



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1676 SOUTH BELCHER ROAD
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33764-6517
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The First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024
9:00 am

Announcements

Prelude: "Pastorale on 'Wachet Auf'"

Wayne Wold

(Advent wreath candles are lighted during the Prelude)

Processional Hymn: 56 "O come, O come, Emmanuel" (Vs. 1-4)

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

THE WORD OF GOD

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.**

Trisagion: S102

Alexander Archangelsky

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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.

The First Lesson: 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."

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

1 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.

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

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

4 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.

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

6 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.

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

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

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Second Lesson: 1 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.

The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: 61 "Sleepers, wake! A voice astounds us" Wachtet auf

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 21:25-36

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Denise Guinta

Nicene Creed (Stand)

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 worshipped 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 Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; for the Diocese of Southwest Florida, especially Church of the Epiphany, Cape Coral; Iona-Hope, Fort Myers; Lamb of God, Fort Myers; St. Hilary's, Fort Myers; St. Luke's, Fort Myers; St. Raphael's, Fort Myers Beach; Good Shepherd, LaBelle; St. Anselm's, Lehigh Acres; All Souls', North Fort Myers; St. Michael and All Angels, Sanibel, and St. John's, Pine Island; for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and their pastor Anne, and for the dioceses and provinces of the Anglican Communion, especially Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan;

That we all may be one.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; We pray for Joe, our president, Donald our President elect and Ron, our governor, and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Douglas our Bishop; for Denise, Hugh and Jim, our priests and Kevin our Deacon and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For those who are celebrating birthdays this month, especially Rich Super, Charles McAllister, Molly Sperandio, Ron Joy, Dan Pons, Jackie Smith, Matile Hendry, Suzanne Weaver, Michael Turcotte, Judy Charmatz, and Carol Braga; for those who are celebrating wedding anniversaries this month especially Jim May and Brian Demers;

Strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Especially those listed in our bulletin.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

in your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory: (*The people may sit*)

Offertory Hymn: 66 “Come, thou long expected Jesus” **Stuttgart**

Presentation of Gifts (*Please stand as the gifts are brought forward*)

Doxology: 380 (vs. 3 with “Amen”) **Old 100th**

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B (Stand)

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 our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: 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:

S124 “Holy, holy, holy”

David Hurd

Celebrant: 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. John 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**

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Celebrant and People: **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: Alleluia ! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia !**

S161- Lamb of God

David Hurd

The Communion

All Baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion.

Please stand or kneel at the rail.

The priest will place the Sacrament in your outstretched hands.

Communion Hymn: 454 “Jesus came, adored by angels” **Lowry**

Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors (*as needed*)

Following the communion of the people, the Lay Eucharistic Ministers come forward and are commended for this ministry with the following words:

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ’s body and blood.

Celebrant: We who are many are one body,

People: **Because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

The Dismissal: **Response: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Closing Hymn: 59 "Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding" Merton

Postlude: "Prepare the Royal Highway" David Cherwien

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Welcome Visitors!

Please sign the guest book at the welcoming stand where information is available.

Visit our Website: <https://stjohnsclearwater.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St.JohnsClearwater/>

Join us for coffee and fellowship in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.

Announcements

Pray for the sick: James Bernard, Gerry Boone, Michelle Boone, Barbara Bowdoin, Sally Brown, Bruce Cates, The Most. Rev. Michael B. Curry, Ann D'Alessandro, Kristy Foltz, Nan Lanham, Kimberly McMillan, John Piatak, The Rev. George Razee, Eric Rummler, Nancy Sawyer, Amy Sheilds, Deborah Smith, Kitty Smith, Chrissy Stroup, Sandy Walton, and Bonnie Zwigaitis.

Pray for the homebound: Elin Buchanan, Shirley Dunaway, Thelma Lipp, and Margarita Lopez.

The Altar Guild is in need of a person or two who would be willing to launder the altar linens weekly. It's not a big job, but it does involve washing and ironing as well as sometimes removing stains. Instructions will be given. For more information, contact Jan Davis or Carla Wilson.

Pack-a-Sack is a program that provides food for weekends for children who have been identified by school counselors as food insecure. If you would like to sponsor a child for one month- \$25, or for one year \$225,

please mark your gift for Pack a Sack. For more information or to assist with the packing, contact Caroline Barnett.

Tuesday Grief Forum: The Fall Grief Forum is now full. Please reach out to Becca Bass for information on the next group. Email Rebecca at: rebeccajbass@gmail.com

St. Paul's Wednesday Contemplative Services: The Contemplative Worship Services are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in St. John's church sanctuary at 7:15pm.

Prayer Chapel: The Chapel is open for anyone wishing individual prayer. Everyone is welcome to go to the Chapel after communion to receive prayer with a member of The Daughters of the King. Prayer requests are held in strict confidence.

Thrift Shop Volunteers Needed! The Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers to work the front desk. There are two shifts – Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm or 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Please contact Caroline Barnett if you are interested. (727) 459-3650.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – 10 am in the Parish Hall:
See Bob Courdway if you have any questions.

Episcopal Migration Ministries: Those who want to financially support these efforts can donate online (link is in the enews).

Deadline for submission of articles for the bulletin is Tuesday, 3pm for the following Sunday bulletin.

To make a donation to St. John's, via Faithstreet, scan the QR code below:



Dates for your calendar

Saturday, December 14, 9:00 am - Greening of the Church – come join in decorating the church for Christmas!

Sunday, December 22 – “Poinsettia Sunday” – If you have a poinsettia plant and would like to donate it for the altar, please bring it to the service. All plants will be placed around the altar area.

December 24, 4:00 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Family service with music.

Weekly Schedule

Thrift Shop Hours - Tue., Thu., Sat., 9:30am – 3:30pm

Hand Bell Choir – Tuesdays - Church Sanctuary – 6pm

Voice Choir - Tuesdays - Choir Room – 7pm

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – Parish Hall - Wednesday 10 am

Men's Cursillo Grouping - Parish Hall - Thursday 7:30 am

Rug Hookers – Parish Hall - Thursdays 10 am



**Diocese of Southwest Florida
The Rt. Rev. Douglas Scharf, Bishop**

St. John's Mission Statement:

To love, to serve, to grow in Christ

Church Staff

Interim Priest In Charge
Deacon
Office Administrator
Music Director
Sexton
Children's Ministry

The Rev. Denise Guinta
The Rev. Kevin Mort
Jan Davis
Jim May
Bob Cates
Mary Anders

Vestry

Marlene Eichelberger
Marti Moore
Bob Courdway
Gina Flanigan
Jessi Griffin
Sallie Devine
Bonnie Lovell

Sr. Warden
Jr. Warden
Treasurer
Stewardship
Clerk & Communications
Outreach
Parish Life