

**Christ Episcopal Church  
Norwalk, Connecticut  
Second Sunday of Advent  
December 8, 2024**

**Prelude: O Jesulein Suess (German: "O Jesus Sweet") ..... G.F. Kaufmann**

**Opening Hymn # 68      Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (Insert)**

**Morning Prayer: Rite II      (BCP 77-102)**  
*Advent Season*

Officiant: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

**Lighting of the Advent Candle (2<sup>nd</sup> Candle in the Advent Wreath)**

**Hymn: To A Maid Engaged To Joseph (Insert)**  
**V. 3 & 4**

**Confession of Sin      BCP 79**

*Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor*

**Officiant and People:**  
**(All kneeling, if possible)**

**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.**

**Officiant and People:** Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

**Opening Versicle**  
**All stand**

**BCP 80**

**Officiant:** Lord open our lips.

**People:** And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Officiant and People:**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

Officiant: Our King and Savior now draws near.

**Response: Come let us adore him.**

**Jubilate**    *Psalm 100*

**BCP 82**

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*

**serve the Lord with gladness**

**and come before his presence with a song**

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*

**he himself has made us, and we are his;**

**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise; \*

**give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting; \*

**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

## The Lessons

### A Reading From Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

### Psalm: The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)

Read By Half Verse

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*

**he has come to his people and set them free.**

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*

**born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*

**from the hands of all who hate us.**

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*

**and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

Free to worship him without fear, \*

**holy and righteous in his sight**

**all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

To give his people knowledge of salvation \*

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God \*

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death, \*

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## **Epistle**

### **A Reading from Philippians 1:3-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### **GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**

### **The Apostles Creed**

**Officiant & People Together, Standing**

**BCP 96**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OFFERTORY**

**Offertory Hymn # 75      There's a Voice In The Wilderness Crying**

**Doxology**

**The Prayers of the People Form III**  
**Standing or kneeling**

**BCP 387**

Officiant: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**Response:** *That we all may be one.*

Officiant: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**Response:** *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Officiant: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**Response:** *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

Officiant: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world:

**Response:** *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Officiant: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**Response:** *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Officiant: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**Response:** *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Officiant: Give to the departed eternal rest; especially for Matthew.

**Response:** *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Officiant: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy:

**Response:** *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

**Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. (silence)**

**Especially for:** Sandy, Suzanne, Joan, Ron, Blaize, Shannon, Sarah, Norma, Kelly, Albert, Bruce, Lou, Heath, Alan, Franco, Maria, Graham, Stephen, Mary, John, Judi, Larry, Stephen, Ray, Chris and Ken.

**ECCT CYCLE OF PRAYER:** With the Episcopal Church of Connecticut, today we pray for:

**St. Thomas', Bethel; Christ Church, Bethlehem; Old St. Andrew's, Bloomfield**

**ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:** Together with the Anglican Communion throughout the world, today we pray for:

**Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jennifer Gormley.

**VIGIL LIGHT:** The Vigil Light burns this week with prayers and in memory for all those that perished at Pearl Harbor.

### **Suffrages**

**Officiant says V, People say R**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**R. Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

**R. Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen*

## **The Collect of the Day**

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.

## **The General Thanksgiving**

**Officiant and People (Read in Unison)**

**BCP 101**

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

## **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

**BCP 102**

Officiant: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen



## **Dismissal**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Hymn # 76                      On Jordan's Bank  
V. 1-3-5**

**Postlude: "Allegretto" ... based on an old Bohemian Christmas Carol ..... Henry Kihlken**

## **WHAT'S NEW AT CCEN?**

We still need donations for our Angel Food Pantry. Looking in particular for hygiene products such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and still need the typical non perishable food items, such as cereal, rice, evaporated milk, pasta, sauce, peanut butter and jelly, canned fruit and vegetables and tuna, etc. We have been supplying people in need that have contacted us and appreciate all your donations which allows us to help the community. If you know of someone in need, please contact Lisa Helwig in the church office at 203-866-7442 or at [secretaryccen@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryccen@gmail.com)

## **From the Altar Guild:**

Please let us know if you would like to contribute to the altar flowers for Christmas and be sure to include your message for the bulletin. We rely on your donations to decorate our church for the holidays. You can email Lisa at [secretaryccen@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryccen@gmail.com) with your message or fill out a form in the front of the church. Thank you.

## **BOOK BUNCH:**

The December selection is A Redbird Christmas by Fannie Flagg and we are meeting on December 18. The January selection will be One Perfect Couple by Ruth Ware and we will meet on January 22.

## **AUTUMN LAKE DONATIONS:**

Women's Group and the parish as a whole wish to help the residents of Autumn Lakes have a joyous holiday season! As we have in the past, this year we may also be able to assist them through the generosity of our parish! On their wish list this year is the following items, many relatively inexpensive, so everyone should be able to help in this mission. Please be as generous as it possible for you and your family during this holiday season. Last day to bring your donations is Sunday, December 8th. Items requested:

**Word Search Books**

**Playing cards**

**Scarves/Hats**

**Blanket Throws**

**Hairbrushes**

**Hair accessories for ladies**

**Lipstick**

**Pocket tissues (kleenex)- individual packages**

## **THE CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FAMILY WELCOMES YOU!**

2 Emerson Street, East Norwalk, Connecticut 06855

203.866.7442

[www.christepiscopalnorwalkct.org](http://www.christepiscopalnorwalkct.org)

### **Vestry**

**Liz Conti Senior Warden, Ruth Lovallo Junior Warden**

**Debbie Ross Treasurer. George Helwig Clerk of the Vestry**

**Barbara Judson Vestry Member, Julie Chelminski Vestry Member, Matt McKinney Vestry Member**

**Organist: Betty Belcher**

### **What is the mission of the Church?**

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. *Book of Common Prayer, Page 855*

