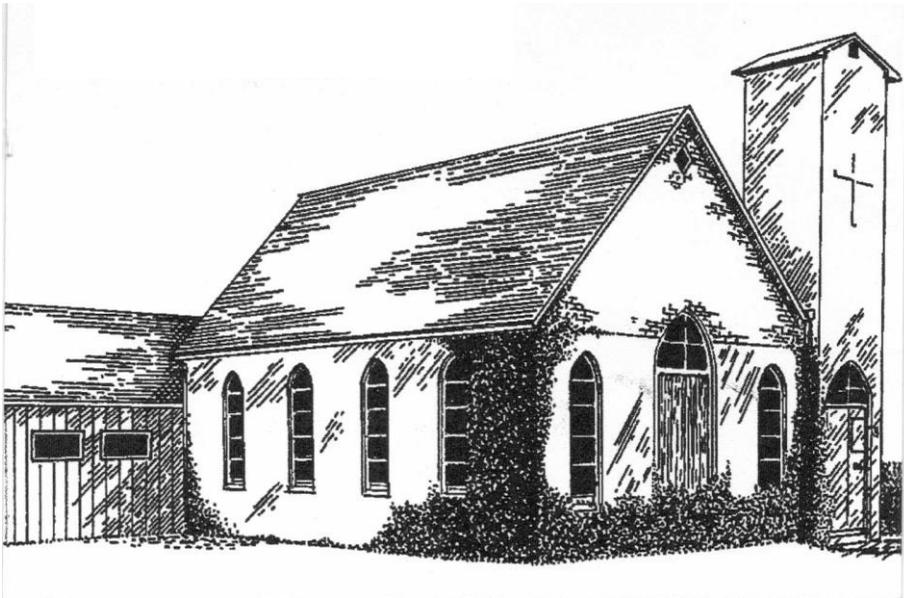


St. John's Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2014



The Rev. Rebecca Myers, Priest-in-Charge

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A Note on Today's Readings

The Fourth Sunday of Advent—Year B

The central figure in today's liturgy is the Blessed Virgin Mary and her vocation as the human instrument of the Incarnation.

Today's Gospel is the account of the Annunciation, when Gabriel announced to the Virgin that God had chosen her to be the mother of the Messiah. Mary's humble obedience, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to thy word..." is the model for Christian living.

The first reading today is the promise God made to David to establish his line as kings over God's people. This promise to raise up a new king of David's lineage was understood by Jews in the first century as a promise to send the Messiah.

In the second reading today Paul concludes his letter to the Church in Rome. He expresses the early Christian proclamation that in Christ the clouded meaning of the Old Testament prophecies has been revealed. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God's plan has been made clear and the hints of that plan in the writings of the prophets have been fulfilled.

Christians gather in the liturgy to remember our story: a story which goes back through the ages. The central actor is always God, who acts in history to lead all the creation into the kingdom. God, who acted in the lives of people in the past such as David and the blessed Virgin, continues to act today in our lives. The Eucharist is the moment of encounter with God in which, like Mary, we respond, "Yes, let it be done to me according to your word."

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Holy Eucharist

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2014

Liturgy of the Word

Hymn

O God of every nation

Hymnal 607

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.

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.*

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

All sit.

A Reading from the Second book of Samuel.

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

Psalm

Remain seated.

Canticle 3

BCP p. 50

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

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

Sequence

All stand.

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Hymnal 265

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
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.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. In particular we pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: Riley Beams, Alex Alaniz, Jim Disney and Dura Anne Price. We pray for those serving in the armed forces, especially Silvestre. We also pray, in accordance with the diocesan cycle of prayer, for the Church of the Nativity, Maysville, the Rev. Michael Henderson, rector.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. In particular we pray for 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.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *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

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*

Offertory Hymn

Soon, Very Soon

LEVAS 14



1. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
2. No more cry - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
3. No more dy - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
4. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King; _____



1. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
2. No more cry - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
3. No more dy - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
4. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King; _____

1. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
 2. No more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 3. No more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 4. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King;

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

1.2. | 3.4.
 Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu -

jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

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.

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

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.



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.

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

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

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn

Come with us, O blessed Jesus

Hymnal 336

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue 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

“Sleepers, wake!”; A voice astounds us

Hymnal 61

Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

News & Notes

Rebecca's Schedule: Rebecca will be at St. John's Corbin Tuesday, December 23 through Thursday, December 25. Her Sabbath Days will be Monday, December 22. Rebecca will be on vacation Friday, December 26, through Friday, January 2. During her vacation, the Rev. Peter Helman is available for pastoral emergencies. He can be reached by text or phone at 940-735-1235. You may also leave a message for Rebecca by phoning the church office at 606-528-1659 or emailing priest-in-charge@stjohnscorbin.org.

Christmas Eve Services: 9:00 am – Morning Eucharist. 7:00 pm – Evening Candlelight Service. 11:00 pm – Midnight Candlelight Service.

Christmas Day: 9:00 am – Morning Prayer

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. January through mid-February (Christmas and Epiphany), we will discuss the blessing of same gender relationships. If you'd like to lead a session, please see Rebecca.

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.

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.

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.