



SECOND SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

December 6, 2020

***St. Andrew's Episcopal Church***  
*Centered in God, Focused on Others*  
17 Church Street, Hanover, MA 02339  
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Good Morning and Welcome to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church here in Hanover! We are glad you are with joining us online this morning. We pray that worshipping with us will give you a sense of fellowship with Christ and with us as God's people. If you would like more information about St. Andrew's, please email [office@standrewshanover.org](mailto:office@standrewshanover.org)

Prelude

## THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn #65

*Prepare the way, O Zion (Bereden väg för Herran)*



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -  
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
 on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.  
 Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP p. 211

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

First Reading: **Isaiah 40:1-11***A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah*

“Comfort, O comfort my people,”  
 says your God.  
 “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
 and cry to her  
 that she has served her term,  
 that her penalty is paid,  
 that she has received from the LORD’s hand  
 double for all her sins.”

The people respond with the words in ***bold italics.***

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”  
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm: **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13** (*read responsively by whole verse*)

You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

***You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.***

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

***Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.***

Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

***Truth shall spring up from the earth, \****  
***and righteousness shall look down from heaven.***

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.

***Righteousness shall go before him, \****  
***and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.***

Second Reading: **2 Peter 3:8-15a**

*A Reading from the Second letter of Peter*

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia Gospel Acclamation (Mxadana)*

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The words "Al - le - lu - ia" are repeated four times. The first two instances are in a regular font, and the last two are in bold italics. The music is a simple harmonic accompaniment for the lyrics.

The people respond with the words in ***bold italics.***



Setting: South African, arr. Gobingca Mxadana © Gobingca Mxadana.  
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**Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.*

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Gospel Acclamation (Repeat)

SERMON

The Reverend Kevin Holland Sparrow

THE NICENE CREED

BCP p. 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.***

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The voice of God cries out in the wilderness, calling us to a transformed way of living. Let us respond to this invitation through the offering of our prayers, responding to each petition by saying, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

Come with your promise to bring a new heaven and a new earth to your people, saving us from the fires of sin and despair, and offering to us the solemn gifts of grace and salvation; for this we pray.  
***Come, Lord Jesus.***

Come into the hearts of your people, that we may turn from our selfish consumption of fossil fuels, our waste of food and clothing, our recklessness with money, and our carelessness with the gifts of your Creation; for this we pray.  
***Come, Lord Jesus.***

Come into the body of the Church and make us a baptizing community, that multitudes may hear your message of repentance and hope, and receive your free gift of eternal love; for this we pray.  
***Come, Lord Jesus.***

Come to young people everywhere, that they may have a desire to study your commandments and to exercise ministry in the world outside the Church; for this we pray.  
***Come, Lord Jesus.***

Come to Michael our Presiding Bishop, Alan and Gayle our bishops, Charlie, the Governor of the Commonwealth, Donald, President of the United States and Joseph, President-elect, and to all who exercise offices of authority; that wisdom may be their guide, and the true love of their people direct their decisions; for this we pray.  
***Come, Lord Jesus.***

The people respond with the words in ***bold italics***.

Come, Lord Jesus, dwell in our hearts, as we offer our prayers for those on our parish prayer list, especially, MaryAlice, Jackie, Harold & Joan, the Sprows family, and all those we name now, either silently or aloud, that they may be healed and delivered from their distress; for this we pray.

***Come, Lord Jesus.***

Come to those whom we love but see no more, especially Bill Sprows and those we name now, either silently or aloud, and gather them into your heavenly rest; for this we pray.

***Come, Lord Jesus.***

Come, Lord Jesus, and guide and support those on our diocesan cycle of prayer: St. Paul's Church, Bedford; All Saints' Church, Belmont; St. Mark's Church, Burlington; and the Officers of the Diocese; for this we pray.

***Come, Lord Jesus.***

Grant, Almighty God, that your church may be so inspired by the example of your servant Nicholas of Myra, that it may never cease to work for the welfare of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP p. 360

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.***

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



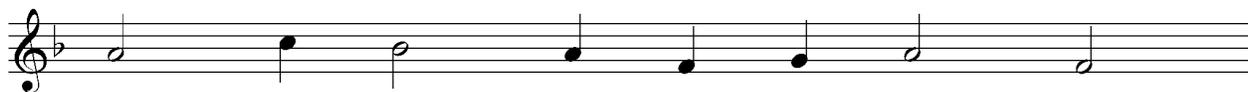
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -  
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
 let the val - leys rise to meet him  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
 and the hills bow down to greet him.  
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP p. 367

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them to the Lord.***

The people respond with the words in ***bold italics***.

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.

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:

Sanctus S125

*Holy, holy, holy* (Proulx)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Andrew, 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 say,

***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,  
forever and ever. Amen.***

### *The Breaking of the Bread*

#### Fraction Anthem

*Gently* (♩ = ca. 52)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line, with a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Gently' with a note equal to approximately 52 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The lyrics are: 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have'. The word 'sins' is followed by a long horizontal line, indicating a sustained note. The word 'have' is followed by a vertical line and the numbers '1, 2', indicating a first and second ending. The melody is simple and hymn-like.

*Advent Lamb of God* (Keil)

The people respond with the words in ***bold italics***.

mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

Final *rit. e dim. pp*

world, grant us peace, grant us peace. *rit. e dim. pp*

Music: Adapt. by Kevin Keil (ASCAP), b. 1956, © 1993, 2012, Cooperative Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Exclusive agent: OCP.

#### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*For those not able to receive the Blessed Sacrament this morning, I invite you to join with me in this prayer for a spiritual Communion.*

In union, Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day. I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by our life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. **Amen.**

#### *The Gifts of God for the People of God*

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP p. 365

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

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. ***Amen.***

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. ***Amen.***

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. ***Amen.***

And the blessing of God Almighty, who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains us, be upon you and remain with you for ever. ***Amen.***

## DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## Postlude

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This service has been conducted in accordance with the diocesan guidelines for worship with careful attention to social distancing. We look forward to the time when we all can come together for worship.

A special thank you this morning to our Schola for participating in today's service.

**PRAYER LIST** - If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List, please email or call the office. Please remember to keep these people in your daily prayers:

Carroll & Sue, Claire & Don, Tracey, Zack, Nancy, Bev, Beth, Steven, Susan, Hawk & Matthew, Karen, Erin Kate, Leah, Sophia, James & Judith, Lula Mae, Pam, AJ, Paul, Florence, Jamie, Janet M., Gayle, Jennifer, Tim, Katrina, Boppy, Delores, Jay, Ben, the Brennan Family, Sarah, Julie, Jackson, Eileen & Larry, Gerry, Michele, Jenn & family, Ken & Barbie, Gary, Phyllis, Meredith, the Howe family, Fr. Kevin, Frank, Jessica, Susan, Joan, Christine, Nancy, Bob, Heather, Janet G., Mark, Jerry, MaryAlice Jackie, Harold & Joan, and the Sprows family.

The people respond with the words in ***bold italics.***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**STEWARDSHIP:** Thank you to everyone who has already mailed in their pledge card for our 2021 Stewardship Campaign, *Faith Filled Generosity*. If you have not received a pledge card in the mail, please call or email the office and one will be sent to you. If you have any questions, please just let us know. Thank you!

**CITY REACH:** Thank you to everyone who donated clothing, dignity cards, and money to this year's City Reach event. The team from Church Hill UMC will be bringing up all the donations today.