

# Church of the Holy Apostles

The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10, 2023



*Flake*

## *Welcome to Holy Apostles!*

*This bulletin is your guide to worship and it has all that you need. Our worship is taken from the Book of Common Prayer. If you have any questions during the Liturgy, don't hesitate to ask an usher or a neighbor. If you are new or visiting, please make sure to introduce yourself to one of the priests after the service. Instructions on when to stand (as able) and sit are in italics and the prayers and songs that we all sing or say together will be in bold. We hope that you find it easy to follow along and we encourage you to sing out for our congregational hymns. Citations that begin with an "H" are found in the blue book, The Hymnal 1982. Those that begin with an "L" are found in the red book, Lift Every Voice and Sing.*

### ***A note about Advent worship***

*The season of Advent begins the Church year anew. You will notice new Gospel readings—Year B follows the Gospel of Mark—and a change in liturgical color to purple. Advent is a time when we prepare ourselves for Christmas, aka the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, by trying to slow down and allow space in our lives for prayer and reflection. As you enter church this season, take a moment to prepare for worship with a prayer, some breathing, or just allow yourself to be still.*

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Prelude & Introit

## Welcome & Announcements

*All stand*

### **The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came to bear witness to the coming of the light so that all might believe through him.*

*—John 1:6-7*

**O God, help us to be ready for the coming of your Son, the light of all who love him, by making room for him in our hearts. Amen.**

*Please remain standing and sing*

### **Processional Hymn: H- 56**

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

**O come, O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high  
Who orderest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Desire of nations bind  
In one the hearts of humankind  
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be thyself our King of Peace.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

## Opening Sentences

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

*People*        **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

## Collect for Purity

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.**

## Hymn of Praise

*The Holly and the Ivy*

**It's rounded like an orange  
this earth on which we stand;  
and we praise the God who holds it  
in the hollow of his hand.**

**A candle, burning brightly,  
can cheer the darkest night,  
and these candles tell how Jesus  
came to bring a dark world light.**

**So Father, we would thank you  
for all that you have done,  
and for all that you have given us  
through the coming of your Son.**

## The Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be 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.**

*Please be seated*

## The First Lesson

read by Alice Avouris

A reading from the book of Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Reader*            The word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

Read in unison

*Benedixisti, Domine*

**You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.  
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.**

**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.**

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

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

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

**The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.**

**Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

## **The Second Lesson**

read Erin McNaughton

A reading from the second letter of Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

*Reader*            The word of the Lord.

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

*All stand and sing*

## Sequence Hymn

*Kingsfold*

**When out of poverty is born a dream that will not die,  
and landless, weary folk find strength to stand with heads held high.  
It's then we learn from those who wait to greet the promised day,  
"The Lord is coming; don't lose heart. Be blest; prepare the way!"**

**When people wander far from God, forget to share their bread,  
they find their wealth an empty thing, their spirits are not fed.  
For only just and tender love the hungry soul will stay.  
And so God's prophets echo still "Be blest; prepare the way!"**

**When God took flesh and came to earth the world turned upside down,  
And in the strength of woman's faith the Word of Life was born.  
She knew that God would raise the low, it pleased her to obey.  
Rejoice with Mary in the call, "Be blest; prepare the way!"**

## The Holy Gospel

**Mark 1:1-8**

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

## The Sermon

The Rev. Kimberlee Auletta

*All stand and say*

### **The Nicene Creed**

**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 worshiped 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.**

*Please remain standing*

### **The Prayers of the People**

led by Carol Oliver

God of mystery and miracles, your Word brings light into the dark places of our lives;  
Your presence gives us strength to endure when we are pushed beyond our own strength.

You find us in our lostness and, with love beyond our imagining, you lead us home. All this you offer in and through Jesus Christ.

Yet, we resist you. We resist loosening our tight grip on our lives. We hesitate to trust you for you may lead us where we do not want to go. You know the places in our hearts and in our minds where we are well-defended against your intrusions.

In this season of longing, of awaiting, of looming darkness and coming joy, grant us grace to bring all that we are to you, O Christ

— all the broken places

— all the lost wanderings

— all the weariness from trying to live lives that are pleasing to you.



Grant us grace to overcome our own weariness to respond with generosity and love to our neighbors:

Our neighbors we know, and those whose names we will never know;

Our neighbors who are hungry or homeless;

Our neighbors who are suffering from mental illness or addiction;

Our neighbors who are dying or sick;

Our neighbors who are lonely or grieving;

Our neighbors at PS 15.

Hold us all in the fullness of your love. Then, be born in us, that we may find our home, our life, our joy in You, Lord of light and love.

Dear people of God, I invite you to offer your prayers and thanksgivings.

*At this moment you are invited to offer your prayers of thanksgiving or intercession aloud.*

*The presider offers a concluding collect.*

### **The Confession of Sin & Absolution:**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

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

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

### **The Peace**

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

# The Holy Communion

*This is God's Table: all are welcome*

## The Offertory

*A collection for the church is taken up during the offertory anthem. You can give online via our website, this QR code or use the offertory plate that is passed during the offertory.*



## Offertory Anthem

*All stand and sing*

### Doxology

*Old Hundredth*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## The Sanctus: L-255

G. W. Brown

**Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord.  
Hosanna, in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

*The Presider continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God

and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Presider continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer: L-264**

A.H. Malotte

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Please remain standing*

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**Fraction Anthem**

S. Shull

**We who are many, are one body,  
For we all share in the one bread,  
we all share in the one bread.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

These are the gifts for God for all of us, the people of God. Let us take them in remembrance that Christ died for us and feed on him in our hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Please come forward for communion following the invitation of the ushers. Extend your hands to receive the consecrated bread. To receive the consecrated wine, please sip directly from the chalice, or if you prefer intinction, please leave the wafer in your hand to allow the minister to dip it.*

*If you wish to receive a prayer or blessing, one of the clergy will be available by the Mary statue.*

## **Communion Hymn**

*Holy Manna*

**For your generous providing which sustains us all our days,  
for your Spirit here residing, we proclaim our heartfelt praise.  
Through the depths of joy and sorrow, though the road be smooth or rough,  
fearless, we can face tomorrow for your grace will be enough.**

**Hush our world's seductive noises tempting us to stand alone;  
save us from the siren voices calling us to trust our own.**

**For those snared by earthly treasure, lured by false security,  
Jesus, true and only measure, spring the trap to set folk free.**

**Round your table, through your giving, show us how to live and pray  
till your kingdom's way of living is the bread we share each day:  
bread for us and for our neighbor, bread for body, mind, and soul,  
bread of heaven and human labour—broken bread that makes us whole.**

*All stand and say*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The 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: H-76**

*Winchester New*

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge, and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
whose advent doth thy people free;  
with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore.**

### **Holiday Singalong**

**Chestnuts roasting on an open fire,  
Jack Frost nipping at your nose  
Yuletide carols being sung by the choir and folks dressed up like Eskimos**

**Everybody knows, a turkey and some mistletoe  
will help to make the season bright  
Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow will find it hard to sleep tonight**

**They know that Santa's on his way.  
He's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh,  
And every mother's child is gonna spy, to see reindeer really know how to fly**

**And so, I'm offering this simple phrase, to kids from one to ninety-two  
Although it's been said many times, many ways  
Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas to you....**

### **The Dismissal**

*Priest*      **Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*People*      **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Join us for coffee half-hour on the lawn following the service. All are welcome!**

For weekly announcements, please see our insert and our weekly e-newsletter. To sign up, visit our website.

[www.holyapostlesbrooklyn.com](http://www.holyapostlesbrooklyn.com)

Join us for our Christmas Concert today at 4pm.

## **Advent Calendar** by Rowan Williams

He will come like last leaf's fall.  
One night when the November wind  
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth  
wakes choking on the mould,  
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like child.

# **Church of the Holy Apostles**

An Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Long Island

*Holy Apostles exists as God's house for all people,  
by fulfilling the spiritual yearning of our souls, teaching  
us how to live as Christians in a broken world  
by serving the needs of the greater community.*

The Rev. Kimberlee Auletta & The Rev. Sarah Kooperkamp  
Co-Rectors

Kevin Devine  
Director of Music

Max Thorn  
Ministry Associate

Geoff Kurtz, Zach Parkman, Peter Saghir, Kallen Tsikalas  
Lay Eucharist Ministers

Glenn Jussen  
Usher

Phillip Hunter & Asa Campbell Kurtz  
Acolytes

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