

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

21 DECEMBER 2014



THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I
8:00 AM

St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

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THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, P. 323

THE WORD OF GOD

The Voluntary: “Savior of the Nations, Come” Johann Pachelbel

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;

People His mercy endureth for ever.

The Collect for Purity *The Book of Common Prayer, p. 323*

The Song of Praise: Lord, have mercy upon us. *p. 324*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

The First Lesson: 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 3—The Magnificat (Said by all)

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord,*
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
- 2 For he hath regarded*
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
- 3 For behold from henceforth*
all generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me,*
and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him*
throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath showed strength with his arm;*
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination
of their hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat,*
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things,*
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,*
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,*
and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*
world without end. Amen.

The Second Lesson: 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The congregation stands for the reading of the Gospel.

The Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon The Right Reverend Johncy Itty
The Nicene Creed p. 326
The Prayers of the People p. 328
The Confession of Sin and Absolution p. 330
The Peace

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Hymn at the Offering *The Hymnal 1982, #56 (stz. 1-4)*
O come, O come Emmanuel *Veni, veni Emmanuel*
The Great Thanksgiving p. 340
Sanctus p. 341
The Breaking of the Bread p. 337
Agnus Dei & Prayer of Humble Access p. 337
The Post Communion Prayer p. 339
The Prayer of St. Richard

Lord Jesus Christ, Most Merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
help us this day and everyday to see Thee more clearly,
to follow Thee more nearly, to love Thee more dearly,
for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

The Blessing & Dismissal

The Voluntary: "Savior of the Nations, Come" Andreas N. Vetter

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY 12/21/14

We pray for those seeking healing: Ann, Barry, Bill, Bradley, Bruce, Bryan, Caitlin, Chris, Daniel, David, Debbie, Donald, Donna, Ellen, Gil, Heidi, Jack, Joy, LaJune, Leo, Linda, Louie, Louise, Patrick, Paul, Ryan, Samantha;

We pray for those in military service, and especially for Eileen, John, Kyle, and Robert;

We pray for those with special needs: the unemployed; for all who suffer from addictions; for all who have AIDS and those who care for them; for those suffering from Ebola and for their families and friends;

We pray for our companion dioceses of Torit & Ecuador-Central;

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Lawrence of Canterbury, Dix Hills; St. Luke's, East Hampton; Emmanuel Church, Great River; Holy Trinity, Greenport Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry; St. Mary's, Hampton Bays; St. John's, Huntington;

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Dioceses of Kontagora (Nigeria); Kootenay (British Columbia and the Yukon); Kubwa (Nigeria); Kumi (Uganda); and for The Most Reverend Govada Dyvasirvadam, Moderator of CSI (Bishop of Krishna-Godavari); The Most Reverend Bolly Lapok (Archbishop of South East Asia and Bishop Kuching); The Most Reverend Dr. Daniel Sarfo (Primate and Metropolitan, CPWA; Archbishop of the Internal Province of Ghana and Bishop of Kumasi)

— PARISH NOTICES —

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to the Reverend **Duncan A. Burns**, a son of St. Peter's Parish, and the son of parishioners Sue and Bruce Burns upon his installation as Rector at St. John's, Huntington last Saturday, **December 13**.

PLEDGE ENVELOPES are in the Narthex. Please pick up your set today.

“LUX AETERNA” a newly released CD performed by “Illumine” a trio of trumpet, soprano, strings, organ, and harpsichord is still for sale through December 25 at the special rate of \$20 for the first copy, and \$15 for additional copies. All proceeds through Christmas go to St. Peter's Church. This recording marks the first professionally produced recording made in St. Peter's Church, using the magnificent Gress-Miles organ. Perfect for that last minute shopping gift! Please see Mark Engelhardt, if interested.

JANUARY EVENTS AT ST. PETER'S

- Tuesday, January 6 - 6 pm. **FESTIVAL EUCHARIST FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY** in the Church, followed by Parish Potluck Dinner. Please signup for the Dinner on the sheet in the Narthex.
- Saturday, January 10 - 6 pm **JANUARY FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**. Please suggest a movie and tell a Vestry Member!
- Sunday, January 11 - **SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR FOR NEW MEMBERS**, in the Lounge following the 10:15 am service.
- Sunday, January 18 - 9 am **PATRONAL FESTIVAL EUCHARIST** and **ANNUAL MEETING**. (Combined 8 and 10:15 service on this day)



“Do not be afraid: for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Christ the Lord.” (Luke: 2:10-11)

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During this holy season, we are journeying together to that special time where the mystery of the Incarnation fills us with God’s love. The Feast of Christmas is a joyful season filled with hope, promise, and mystery. It is a season in which we are mindful of God’s redemptive plan for humanity and for God’s love for us made known through the birth of Jesus Christ.

This holy time is a time to pause, think and reflect upon how blessed we are as a people, as a community, and as a nation. It is a time to remember how Christ’s love continues to reach out to us through the prayers, petitions, and acts of loving-kindness extended by others. It is a time to remember the opportunities that God gives us to be agents of grace, reconciliation, and renewal for others as well.

The season of Christmas offers us a time for spiritual refreshment and renewal. It offers us a chance to learn more about the gift of God’s eternal Presence in our lives and how the mystery of the Incarnation can transform and renew our hearts and minds as disciples of Jesus.

God continues to bless this church family at St. Peters with so many people who offer the best of their time and gifts in service of others. I remain ever so thankful and appreciative of the hard work and earnest efforts of all those whose labor of love continue to support the work of God’s kingdom in this portion of the Lord’s vineyard along the south shore.

Amid the joys and challenges of our common life, we have an opportunity to respond in new and creative ways to the pressing needs of our others who continue to suffer from hunger, disease, and loneliness. During times of division and rancor, we have an opportunity to be a voice of reason and calm. In times of uncertainty, we have an opportunity to be a voice of hope and confidence that the Holy Spirit will continue to direct us in accomplishing the work of God in the vineyard of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that each and every one of you may continue to find the joy that is ours in experiencing the love of God through our Christ of Bethlehem. May God’s rich and abundant blessings abide with you and your loved

ones during this holy season. And may Christ's peace fill you with all spiritual blessings as the mystery of the Incarnation transforms us into important instruments of God's redeeming purpose.

“O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.” (BCP p. 160)

I wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy, holy, and blessed Christmas!

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johnny Itty". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Bishop Johnny Itty



Christmastide at

St. Peter's

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm—*Christmas Pageant and Family Eucharist*

11:00 pm—*Festive Choral Eucharist for Christmas*

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

10:00 am—*Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols*

Sundays, December 28 and January 4

The First and Second Sundays after Christmas

8:00 am—*Holy Eucharist, Rite I*

10:15 am—*Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II*

Tuesday, January 6

The Feast of the Epiphany

6:00 pm—*Festival Choral Eucharist followed by a Parish Potluck Supper*



THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



DECEMBER 21, 2014 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP

The altar hanging at an English Advent service was made of midnight blue, with these words across its top: “We thank you that darkness reminds us of light.” Facing all who gathered there to give thanks were images of night creatures – a large moth, an owl, a badger, and a bat – cryptic and somewhat mysterious creatures that can only be encountered in the darkness.

As light ebbs from the days and the skies of fall, many in the Northern Hemisphere associate dark with the spooks and skeletons of secular Hallowe’en celebrations. That English church has reclaimed the connection between creator, creation, and the potential holiness of all that is. It is a fitting reorientation toward the coming of One who has altered those relationships toward new possibilities for healing and redemption.

Advent leads us into darkness and decreasing light. Our bodies slow imperceptibly with shorter days and longer nights, and the merriness and frantic activity around us are often merely signs of eager hunger for light and healing and wholeness.



(CC photo by Zetazone)

The Incarnation, the coming of God among us in human flesh, happened in such a quiet and out of the way place that few noticed at first. Yet the impact on human existence has been like a bolt of lightning that continues to grow and generate new life and fire in all who share that hunger.

Jesus is among us like a flitting moth – will we notice his presence in the street-sleeper? He pierces the dark like a silent, streaking owl, seeking food for hungry and defenseless nestlings. He will overturn this world’s unjust foundations like badgers undermining a crooked wall. Like the bat’s sonar, his call comes to each one uniquely – have we heard his urgent “Come and follow”?

God is among us, and within us, and around us, encountering, nudging, loving, transforming the world and its creatures toward the glorious dream the shepherds announced so many years ago, toward the beloved community of prophetic dreams, and the nightwatch that proclaims, “All is well; fear not, the Lord is here.”

May Christ be born anew in you this Christmastide. May his light burn in you, and may you labor to spread it in the darkness. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and it is the harbinger of peace for all creation.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church



(CC photo by Paisley Scotland)

— **St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church** —

A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

The Most Reverend Katherine Jefferts Schori, DD *Presiding Bishop*
The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano, DD *Diocesan Bishop*
The Right Reverend Johncy Itty, DD *Bishop-in-Residence*
Mark Engelhardt *Organist and Choirmaster*
Sara Merrigan *Preschool Director*

The Wardens and Vestry of the Parish

Salvatore Basile, Senior Warden
Brian Clark, Junior Warden
Kathleen Malloy, Clerk of the Vestry
Roger Burmeister
Debbie Crawford
Chris Elton
Joseph Goncalves
George Justice
Edward Perry
Julia Fienga Schneider
Carl M. Siciliano



Praising God, Serving Neighbor

*We seek to worship the Lord as one loving family
by serving our parish and community
through prayer, music, education, and outreach*