol 1, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor.

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, Mary Lawrence Hicks (12-18)

-Dec. 18, Worship on YouTube <https://youtu.be/InBktGdR8nc>

-Dec. 19, Monday Morning meditation 6:30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87980716417?pwd=UHLxNE1JYlQ1TGh6N25oYTBxRURwQT09> Meeting ID: 879 8071 6417 Passcode: 790929

-Dec. 21 – Village Harvest, 3pm-5pm. Please email Andrea to volunteer at wakepogue.public@gmail.com, or (540) 847-9002. Pack bags 1-3PM, Deliver food to clients' cars 3-5PM.

A Call to serve on the Vestry. The Vestry is made up of lay leaders who, along with the Rector, direct the ministries of St Peter's, based on input from the congregation. If you feel called to serve or have questions, please contact Catherine or any Vestry member.

A gift to The Endowment Fund provides money for outreach ministries and ongoing care of the church buildings for years to come and is fully tax deductible. The deadline for having your gift to the Endowment Fund listed in the Christmas bulletin is today.

Bible Study will take a break this coming Wednesday, December 21, and also on Wednesday, December 28. We will resume on Wednesday, January 4, 10 AM in the Parish House.

Monday Morning Meditation will take a break on Monday, December 26th and will resume on Monday, January 2nd.

-----**Services Coming Up**-----

Christmas Eve, Sat., December 24. Holy Eucharist, 4PM.

Christmas Day, Sun., December 25. Holy Eucharist. 11AM.

Sun., Jan 1, 11:00am – A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

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

Becky Fisher, Andrea Pogue (2023), Cookie Davis, Robert Bryan (2024)

Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025)

Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach, Registrar

Becky Fisher, Senior Warden

Cookie Davis, Junior Warden

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**

Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Laura Carey, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Tommy Segar, John and Toni Faibisy, Linneth Feliciano, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Mike and Marilyn Newman, Bill Wick, Barbara and Boyd Wisdom

Ruby Barnes (Laura Carey's sister), **Claire Cole Curcio** (friend of Catherine Hicks), **Sandra Smith, Otis Felts** (friend of Johnny Davis), **The Glasgows** (friends of the Felicianos), **Randall Clingenpeel, Mrs. Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's mother), **Ann Pyle** (Carolyn Duke's mother), **J.T. Moriarty** (Hicks' friend), **Harvey Yarus** (friend of Tom Kramer), **Patty Reno** (cousin of Tom Kramer), **Joanne Wilkerson and Jimmy Davis, Julie Davis** (sister, brother and daughter of Johnny Davis), **Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Nathaniel Schakenberg, Martha Oldham** (Mike Newman's sister), **Jonathan Coleman** (Cleo Coleman's son), **Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear** (BJ's grandson), **Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith** (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), **Orville Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's brother), **Gloria Jewell, Kathryn, David and Bobby Hill** (Lydia O'Neil's family), **Lorena McElwain**, (friend of the Pogues), **Odessa Davis, Kelly Paterino, G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw** (Brad Volland's cousin), **Joan Pemberton** (Brad Volland's aunt), **Anna Haug, Albert Barnett** (Andrea's uncle), **Scott Crabtree** (Eunice Key's brother), **Louise Chapman** (Barbara Segar's cousin), **Dot Wright, Carolyn and Butch Delhagen** (Newman relatives), **Mary Lawrence Hicks** (Catherine and Ben Hicks' daughter), **Rodney C. Johnson** (Hicks' friend), **Charlene Schakenberg**, (Becky Fisher's mother)

Serving in the Armed Forces

PJ Koons

Steven Lee

Alexis Rye

Scott Estes

Greg Merkl

Michael Hobbs

Cliff Lance

Grace Grimaldi

Alex Long V