

THE NEVIL MEMORIAL CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

-EPISCOPAL-

ARDMORE, PA

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 10, 2017

8:00 am, Rite I

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Coming together from our week in the world, we ready ourselves to worship God
and to prepare ourselves for his final advent.*

All standing, the Celebrant says

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

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

The Celebrant and the People say

The Collect for Purity

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.

The Summary of the Law

BCP p. 324

The Kyrie

BCP p. 324

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who didst send 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 forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord speaks to us in scripture and preaching about his Son's return for the final judgment. We respond proclaiming our belief, praying for the world and ourselves, and greeting one another in his Name.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

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 forever. 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.**

The Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

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.

 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark

Mark 1:1-8

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

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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Barbara Abbott

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 326

All stand and together say

The Prayers of the People

Please kneel.

(The strange word "Maranatha" is actually two Aramaic words put together (Marana - tha). Aramaic was the dialect of Hebrew spoken by Jesus. The phrase is generally interpreted as a statement of belief, meaning: "Our Lord has come." When combined in these petitions with the prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus," we are holding together the two themes of Advent - preparing for the annual remembrance of the Nativity of Christ, and preparing for our Lord's Second Coming at the end of days.)

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Daniel, our Bishop; Barbara our priest; and Toneh our deacon. We pray for those in Anglican Cycle of Prayer, Uganda and for those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, St. Dismas Mission Congregation, St. James Church, Collegeville; Church of St. Jude and the Nativity, Lafayette Hill; St. Peter's Church, Phoenixville; St. Paul's Church, Oaks and for those in our Companion Diocese of Guatemala, Church of Ascension. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for Donald, our President and all those in civic authority. Before you, O Lord, rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter. We pray for the sick, especially Doris Henry, Pam, Irene, Kathleen, Deborah, Bobby, Mary Lou, Jerry, Allan Wickersham, Ellen Woodward, James, Elizabeth Sim, Charlie Craig, Rich and Mary Ellen, Palmer, Betty Cianci, Mary Lou, James, Emma Fox, Donald and Artie Amicci. Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you forever.

Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. We remember, especially___. Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as a friend to all. We celebrate with Aileen LaBrake, Marlee Bullock, Stephen Curry, Tre Brocklesby and Ashton White. Give to them your blessing for their coming year and be ever-present in their lives as you were present with the disciples.

Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

We pray for those celebrating their anniversaries this week, especially Chad and Vicki Strickland, that God may reveal himself to them more and more through each other in the sacrament of holy matrimony.

Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with blessed George our Patron, the Ever-blessed Virgin Mary our Lady, and all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Celebrant

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Please remain kneeling

Celebrant When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins

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.

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Community Announcements and Welcome of Visitors

THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

*To sustain us until he comes for the final time
the Lord comes to us now in His sacrifice banquet and we receive Him.*

The Offertory

Please stand as the gifts are brought forward.

† The Great Thanksgiving †

Eucharistic Prayer II

The people remain standing.

BCP p. 340

Sanctus

BCP p. 334

The people kneel.

The Lord’s Prayer

BCP p. 336

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP p. 337

A period of silence is kept.

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

All baptized persons regardless of denomination are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you desire a blessing instead, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest.

The Postcommunion Prayer

Please kneel.

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.

Blessing

The Dismissal

Deacon As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Community Announcements

*Flowers on the Altar today are given to the glory of God
The Sanctuary Candle is offered this week to the glory of God
And in loving memory of Dann M. by Ray Beckey and Family.*

Focus Groups Today: As part of the transition process to call a new priest for St. George Church the Parish Profile Committee urges you to attend a parish-wide conversation about our parish and its future. The parish wide focus group on our transition will be held on today, after the 10 am service. Coffee hour refreshments will be available. Please join us!

Bible Study this Wednesdays, Dec 13th at 7:00 PM with Pastor Barbara. We continue discussing Richard Rohr's book *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the two halves of life.*

St. George's Christmas Services have changed for this year as follows, due to Advent 4 and Christmas on same day. Sunday, December 24th at 9:00 AM, Morning Prayer; 4:30 PM Family Christmas Eve Service and 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service. On Monday, December 25th at 10:00 AM Christmas Day Eucharist Service.

Greening of the Church: Please help decorate the church for Christmas on December 21 at 7 pm. We will be putting up wreaths, poinsettias and greens. No special skills are needed and all volunteers most welcome. Contact is Susan LaBrake.

Christmas Flower Donations: Christmas Flower forms will be set out where the bulletins are. Once you fill out the form, put your cash or check in an envelope and you can place it in the offering, leave it in Kelly's mailbox or mail it to the office by December 18th.

St. George's Parish 2017 Survey is available online or paper copies available in Jerusalem Hall. Contact Parish Office for additional assistance. **Due on today!**

Please help us continue St. George's mission in service to God and our community by submitting your generous pledge for the upcoming fiscal year.



THE NEVIL MEMORIAL CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE

-EPISCOPAL-

1 West Ardmore Avenue
Ardmore, Pennsylvania 19003

The Rev. Barbara Abbott

**Thanks to those who are
helping today ...**

The Rev. Deacon: Toneh Williams
Altar Guild: Janice Capoferri
Ambassador: Chris Butto
Chalice Bearer: Toneh Williams
Coffee Hour: Joan Cesare
Intercessor: George Chittenden
Lector: Janice Capoferri
Server: Ray Beckey
Tellers: Chris Magnani and Stephen Lightcap

Lou Carol Fix, *Organist/Choirmaster*
Kelly Gallagher, *Parish Administrator*
Mark Alston, *Sexton*
Joanne Haley, *Director of the Children's Ark*

Church Telephone: 610-642-3500
Church Fax: 610-642-4676
Interim Rector's Cell Phone: 610-649-1924

Emails: parishoffice@stgeorgeschurch.org
pastorbarbara@stgeorgeschurch.org
Website: www.stgeorgeschurch.org
The Children's Ark: 610-658-9558
Website: www.childrensarkonline.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

Holy Eucharist, Rite I - 8:00 AM
Holy Eucharist, Rite II - 10:00 AM

OUR MISSION

St. George's mission is to share together God's work in our lives through liturgy and sacrament, through joyous and caring fellowship, and through courageous and compassionate engagement with the world.

