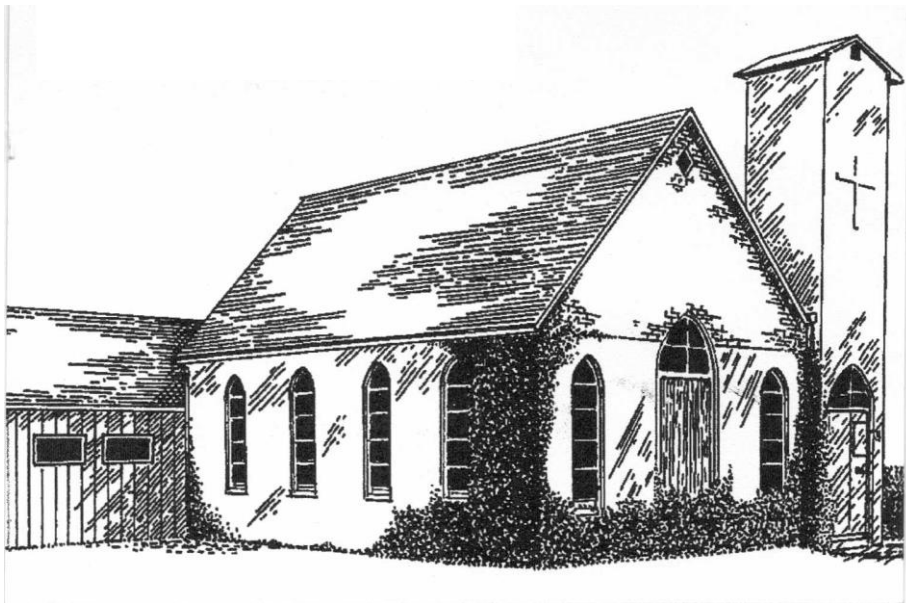


St. John's Episcopal Church

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2014



The Rev. Rebecca Myers, Priest-in-Charge

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A Note on Today's Readings

The Second Sunday of Advent—Year B

Today is the first of the Advent Sundays centered on the ministry of John the Baptist as the forerunner of the Messiah. We hear Mark's account of the beginning of John's ministry and message. John is presented as the last of the Old Testament prophets and the one who embodied the role foreseen by Isaiah as the messenger to prepare the way for the coming of the Christ. He used the traditional Jewish ceremony of renewal and repentance—baptism—but promises that the one who is coming will immerse people in the Spirit of God.

Our first reading is the passage from Isaiah quoted by Mark concerning John the Baptist. This comes from the time of the end of the Jewish people's exile in Babylon and was an exhortation to them to return to the land of promise now that they had been freed by the Persian king, Cyrus. This second Exodus is filled with the promise of God's love and care for the people.

The second reading from 2 Peter looks toward the end of time. The writer is concerned with how we live in this time in anticipation for the time to come when the Day of the Lord will be revealed.

We live in the time in between Christ's first Advent and his second Coming and we gather in the Eucharist as people immersed by Baptism into God's Spirit. We are called not only to celebrate God's presence as our shepherd but also to be messengers who, like John, announce the coming of God's kingdom. We do this by proclaiming the Word, by celebration of God's sacramental presence, and by lives of peace and growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.

Holy Eucharist

The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 07, 2014

Liturgy of the Word

Hymn

Rejoice! rejoice, believers

Hymnal 68

All standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People Glory to God for ever and ever.

The Celebrant says

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.

The following is sung, all standing

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.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant 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.*

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

All sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Remain seated.

Psalm 85:1-2,8-13

BCP p. 708

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A Reading from the Second letter of Peter.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Sequence

All stand.

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless

Hymnal 343

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel is read, the people respond as follows:

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Rebecca Myers

Nicene Creed

All 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,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

All remain standing.

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the city of Corbin, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air or through outer space, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Aiden, Les, Erin, Linda & family, Juanita, Jerry, Brenda, Shirley, Calvin, Bill, Raymond & Elaine, Mary, Elaine, Jack, Linda, Fred, Avery, Michael, Mason, Nellie, Leroy, Mary Ann, Katie, Jeff, Thalia, Craig, Barbara, Logan, Daphne, Rob, Wayne, Fay, Katrina, Teresa, and the Gill family, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those celebrating birthdays, especially Camille Ruddick, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In remembrance of those who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and for all who have served our county in times of war and times of peace, especially Silvestre, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In thanksgiving for all our blessings, especially these expressions of gratitude from the people of St. John's: For the love and support our church has shown us during a stressful time in our family Let us give thanks to the Lord,

We praise you, O Lord.

In the communion of St. John the Evangelist, the Ever Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, her Spouse, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

All kneel.

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence.

Minister and People

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
 in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
 the evil we have done,
 and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Announcements may be made at this point in the service.

Holy Communion

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

Offertory Hymn

People, look East

WLP 724

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

The Sursum Corda

S 120

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 truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

Sanctus

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.

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. 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 Celebrant then continues

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

People and Celebrant

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.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Blessed are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb. Alleluia.

*Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
Alleluia.*

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.

*Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
Alleluia.*

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

*Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
Alleluia.*

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

*Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
Alleluia.*

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

*Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
Alleluia.*

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn

Wayfaring Stranger

LEVAS 19



1. I'm just a poor— way-far-ing stran-ger, I'm trav'-ling through this world be -
2. I know dark clouds- will gath-er o'er me, I know my path - way's rough and
3. I want to sing— sal - va-tions sto-ry,— In con-cert with— the blood-washed
4. I'll soon be free— from ev-ery tri - al,— This form will rest— be - neath the



1. low;— There is no sick - ness, toil, nor dan-ger,— In that bright
2. steep;— But gold-en fields— lie out be - fore me,— Where wea - ry
3. band;— I want to wear— a crown of glo-ry,— When I get
4. sod;— I'll drop the cross— of self - de - ni - al,— And en - ter



1. world— to which I go.— I'm go-ing there— to see my
2. eyes— no more shall weep.— I'm go-ing there— to see my
3. home— to that good land.— I'm go-ing there— to see my
4. in— my home with God.— I'm go-ing there— to see my



1. fa - ther,— I'm go - ing there— no more to— roam;—
2. mo - ther,— She said she'd meet— me when I come;— I'm just a
3. bro - thers,— They passed be - fore— me one by one;—
4. Sav-ior,— Who shed for me— His pre - cious blood;—



go - ing o-ver Jor - dan,— I'm just a go - ing o-ver home.—

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life
and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

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.*

Postcommunion Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Hymnal 76

Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

News & Notes

Rebecca's Schedule: Rebecca will be St. Agnes' House Monday through Thursday. Her Sabbath Day will be Friday, December 12. You may leave her a message by phoning the church office at 606-528-1659 or emailing priest-in-charge@stjohnscorbin.org.

Adult Forum: During December, we'll continue our discussion of *The Thirty-Nine Articles, BCP 867-876*. Come learn about this historic document, which guides our denomination. Are the *Articles* still relevant today? Join the discussion. There will be no Adult Forum on December 28.

Godly Play (Sunday School): The Godly Play program is for children and offered each Sunday morning at 10:00 am. All children are invited to participate in this special form of spiritual development.

Mission House Eucharist: Join Rebecca for a Celebration of Holy Eucharist on Tuesday, December 9, 11am at Mission House in Lexington. Lunch will be served after Eucharist and a tour of St. Agnes' House will be available.

Winter Coat Donations: The Rotary Club of Corbin is collecting 500 new winter coats, especially for boys and girls ages 3-9. Coats will be distributed at the Empty Stocking Fund party on December 22. If you'd like to donate a coat, bring it to church and give it to Rebecca. You can also make a financial contribution to Empty Stocking Fund and give it to Rebecca.

Donations for Christmas Flowers are being accepted until December 14. Donations can be made in Honor of, in Memory of or in Thanksgiving for a person or blessing. Envelopes are available in the parlor or put your offering in the plate marked, "Christmas Flowers."

Daughters of the King meets the third Wednesday of each month at 4:30pm. The next meeting is December 17. If you have special prayer requests or would like to join this prayer ministry, please contact Shelia Phillips.

Decorate the church, Sunday, December 21, after church. Bring your lunch and stay after church on December 21 to help us decorate for Christmas.

Youth grades 7-12 are invited to a retreat, "A New Year in the Spirit" at Cathedral Domain, Saturday, December 27 – until Tuesday, December 30. See Rebecca for more information.

Flowers for the altar: Donations for flowers for the altar are accepted for any Sunday of the year. Please place your donation in the envelope, marking whether they are in honor of or in memory of someone.

Hymn Selection Group If you'd like to choose hymns for services, join this group. You will choose hymns for an upcoming service and then meet with the entire group to confirm the final selections. See Billy Hibbitts if you are interested.

Would you like to write Prayers of the People? If you are interested in writing these prayers (there are resources that can help with this task), please let Rebecca know by phone or email priest-in-charge@stjohnscorbin.org.

United Thank Offering. Remember to get your box for your thank offerings for this ministry of The Episcopal Church. The next collection will be in the spring.

Are you interested in assisting with the Sunday service? Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Crucifers, Altar Guild Members and choir members are all important for each Sunday service. If you're interested in serving, please let Rebecca know by phone 859-429-1659 or priest-in-charge@stjohnscorbin.org.

Serving Our Neighbors – See baskets in the parlor.

- Everlasting Arms, Corbin's shelter for people who are homeless, is in need of men's and women's razors, gloves, deodorant and socks.
- The Food Pantry at Corbin Presbyterian Church is always in need of nonperishable food items. Vegetables are especially appreciated.

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