

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church
in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Second Sunday in Advent



December 4th 2022

The Gathering of God's People

The Season of Advent takes its name from the Latin word adventus, meaning "coming" or "visit." Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. For Christians Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year. During Advent we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of our Jewish ancestors for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation, and new beginning.

Prelude.....Mary Mims, Organist

Processional.....#75 There's a voice in the wilderness

The Invitatory and Psalter

All standing, the Presider says

Presider: Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One. *Baruch 5:5*
Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. *Isaiah 45:8, NRSV*

A prolonged silence is kept.

Song of Praise.....You are the peace (p. 14)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Presider: May Christ, the One whose coming we await, fill our homes and hearts with joyful anticipation as we journey to the manger. **Amen.**

Presider: Each week we light an Advent candle as a symbol of our journey. With its light comes our prayers and our stories.

Advent Week 2:

The candle of this second week of Advent is a candle of PEACE. Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the peace that Jesus brings into this world and his presence with us. Jesus said "I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give. It isn't like the peace that this world can give. So don't be worried or afraid."

Once the candle is lit, the Presider continues

Presider: You called the patriarchs and matriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfillment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Presider: Holy God, we have fallen short in loving you and loving our neighbors; we stand beside each other and ask for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence is kept for a time.

Presider: Most Holy God, in the midst of this season of expectation and new life, we confess:

People: We have resisted the light of your love; we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and we have not treasured the gifts of others around us. Holy Trinity, make us holy. Holy God, make us whole. Amen.

The Presider offers assurance of God's forgiveness.

Presider: May the Trinity of Love bring you back to God and forgive you all your sins; be assured of God's eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

All stand.

Presider: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

The Presider and People say:

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. Alleluia.

Psalm 63:1-8

Deus, Deus meus

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.

For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

The Psalm of Response

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Deus, iudicium

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no
more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat
straw like the
ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle H

A Song of Hosea

Hosea 6:1-3

Come, let us return to our God, *
who has torn us and will heal us.

God has struck us and will bind up our wounds, *
after two days revive us,

On the third day restore us, *
that in God's presence we may live.

Let us humble ourselves, let us strive to know the Lord, *
whose justice dawns like morning light,
its dawning as sure as the sunrise.

God's justice will come to us like a shower, *
like spring rains that water the earth.

The Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle R A Song of True Motherhood

Julian of Norwich

God chose to be our mother in all things *
and so made the foundation of his work,
most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.

God, the perfect wisdom of all, *
arrayed himself in this humble place.

Christ came in our poor flesh *
to share a mother's care.

Our mothers bear us for pain and for death; *
our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.

Christ carried us within him in love and travail, *
until the full time of his passion.

And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy, *
still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.

All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God, *
for the love of Christ works in us;

Christ is the one whom we love

The People stand for the Hymn.

The Sequence Hymn.....#67 Comfort, comfort ye my people

Third Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from

the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Presider: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Rev. Edie Bird

The Advent Creed

Our Advent Creed seeks to affirm our trust in God found in Jesus Christ.

Presider: Let us stand and affirm our hope in the light of Christ.
Do you believe and trust in God?

People: **We believe in God, eternal, almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Deacon: Do you believe and trust in Jesus the Christ?

People: **We believe in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of all, the Only Begotten One; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, lived and loved among us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; who descended to the dead, and on the third day rose again; Jesus, Our Savior, ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the loving God, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Deacon: Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

People: **We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and life everlasting. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Presider then continues

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

All: **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 Prayers of the People: Advent

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined." In this season of anticipation and hope, let us be seekers of the light and peddlers of hope found in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Leader: O God whose Messiah's coming we await, keep us awake and alert to watch for the signs of your coming. As the fig tree puts forth its leaves and the portents of the new day dawns, keep us awake and alert for the second advent of Christ our Savior.

Reader: Keep us awake and alert to our humble calling to be the church of Christ in the world. Empower all bishops, priests and deacons to proclaim justice and truth as they care for your holy people especially Michael our Presiding Bishop, Deon our bishop, N. our clergy. Christ our hope;

***People:* Shine in our hearts.**

Reader: Keep us awake and alert to the needs and wants of the nations of the world. Enlighten the leaders of the nations (especially ...) to attend to the needs of the lowest and the least, the last and the left-out, that justice and peace may be our strength and equity our common good.

Christ our hope;

***People:* Shine in our hearts.**

Reader: Keep us awake and alert to the needs of the sick and suffering. Embolden our love that we may care with compassion for those in need, especially (___), are there others?

Silence is kept for a time.

Give them to know of the healing care of Jesus.

People: Christ our hope;
Shine in our hearts.

Reader: Keep us awake and alert to the needs of friends and strangers. Energize this community of faith to reach out with compassion to transform our neighborhoods and communities to reflect the beloved community of peace.

People: Christ our hope;
Shine in our hearts.

Reader: Keep us awake and alert to the shortness of our time. Enfold those who have ended their course on earth and have joined the martyrs and saints in the region of light. May we, in our own time, come to the joys of your eternal reign.

People: Christ our hope;
Shine in our hearts.

Reader: Keep us awake and alert to... (Petitions for thanksgivings, creation, stewardship, local concerns, etc. may be added here.)

People: Christ our hope;
Shine in our hearts.

Presider: Shine forth O God of Hosts, encourage, embolden and energize your people to keep awake and alert to the coming of Jesus the Christ, that he, at his second Advent, may find us ready to greet him and eager to serve those in need; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Presider: God is with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: 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.**

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory.....Comfort ye my people; Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
Tyler Helm, tenor

Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

People: 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

Presider: 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.**

Then may be said

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

Stand for the hymn and dismissal.

Recessional Hymn.....#544 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

Dismissal

The Officiant may then conclude with one of the following

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Presider: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*

Presider: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

Postlude.....Mary Mims, Organist

This Service's Servers

<i>Presider</i>	Kent Miller
<i>Preacher</i>	Rev. Edie Bird
<i>Reader</i>	Toni Alexander
<i>Greeter</i>	Monica Waldon
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Mary Alice Regenhardt
<i>St. Isidore's Guild</i>	Bruce Mims
<i>Vestry Counter</i>	Julie Wittenborn Sikorski
<i>Organist</i>	Mary Mims

Upcoming Sunday Servers

	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Dec. 24	Jan. 1
Presider	Rev. Annette Joseph	Carl Muench	Rev. Annette Joseph	Tyler Helm
Eucharistic Minister	Bob Lowe		Toni Alexander	
Preacher	Rev. Annette Joseph	Tyler Helm	Rev. Annette Joseph	Rev. Edie Bird
Verger	Chris Masters		Chris Masters	
Reader	Shiela Thiele	Sue Balsamo	Richard Joseph	Brooke Clubbs
Greeter	Shiela and Jude Thiele	Gloria Miller	Judi Naeter	Bob Lowe
Altar Guild	Monica Waldon	All Members	Deb Brewer	TBD
St. Isidore's Guild	Toni Alexander	Gina Mills	Bob Lowe	Toni Alexander
Vestry Counter	Cheryl Essner	Cheryl Essner	All Members	Cheryl Essner
Organist	Matt Palisch	Matt Palisch	Matt Palisch	TBD

You are the peace

(♩ = 88)

The musical score is written in a single treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 88. The lyrics are: "You are the peace of all things calm, You are the place to hide from harm, You are the light that shines in dark, You are the heart's e-ter-nal spark, You are the door that's o - pen wide, You are the guest who waits in - side, You are the strang-er at the door, You are the call - ing of the poor, You are the light, the truth, the way, You are my Sa - vior this ver - y day."

"St. Flavian" Sanctus

The musical score is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, O God of power and ly O bless - ed is the one who comes, We sing of his ho - ly might, All heav'n and earth sing out your name, Ho - san - na Lord of Light, name, Ho - san - na, Je - sus Christ the Lord, For - ev - er shall He reign!"

Notes on the Service

Second Sunday in Advent

Isa 11:1-10 • Ps 72:1-7,18-19 • Rom 15:4-13 • Mtt 3:1-12

The collect asks the One who sent messengers, such Isaiah and John the Baptist, to make us heed their message. This collect is from the 1662 Prayer Book by way of a revision by the Church of South India.

Like the Isaiah passage read on Christmas Eve (“the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...”), today’s looks for an idealized king, a descendant of King David, the son of Jesse. Upon this wise king will rest the Spirit of God. Isaiah’s list of the Spirit’s six gifts was expand-d to seven gifts by Greek translators of the original, hence the traditional sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit. Also from Isaiah’s vision comes the often-painted picture of the Peaceable Kingdom, Eden revived.

“Him shall the nations seek, and his dwelling shall be glorious,” closes the Isaiah reading. Taking up Isaiah’s vision of the perfect king, Psalm 72 says his unending rule will stretch “from sea to sea,” and will be characterized by justice, prosperity, and righteousness. Furthermore, v. 11: “All kings shall bow down before him; and all the nations do him service,” a prediction that Paul will argue in today’s epistle, was fulfilled in Christ’s welcoming Gentiles into his kingdom. At that king’s accession, peace will be established “from the River [Euphrates] to the earth’s end,” a promise still longed for. Because of its reference to Gentile kings bringing gifts, the entire Psalm 72 will be sung at the Epiphany.

When Paul says “the Scriptures” he means the Hebrew Bible, what we call the Old Testament. In today’s epistle Paul cites today’s Isaiah reading and Deuteronomy and two psalms (not Ps 72, but ones with similar verses), to support his argument that Christ came to keep God’s intention that Gentiles be included in the Covenant. Writing to a partly-Gentile audience, Paul prays that by the Spirit they may “abound in hope” on this account.

Isaiah and psalmists were messengers. The preeminent messenger was John the Baptist, who had nothing but bad to say about his king, Herod Antipas. Gospels for the second and third Sundays of Advent feature John. Coming out of the harsh region where Israelite religion began and costumed like an antique seer, John cites Isaiah to warn Jewish leaders that their reliance on their Abrahamic pedigrees is insufficient. Although he does not mention Gentiles, John’s critique of official Judaism could clear ground for Paul’s later advocacy of Gentiles’ inclusion. As Paul will later argue, John here argues that repentance is the necessary requisite for entry into the kingdom of the One who baptizes with the Spirit, the One who is himself anointed by the Spirit, as John is about to see when he baptizes Jesus.

Rev. Stephen Weissman
Asheville, North Carolina

Thank you for visiting Christ Episcopal Church!

Who are We?

We are a community, forgiven and loved by God, joyfully called to the work of reconciliation.

Known throughout Cape Girardeau as "the Red Door Church" by those we serve, our mission is to share God's love and grace.

When are our Services?

Services are held 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. on Sundays and Evening Prayer is from 5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. on Wednesdays.

We are hosting a Bible study group before service at 9:00 A.M. on Sundays as well.

