

## THE WAY OF LOVE

*Whoever and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome.  
Our message is that God's unconditional love is extended to you right now through Jesus Christ.  
Here in this church, God says, "You belong, this is my family, and you have a place in it."*

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I

December 4, 2022 8:00 a.m.

### GATHERING

#### PRELUDE

*Winds Through The Olive Trees*  
Dana Anderson, organ

Arr. Lorie Line

#### THE PROCESSION

*All stand*

#### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

*Reader* See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, says the Lord of hosts.

*People* ***The light of hope has awakened our spirits.***

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

***Renew in us your covenant, O God, that we may be ready for the dawn of your salvation.***

We light a second candle to bring light to every darkness, and to guide us in the way of peace.

***With gratitude for your light, O God, we will prepare to welcome a new birth of your love.***

*Two blue candles are lit.*

#### OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer (BCP red) 323

*Officiant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

#### COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP (red) 323

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

#### KYRIE

BCP (red) 324

Lord, have mercy upon us.

***Christ, have mercy upon us.***

Lord, have mercy upon us.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP (red) 159

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE LESSONS

*All are seated.*

#### ISAIAH 11:1-10

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.**

#### PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 *read responsively by the whole verse*

BCP (red) 685

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.

### **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.**

### **MATTHEW 3:1-12**

*All stand and turn to face the Gospel procession.*

*Officiant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

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."

*Officiant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

### **THE SERMON**

*All are seated*

Mary Foster Parmer  
InviteWelcomeConnect

## THE NICENE CREED

BCP (red) 326

*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: 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.*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BCP (red) 328

*All kneel or stand*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We pray for All Saints' Episcopal Church in Torrington and for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East. The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and dedicated to Paul & Charlotte. Your own prayers and petitions may be added at this time.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life, in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Mark and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION

BCP (red) 331

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.*

## ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE PEACE

BCP (red) 332

*All stand*

*Officiant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** *And with thy spirit.*

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY BLESSING

BCP (red) 830

**Watch over Your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand, comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may Your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### AT THE OFFERTORY

*The Footbills of Nazareth*

Lorie Line

*An offering is collected as a symbol of our life and labor and to support the work of the church. Thank you for your generosity.*

*Officiant* All things come of thee, O Lord.

**People** *And of thine own have we given thee.*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

BCP (red) 340

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

**People** *And with thy spirit.*

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them up unto the Lord.***

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

***It is meet and right so to do.***

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy 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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.***

***Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

*The people kneel or stand.*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

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

***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**

*Officiant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome at the altar. All who desire to receive communion and those wishing to receive a prayer of blessing are invited to the altar rail. Gluten free wafers are available at the communion rail. Please inform the servers at the altar rail if you desire gluten free wafers.*

**COMMUNION**

*Picardy*

*Peter Pindar Stearns*

## SENDING FORTH

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP (red) 339

*The people kneel or stand*

*Officiant* Let us pray.

**People** *Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.*

### ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent, be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

### THE DISMISSAL

*Officiant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People** *Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

### POSTLUDE

*Prepare The Royal Highway*

*Swedish Folk tune, 17th cent.*

*If you are unable to make it to church and would like communion, please contact the church office.*

Today we welcome Mary Foster Parmer as our guest preacher.  
Mary is the Founder and Executive Director of InviteWelcomeConnect.

### ST. MARK'S INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST

Diocesan Prayer: All Saint's Episcopal Church in Torrington.

Anglican Cycle of Prayers: Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East, Diocese of el-Obeid (Sudan), Diocese of Offa (Nigeria), Diocese of Ogbaru (Nigeria), Diocese of Obagia (Nigeria), Diocese of Ogbomosho (Nigeria), and Diocese of Ogonia (Nigeria).

### SCRIPTURES FOR NEXT WEEK ARE:

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

Psalms 146:4-9

Matthew 11:2-11

Website for weekly scriptures: <http://www.lectionarypage.net>

### **ALTAR FLOWERS DEDICATIONS**

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and dedicated to Paul & Charlotte from Todd Clemens. You may sign up for a Sunday in the altar flower dedication book located in the rear of the church. More than one donor per Sunday is gratefully welcomed and due recognition given accordingly. Cost is \$70.00.

### **ST. MARK'S PARKING**

We are thankful to the Cheyenne family that allows us to use their parking lot west of the church on Sunday mornings. It is a parking lot that is leased by others Monday through Saturday. If you have any concerns, please contact the church office.

### **MUSIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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*Prepare The Royal Highway* - Swedish Folk tune, 17th cent.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1723-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship

Music: Swedish Folk tune, 17th cent. Text c 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
1908 Central Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82001 (307) 634 - 7709  
Web Site: <http://www.stmarkscheyyenne.org>  
Email: [stmark307.ad@gmail.com](mailto:stmark307.ad@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/stmarkscheyyenne](http://www.facebook.com/stmarkscheyyenne)  
  
8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
10:30 A.M. Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
Children's Chapel/Sunday School and Nursery  
  
Rector: The Reverend Rick Veit