



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

~ where everyone is welcome ~

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

10:30 A.M. Eucharist, Rite Two

Peace

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”*

John 14:27

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Introduction: Week Two

The first candle we lit was to help us remember that we always need to watch for Christ’s coming. Just as the people down through the centuries watched and waited for the first coming of Christ, we also are to watch and wait for His second coming. The candle we will light today will remind that we are to turn from our sin - for Christ is coming.

Readers Week Two

Now as we light the second candle, it will help us to remember that we always need to be spiritually prepared for Christ’s coming. Just as the people prepared spiritually for the first coming of Christ, we also must prepare spiritually for His second coming. In Mark 1:4-8 we find these words written:

John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed in camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Let us Pray: Father of lights, today we continue to prepare for the coming of your Son. May the lighting of this candle remind us that we must prepare spiritually. Let us reflect your life in all that we say and do. Give us strength to repent of our ways, rid us of angry thoughts, bitter words, selfishness and anything that distracts us from Your light. And may our hearts be prepared at your coming. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING SONG - Father of Lights

*Father of lights
You delight in Your children
Father of lights
You delight in Your children

Every good and perfect gift
Comes from You
Every good and perfect gift
Comes from You
Every good and perfect gift
Comes from You
Father of lights*

*Father of lights
You never change
You have no turning
Father of lights
You never change
You have no turning*

WELCOME AND ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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.**

KYRIE ELEISON (Chris Tomlin)

**1. Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Hear our cry and heal our land
Let kindness lead us to repentance
Bring us back again**

**2. Who is this God who pardons all our sin
So ready to forgive
You delight to show your mercy (Repeat)**

CHORUS:

**For your name is great and your heart is grace
Kyrie Eleison
Over all you reign you alone can save
Kyrie Eleison
Lord have mercy Christ have mercy on us now**

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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 LESSONS

A READING FROM THE PROPHET MALACHI

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 16 – THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH: Luke 1:68-79

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.

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.

A READING FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE SONG - I Hear a Sound

*I hear a sound coming from the mountain
 I hear it louder each day
 I hear a sound coming from the mountain
 And it says prepare ye the way*

*I see the King standing on the mountain
 I see Him clearer each day
 I see the King standing on the mountain
 And He says prepare ye the way*

CHORUS:
**Prepare ye the way
 Prepare ye the way
 Prepare ye the way
 Of the Lord**

*I feel God's love flowing from the mountain
 I feel it stronger each day
 I feel God's love flowing from the mountain
 And he says, "Prepare ye the way"*

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 Ituraea 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON - Fr. Ralph

SERMON RESPONSE

THE NICENE CREED (*standing*)

BCP 358

***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.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we keep awake for the coming of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who prepares a light for our path.

For the coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the coming of Wisdom to teach and guide us.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the coming of Emmanuel, the hope of all people.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.

Hear us, Lord.

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place.

Hear us, Lord.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai, and Héctor, our Bishops; Ralph, our Priest; Nancy, our Deacon, and for all the holy people of God.

Hear us, Lord.

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.

Hear us, Lord.

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth.

Hear us, Lord.

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, and for those we name now, either silently or aloud.

Hear us, Lord.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially _____.

(You may offer prayers either silently or aloud)

In your mercy.

Hear us, Lord.

For those who rest in Christ, especially _____. In your mercy.

Hear us, Lord.

For our deliverance from all afflictions, strife, and need.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

Joining our voices with the blessed Virgin Mary and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

CONFESSION OF SIN

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.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all our 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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

THE 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.

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 him 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. [*Proper Preface is added*]

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;

HYMN # S-125

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest. 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.

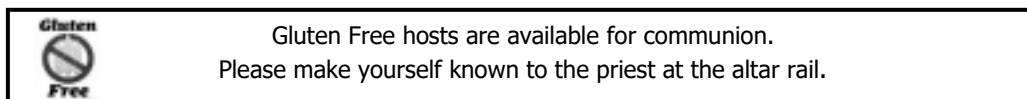
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

***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 forever. Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



*If you have a special prayer need, step into the side chapel after you receive communion,
and a member of the Prayer Team will pray with you.*

COMMUNION SONG 1 - Prepare the Way

***Prepare the way (2X)
Prepare the way of the Lord
Jesus
You are the light of the world (3X)
Jesus
You are the King of the earth (3X)
Jesus***

COMMUNION SONG 2 - Hear Us From Heaven

1. Lord hear our cry
Come heal our land
Breathe life into these dry and thirsty souls
Lord hear our prayer
Forgive our sin
And as we call on Your name
Would You make this a place for Your glory to dwell
2. Lord hear our cry
Your children worship
As we sing out Your praise
Would You make this a place
For Your glory to dwell

Chorus:
Open the blind eyes
Unlock the deaf ears
Come to Your people
As we draw near
Hear us from heaven
Touch our generation
We are Your people
Crying out in desperation

Hear us from heaven
Hear us from heaven

COMMUNION SONG 3 - He is Able

*He is able more than able
To accomplish what concerns me today
He is able more than able
To handle anything that comes my way
He is able more than able
To do much more than I could ever dream
He is able more than able
To make me what
He wants me to be*

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.

BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** (these words may differ from time to time)

CLOSING SONG - Days of Elijah

- 1. These are the days of Elijah declaring the Word of the Lord
And these are the days of Your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored
And though these are days of great trials
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice in the desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord**
- 2. And these are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of Your servant David
Rebuilding the temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are white in the world
And we are Your laborers in Your vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord**

CHORUS:

**Behold He comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call
So lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes**

BRIDGE:

**There's no god like Jehovah
There's no god like Jehovah
There's no god like Jehovah
There's no god like Jehovah**

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. (these words may differ from time to time)
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Susan and Jim Grotte in thanksgiving for Joshua's Birthday

Please Sign Up To Donate Altar Flowers

Enhance Our Worship + Thank God + Remember A Loved One

The notebook to sign up for flower offerings for **December** is in the Parish Hall.
Please stop by and sign up or contact the church office. The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.

Flower offerings for 2025 will be done **online** at calvaryrichmond.org under
giving/altar flowers or use the QR code found inside of the announcement insert

Calvary Worship Service Times

8:00 AM Sunday – Traditional Service

10:30 AM Sunday – Contemporary Service

5:00 PM Sunday – Sunday Night Alive Informal Service

Calvary Staff

The Rev. Ralph B. Morgan, Rector

The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, Deacon

John Brun, Parish Administrator

Anne Scarborough, Newcomer Coordinator

William Soller, Communications/Children's Minister

Suzette Hillis, Administrative Assistant

Kathy Haley, Finance Administrator

Sterling Overshown, Organist/Choir Director

Will Mason, POGS Worship Coordinator

Ross Elkins, SNL Worship Leader

Jose Portillo, Campus Operations

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND NEED TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE, PLEASE CONTACT:

The Rev. Nancy Wilkes

or

The Rev. Ralph Morgan

713-818-6323

281-797-5246

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rmorgan@ces-richmond.org

CALVARY STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

2024 Pledged: \$555,925

2024 Given: \$504,248