



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

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The Third Sunday of Advent + 13 December 2020

WELCOME to St. Peter's Church. We are glad you are here! The clergy and laity welcome all joining us for worship this morning in the Name of Christ. If you are new to our parish, please introduce yourself to the clergy and sign our guest book and give us a chance to get to know you. Please, join us in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table. Come forward to receive the bread in your hand. If you wish to receive only a blessing, cross your hands over your heart and the Priest will bless you.

Mission Statement: We are an inclusive, forward-looking Episcopal parish that seeks to grow in Christ through worship, education and fellowship, serves Christ by ministering to local and global communities and shares Christ in following His command to "Love one another as I have loved you." **Vision Statement:** Our vision at St. Peter's is to be an inclusive, vibrant Christian community honoring our Episcopal heritage by achieving excellence in worship, mission, education and fellowship.

+ We Gather In God's Presence +

[* indicates all standing - + indicates all kneeling - **indicates all sitting]

[Silence for prayer and preparation]

Prelude

Celebrant Blessed be God who forgives all our sins. **God's mercy endures for ever.**
Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thought 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.**

+Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. **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.**

+Kyrie **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant 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 Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. Collect of the Day **Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us: and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle

+ We Listen To The Word Of God +

**First Reading – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 126

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

² Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

³ Then they said among the nations, *

"The Lord has done great things for them."

⁴ The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

⁵ Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

⁶ Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

⁷ Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

**Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel – John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

Sermon: Rev. Joe Dietz

[Following the sermon, please observe a few moments of silence]

*The Nicene Creed

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.

+ We Ask God To Listen To Our Prayers +

+ With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "*Lord, have mercy.*"

For the peace from above especially in this anxious time we live, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples and nations, and for all the efforts in providing safe places for refugees, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Daniel, our Bishop; Rodney, our Assisting Bishop; for this gathering; for all ministers, especially Sam our Rector; David, our Retired Clergy; Joseph, our Deacon; the Vestry; the congregation; and all those who participate in the ministries of the church, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Donald, the President of our Country; Joseph, the President-elect of our country; Tom, the Governor of our Commonwealth; Antonio, the Secretary General of the United Nations and leaders of all nations and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, for the good earth which God has given us and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially, **Joan, Vernet, Greg and Lou.** (the people may add their own petitions) let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are celebrating a birthday this week, especially remembering Bryn Hamilton, Douglas Streuli and Madelyn Fifer who celebrate a birthday this week. (the people may add their own petitions) let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the homeless, for prisoners and victims of human trafficking, and for all who remember and care for them especially the volunteers who serve the pantry and the community kitchens here at St. Peter's, we pray for all afflicted by the Coronavirus. We pray for the more than 200,000 families mourning the loss of a loved one. We pray for those who are sick, for essential workers and medical professionals, for all who suffer because of economic fallout and lost jobs, especially those who know hunger and homelessness. Be with our families and children and schools, seeking to navigate this difficult time. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially remembering Florence Green, and for all the departed, (the people may add their own petitions) let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and all our life, to Christ our God. **To thee, O Lord our God.**

[The Celebrant adds a concluding collect]

*The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Doxology **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

+ We Share Holy Communion +

*The Great Thanksgiving *[The people remain standing.]*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God 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.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name: *Sanctus **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

+ 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, **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 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 for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Agnus Dei **O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.**

+Communion of the People

+Post Communion Prayer Let us pray. **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.**

+The Blessing

Announcements

*Dismissal

Postlude

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Virtual Church Social Hour on Sunday, December 20: YOU ARE INVITED! You are invited to join others in the congregation for the next virtual coffee hour from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, December 20. Come and say hello to your friends, and hear what is going on at St. Peter's. Wear your most festive Christmas sweater on-screen, as Fr. Sam has invited all to participate in an ugly Christmas sweater contest. Hope to see you there, for the entire session or drop in when you can. Zoom link information will be sent out by email before the social hour date.

Virtual Christmas Tree Giving Campaign for 2020The organization for our virtual Christmas tree 2020 donation campaign from St. Peter's will be Mom's House in Phoenixville, at 145 South Main Street (<https://www.momshouse-phoenixville.org/>). Since we cannot bring items to the church for donation, a gift can be made through Mom's House Amazon wish list (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/26H03TK3PALYO?ref=wl_share) or directly with money on the Mom's House website, or call them at 610-935-7711.

The St. Peter's Youth Group is open to all youth in grades 6 and up. If you have a youth who is interested in joining Youth Group this year, please reach out to Katie Druckenmiller at kdruckenmiller@gmail.com or Dave Brennfleck at davidbrennfleck@gmail.com

Intercessions This Week - Please pray: • For those who are sick, or in any other adversity, especially Joan Grunwell, Vernet Spence-Brown, Greg Schiele, Deacon Lou Steffenhagen • For the men and women who are serving in our armed forces. • For those with whom we give thanks, especially Bryn Hamilton, Douglas Streuli and Madelyn Fifer who celebrates a birthday this week. • For all who have died especially, Florence Green.

People at St. Peter's

The Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez **Rector:** The Rev. Fr. Samuel Ndungu: 302-252-8152 kirabisam@gmail.com

Retired Clergy: The Rev. David Hyatt

Deacon: The Rev. Joseph Dietz: JoesFrames@Comcast.net; Liaison to Vestry: Fellowship, Adult Forum

Music Director: Derek Maninfior: dtmaninfior@gmail.com **Parish Secretary:** Judith Dougherty: saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com

| Vestry: | Liaison Position: | Contact Information: | |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Diane Hope | Senior Warden, New Member Ministry | dhope321@comcast.net | 484-924-9630 |
| Mary Jo Wells | Junior Warden, Children's Faith Formation, Youth Group | mjwells_2000@yhoo.com | 610-539-1042 |
| Frank Rothenberger | Accounting Warden, Stewardship Committee | franklin.rothenberger@gmail.com | 484-924-8783 |
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| Vernon Feather | Property Committee | vernon@thefeatherfamily.com | 610-772-4613 |
| Leo Guen | Communication, Website, Music | leotguen@gmail.com | 718-764-3503 |
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