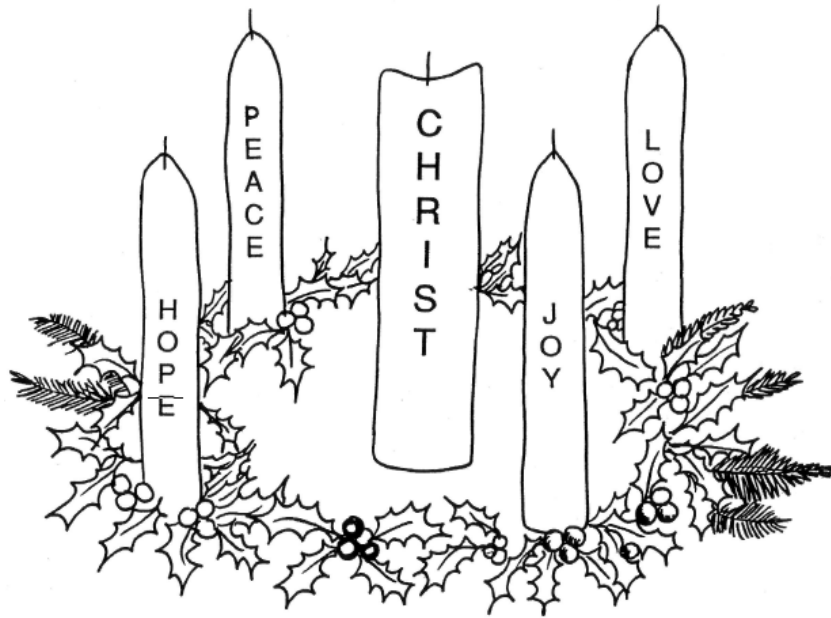


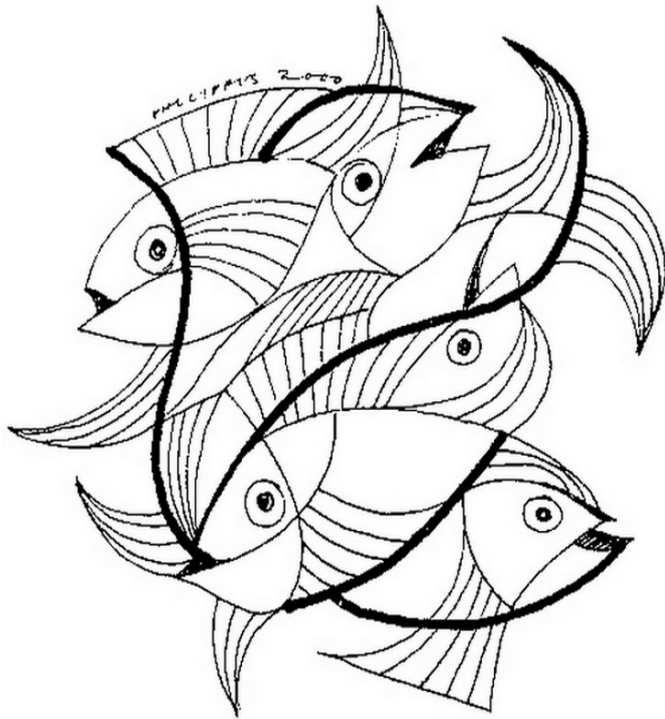
The Fourth Sunday of Advent



St. Francis Episcopal Church

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December 21, 2014



**It is no use
walking
anywhere
to preach
unless
our walking
is our
preaching.**

St Francis of Assisi

Welcome to St. Francis!

We commend the keeping of silence before the service
as an opportunity to prepare for worship.

This time helps us to step away from distraction
and allows our hearts to open to God,
into whose presence we come
with humility, reverence, and joy.

Visitors and Newcomers

We are *glad* you are here – there are a few things which will help you navigate an Episcopal service, if it is new to you. The red book in your pew is a “BCP” – The Book of Common Prayer. The blue book is The Hymnal 1982 from which most of our hymns are taken. Others may be printed at the back of your bulletin.

All baptized Christians are *welcome* to receive Holy Communion, you need not be Episcopalian. Stand or kneel at the altar rail, or if you are unable to come forward, simply tell an usher and communion will be brought to you. If you would prefer a blessing, come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your chest.

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

*Celebrant, the Rev. Martha Berger
Musician, Mia Montenegro*

Announcements precede the service

Opening Hymn *Come, thou long expected Jesus* **Hymn #66**

The Advent Wreath – Four candles are lit.

Come, O Holy One, as the beloved child, Emmanuel! Soften our hearts and open our arms for your coming that we may make this a place worthy and warm, kindly and safe for all your children, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity **BCP – 355**

Gloria **Hymnal #S-280**

The Collect of the Day

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26 Page 713

- 1 Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'"

The Epistle - Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Sequence hymn *O come, O come Emmanuel (v. 1,4,6,7)*

Hymn #56

The Gospel - Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP - 358

The Prayers of the People, Form IV

BCP - 388

Confession & Absolution

BCP - 360

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you
People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn *The King shall come when morning dawns*

Hymn # 73

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 2, *Enriching our Worship*

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

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer **BCP - 364**

The Breaking of the Bread **BCP - 364**

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Communion Music #1 - Emmanuel (Bobby McGee)
#2 - Humbly I adore thee

Insert
Hymn #314

Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors (when scheduled)

Post Communion Prayer **BCP - 366**

The Advent Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Blest be the King whose coming

Hymn #74

The Dismissal

Celebrant

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the Parish for December 21th

- ...for Our Companion Diocese of Newala in the Anglican Church of Tanzania;
- ...for peace and justice for all nations and people; for all hostages and political prisoners; for the oppressed and the oppressors;
- ...for the Episcopal Church, Katharine our Presiding Bishop, Steven our bishop, Martha our priest, Sue our associate priest, and Ken our deacon;
- ...for Nashotah House and their Dean and President-elect, Steven Peay;
- ...for healing for Susanne, Iva Deane, Doreen, Cameron, Tony, Ray, John, Evan, Marilyn, Sam, Mary, Rosie, Karan, P.T., Sandy, Ellen, Ron, John, Kevin, Tom, Shelly, Juanita, Shannon, Barbara, Henry, Patti and all those listed on the LARCUM prayer chain;
- ...for employment for Ed, Christopher, Ann, Mike, Jason, Stacy, Linda, Lauren and all who are looking for jobs;
- ...for all members of the United States Armed Forces serving at home and abroad;
- ...for Jason, who is studying in seminary;
- ...for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in December:

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 – Minyoung Leisner	18 – Ted Itzov
11 – Julie Maddox	20 – Leslie Thorkelson, Anna Lalicata
16 – Ruth Itzov	24 – Sandy Tait
17 – Grant Bourn	25 – Mia Montenegro

...for our Diocese: Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, we pray for the people of Christ Church, Whitefish Bay, that God may be glorified by their worship and made known as they joyfully welcome all people; that they may embody Christ's love in works of justice, service, and mercy; that they may continue to nurture children in the knowledge and love of God; and that they may provide a place for the people of the North Shore of Milwaukee to address today's concerns in their rich body of Christian tradition. All this we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Church Office Hours: Mondays, 10 am - 2 pm, and by appointment.

- ❖ **Christmas Eve service** Wednesday December 24 at 7 pm. There will be a reception in the undercroft after the service. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

- ❖ **The Food Pantry** needs: chunky soups, cream of mushroom soup, canned peas, mixed vegetables, crackers, boxed rice, and jelly. There is a basket next to the statue of St. Francis.
- ❖ **Outreach** will meet after the service on December 21st.
- ❖ **J.D. & Sally Polley** are hosting an Open House at their home on Dec. 25 from 3-8pm. Feel free to bring a dish to share or come as you are.
- ❖ **A Note of Thanks:** To all of the St. Francis Volunteers who took time to help out at the Falls Food Pantry in 2014!! We are done for this year. AGAIN, thank you.
Ron & Shala Johnson

The Lectionary Readings for December 28, First Sunday After Christmas, Year B
Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 147, Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7, John 1:1-18

The Staff at St. Francis Episcopal Church

Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller; *Rector*, the Rev. Martha Berger

Priest Emerita, the Rev. Sue Clark; *Deacon*, the Rev. Ken Castello

Musician, Mia Montenegro; *Senior Warden*, Craig Korn; *Junior Warden*, Ron Johnson

Vestry: Sue Hafert, Mary Jancik, Jan Leisner, JD Polley, Barb Spain, Jud Williams

Serving This Week, 12/21	
Celebrant	Martha Berger
Crucifer	Ron Johnson
Server	Ron Johnson
OT Reader	Barb Spain
Psalm/Chalice	Evelyn Castello
NT Reader	Chuck Sherry
Ushers	Linda Mary Kupcho Steve Kupcho
Altar Guild	Leslie Thorkelson Linda Mary Kupcho
Counters	Barb Spain Kurt Hoff
Lay Eucharistic Visitors	Chuck Sherry (Visit Brisk)
Coffee Hour	Leslie Thorkelson

Serving Next Week, 12/28	
Celebrant	Sue Clark, Ken Castello
Crucifer	Kurt Hoff
Server	Craig Korn
OT Reader	Barb Spain
Psalm/Chalice	Chuck Sherry
NT Reader	Karen Korn
Ushers	J. D. Polley Sally Polley
Altar Guild	Leslie Thorkelson Linda Mary Kupcho
Counters	Sally Polley Chuck Sherry
Lay Eucharistic Visitors	Sue Hafert Ron Johnson (visit Kilpatrick)
Coffee Hour	Kupcho