



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

121 Church St., Phoenixville, PA 19460
saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com + www.saintpeterschurch.net

The Fourth Sunday of Advent + 20 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 +

[Silence for prayer and preparation] [* indicates all standing - + indicates all kneeling - **i 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 **Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle

+ We Listen To The Word Of God +

**First Reading – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

**Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

¹Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; *

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

² For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
³ “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
⁴ ‘I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.’”
¹⁹ You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
“I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
²⁰ I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
²¹ My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.
²² No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.
²³ I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.
²⁴ My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
²⁵ I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.
²⁶ He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’

****Second Reading – Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***The Gospel – Luke 1:26-38**

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon: Fr. Sam [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 + [Prayers of the People, kneeling]

+ 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, **Dave, Laura, Shawn, 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 Ethan Smith, Matthew Kiernan, Charlotte Rothenberger and Christopher Hope who celebrates 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 300,000 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 Lashawn and Cecilia, (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 *[All stand facing center aisle]* *[please be seated following 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 TODAY, December 20: YOU ARE INVITED! 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. 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 Carol Sing-along this evening, December 20: YOU ARE INVITED! You are invited to join the congregation at **6:00 PM** on the Sunday evening before Christmas to sing along with accompaniment provided. Derek will send out a file by email with the lyrics to the carols to be included in the sing-along, so we will all be able to participate. Those lyric files and the Zoom link information will be sent out by email a few days before the Christmas carol sing-along date.

Christmas Eve Schedule: Live Streamed service: 6pm. (If you would like to attend this service we have a few slots open please let Fr. Sam 302-252-8152 or Judy know. All are welcomed to drive by the Church for Communion and to see our Nativity Scene outside.

Christmas Morning: We will send out a YouTube link for Morning Prayer and Christmas Music recorded by Derek Maninfior and our St. Peter's Choir.

Intercessions This Week - Please pray: • **For** those who are sick, or in any other adversity, especially David Brennfleck, Laura, Shawn, 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 Ethan Smith, Matthew Kiernan, Charlotte Rothenberger and Christopher Hope who celebrates a birthday this week. • **For** all who have died, especially Lashawn and Cecilia.

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:

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|--------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| Lynn Boukalik | Communication, Social Media | Lynn.boukalik@gmail.com | 216-570-0330 |
| Shelly Brennfleck | Mission Committee | sbrennfleck@gmail.com | 484-347-1442 |
| Vernon Feather | Property Committee | vernon@thefeatherfamily.com | 610-772-4613 |
| Leo Guen | Communication, Website, Music | leotguen@gmail.com | 718-764-3503 |
| Todd Jackson | Pantry | tjusnrc@yahoo.com | 610-469-1102 |
| Victor Jackson | Worship | vxjackson@seic.clom | 610-618-6328 |
| Mona Chylack | Clerk of the Vestry | mchylack@ursinus.edu | 610-948-4407 |