

The First Sunday of Advent



**November 28, 2021
St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

THE EPISCOPAL PARISH OF ALTON
The First Sunday of Advent
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Welcome to the Episcopal Parish of Alton! We are glad to have you worship with us today. All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Bread and Wine of Holy Communion or to simply come forward for a blessing. Please introduce yourself to the priest or one of the greeters, and join us for the coffee hour following worship.

11 a.m. ST. PAUL'S The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Prelude *Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme* J.S. Bach

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn #61 *Sleepers Wake! A voice astounds us* 1982 Hymnal
Sung by choir

Celebrant: Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

Collect for Purity BCP p. 355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts 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.

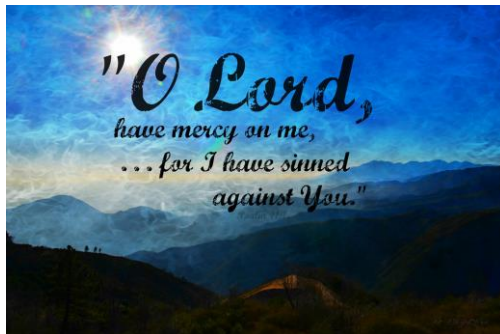
Amen

Lord have mercy upon us: Kyrie

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.



The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Reader: The Word of the Lord *People: Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 25:1-9 *Said responsively by half-verse*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O LORD,* *and teach me your paths.*

Lead me in your truth and teach me,*
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,* *for they are from everlasting.*

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;*

remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

Gracious and upright is the LORD;* *therefore he teaches sinners in his way.*

He guides the humble in doing right* *and teaches his way to the lowly.*

All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness*

to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn # 72

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes

1982 Hymnal

Sung by choir

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

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

The Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

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.*

Prayers of the People

*The People respond to the petitions by praying, **Lord, have mercy.***

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Cindy, our priest, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For those in positions of public trust especially for Joseph our President, J.B. our governor, the Congress, Legislatures and the Courts that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord have mercy.***

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; especially for Mary Lynn, Larry, Robert, Al, Ruth, Anne, Cheryl, Richard, Marie, Myrnelle, Mother Jane, Barb, Frank, Sarah, John, Boyd, and for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, especially Dorothy and Tina, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. Paul and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds the following

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 360

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

Silence is kept to allow for individual confessions to God.

Minister and People

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.

Absolution

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 Peace

BCP p. 360

Welcome and Announcements

OffertorySolo: Byron Sever, *O come, O come Immanuel* N. Sleeth, arr. G. Anderson

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

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 him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds. The People respond with the lines in bold italics.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

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 St. Paul and 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 pray,

The Lord's Prayer

Said in unison

*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 Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Anthem

Veni, veni Emmanuel

arr. J. Behnke & H. Hopson

Prayer after Communion

BCP p. 365

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

*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.*

Blessing

Hymn # 59

*Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding
Sung by choir*

1982 Hymnal

Dismissal

BCP p. 366

Postlude

Festal Fanfare (from 4th concerto)

J. S. Bach

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant: Rev. Cindy Sever+
Organist: G Anderson
Acolyte: Diane Martin
Lector: Elizabeth Foley
Intercessor: Dereck Cook

NEXT WEEK

Rev. Cindy Sever+
G Anderson
Diane Martin
Dereck Cook
Mimi Almonroeder

Calendar & Announcements for the Week of November 28, 2018

Sunday, Nov. 28 9 a.m. Mass at Trinity Chapel
 11 a.m. Mass at Trinity Chapel

Monday, Nov. 29 Mondays@7 at Trinity Chapel

Wednesday, Nov. 30 7 p.m. Wednesday Discussion Group via ZOOM

Sunday, Dec. 5 9 a.m. Mass at Trinity Chapel
 11 a.m. Mass at Trinity Chapel
 2 p.m. PAWS at Trinity

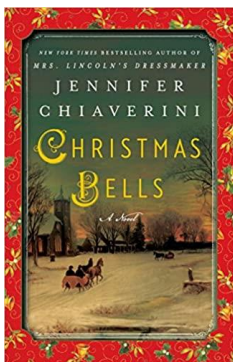
PAWS 

Pets are Welcome Service

God joyfully, promote animal welfare, and to build a new congregation within our parish.

PAWS services with a reception are held on the first Sunday of every month at 2 PM. Please invite every animal lover you know to attend with his or her best furry friend. Our goal is to worship

Book Club Happenings



December Book Club- Christmas Bells: A Novel Paperback
by Jennifer Chiaverini

New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Chiaverini celebrates Christmas, past and present, with a wondrous novel inspired by the classic poem “Christmas Bells,” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. *I heard the bells on Christmas Day / Their old familiar carols play / And wild and sweet / The words repeat / Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*