

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
42 Sweden Road, Bridgton, ME 04009
Phone: 207-647-8549

Email: stpetersbridgtonmaine@gmail.com

Website: www.stpetersbridgton.org

Seeking Love, Sharing Love, Showing Love, All are welcome



December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent
10 AM

Welcome to St. Peter's. *All are invited to God's table and fellowship. We welcome those from many backgrounds into our time together on Sunday. We worship weekly and pray daily. We remember who we are in God's Spirit.*

THE BIDDING FOR ADVENT

Opening Hymn #57 Lo! He comes with clouds descending

Presider Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

Presider Dear friends in Christ, as we travel towards Bethlehem in this journey of Advent, we come together in the midst of a busy season to take a breath. To slow down as we anticipate Jesus' coming once more into the world. We are invited for a time to breathe in together the life that God gives us; to listen for the beating of God's heart and the blessings and lessons this season brings. As we gather for this time of worshipful anticipation let us in the silence rest in God's presence.

A prolonged silence is kept.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Presider May Christ, the One whose coming we await, fill our homes and hearts with joyful anticipation as we journey to the manger. Amen.

Presider Each week we light an Advent candle as a symbol of our journey. With its light comes our prayers and our stories.

ADVENT WEEK 1: The candle of this first week of Advent is a candle of **HOPE**.

Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the hope that came to this world when Jesus was born and his presence with us. Jesus said "I came so that everyone would have life, life in all its fullness."

Once the candle is lit, the Presider continues

Presider You called the patriarchs and matriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfillment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Amen.

The Liturgy continues with the Greeting and Collect for Purity.

Presider Blessed are you, Lord God of our ancestors, in Christ you bring salvation to our world.

People Blessed be God for ever and ever. Amen.

Presider In the tender compassion of our God

People The dawn from on high shall break upon us,

Presider To shine on those who dwell in the shadow of death,

People To guide our feet into the way of peace.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:

People Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, so that we may truly love you, and worthily praise your holy name; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Song of Praise-Hymnal #56 O come, O come, Emmanuel vs 1 & 2

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Presider Holy God, we have fallen short in loving you and loving our neighbors; we stand beside each other and ask for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence is kept for a time.

Presider Most Holy God, in the midst of this season of expectation and new life, we confess:

People We have resisted the light of your love; we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and we have not treasured the gifts of others around us. Holy Trinity, make us holy. Holy God, make us whole. Amen.

The Presider offers assurance of God's forgiveness.

Presider May the Trinity of Love bring you back to God and forgive you all your sins; be assured of God's eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Presider God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

The Presider continues with the collect appointed for the day.

Amen.

First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Psalm 25:1-9

Ad te, Domine, levavi

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Sequence Hymn #66 Come, thou long-expected

Gospel Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the

heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Sermon Rev. Annette Joseph

THE ADVENT CREED:

Our Advent Creed seeks to affirm our trust in God found in Jesus Christ.

Presider Let us stand and affirm our hope in the light of Christ.

Presider Do you believe and trust in God?

People We believe in God, eternal, almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Deacon Do you believe and trust in Jesus the Christ?

People We believe in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of all, the Only Begotten One; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, lived and loved among us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; who descended to the dead, and on the third day rose again; Jesus, Our Savior, ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the loving God, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Deacon Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

People We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: ADVENT

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” In this season of anticipation and hope, let us be seekers of the light and peddlers of hope found in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Leader You who dwell in the darkness and the light, in the silence and in the sound; dwell in the hearts of your people that in hope, peace, joy and love we may be agents of your heavenly reign and await with anticipation the coming of Christ the Morning Star. Christ be our light.

People Shine in our hearts.

Voice 1 You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation; dispel the arrogance, animosity, and anger that shatters the unity of your holy Church.

Voice 2 Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth, that we may be made one in faith, hope, and love. Christ be our light.

People Shine in our hearts.

Voice 1 You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise; set us free us from enslavement to division, disunity, and distrust in our public life and labor.

Voice 2 Illumine those in authority with the light of vision, that they may lead the peoples of the nations to greater unity and concord. Christ be our light.

People Shine in our hearts.

Voice 1 You who patterned the stars and called the sun in to being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos.

Voice 2 Pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of race, class, gender, and ethnicity may dissolve into one common humanity. Christ be our light.

People Shine in our hearts.

Voice 1 You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost, and the least; shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful and the suffering especially those we name [St. Brendan the Navigator, Deer Isle, For the basic right of all people to adequate shelter, For racial justice].

Voice 2 Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world. Christ be our light.

People Shine in our hearts.

Voice 1 You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity the souls of those who have died; welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare, and strife.

Voice 2 Shine the light of hope on our faithful dead, especially those we now name [_____]. Christ be our light.

People Shine in our hearts.

Voice 1 You who delight in the complexity of creation and the splendor of each creature; help us to delight in the diversity of the earth, our island home.

Voice 2 Inspire your people to care for the earth and its creatures and repent and return when we abuse, misuse, and neglect our fellow creatures. Christ be our light.

People Shine in our hearts.

CONCLUDING COLLECT:

May Christ, the Morning-Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth, and the wellspring of hope; that following the way of Jesus and filled with the flame of the Holy Spirit, we may be a holy people whose lives and living inspire, incite, and inflame your world with compassion and care. Through Jesus the Christ the light of the world. Amen.

Offertory Hymn: #72 Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes

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

Great Thanksgiving

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.

The Celebrant proceeds

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.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

"St. Flavian" Sanctus

melody from Day's Psalter
adapt. and harm. Richard Redhead

O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, O God of power and
O bless - ed is the one who comes, We sing his ho - ly

might, All heav'n and earth sing out your name, Ho - san - na Lord of Light.
name, Ho - san - na, Je - sus Christ the Lord, For - ev - er shall He reign!

The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

All: 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.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Celebrant says

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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

After all have received communion the Presider says

Presider God is with you.

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

Presider Let us pray.

People *Eternal God, for whom we await, you have fed us with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation: keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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 #81 Lo, how a Rose e'er

ADVENT DISMISSAL

Presider Our worship is ended, our service in the world begins. As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Announcements

Please note if you are trying to reach Rev. Annette her number is (207) 890-8188, the Missouri number will not go through to me, so please update your phone contacts. You can still email me at arjoseph7@gmail.com. Summer office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-1pm. School Hours starting August 26 - Mid June don't call between 7am-2pm I am in school and can't respond until after 2pm. If it's not an emergency you can leave a message and I will get back in touch after 2pm. At the church office Tuesday, Wednesday, 2:30pm-5pm.

Bible Study: at St. Peter's Church on Sunday's at 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning

Bible Study is for anyone. We are studying the gospel of Mark and are doing it Lectio Divina style. So, if you decide to join today you can still come and drop in. We aren't far yet and are still learning to listen and respond in the three ways. The first is just listening to the text. Next, we read it again and look for words or phrases that stand out to us. Lastly, we listen for what those words and phrases might mean as we listen in the final reading. Come and see.

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Parish Library

Advent is the four-week season of the church in which we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Jesus. It is the ideal time for daily study, even (and especially) in the midst of the busyness of readying our houses and tables for celebration. These following collections of reflections are available for you to use on the path to Christmas.

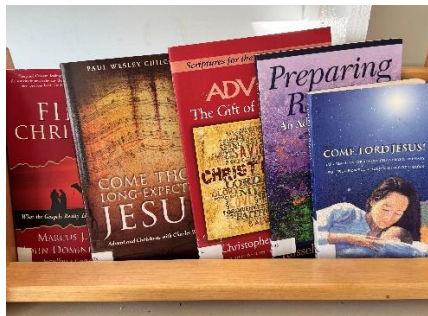
Advent: The Gift of Hope by Christopher L. Webber. These reflections explore the Lectionary readings for church year C (the Gospel of Luke).

Preparing Room: An Advent Companion by Russell J. Levenson, Jr. is a collection of meditations using the three gospels as sources to tell the Christmas story.

Come, Lord Jesus by Geoffrey Rowell and Julien Chilcott-Monk. The period from Advent Sunday through Epiphany is addressed daily with readings and meditations, sometimes as seen through Mary's eyes.

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus: Advent and Christmas with Charles Wesley by Paul Wesley Chilcote. These daily reflections for Advent and Christmas are based on Wesley's seasonal hymns.

The First Christmas by Marcus J. Borg & John Dominic Crossan. Two of today's top Jesus experts unearth the true story of the first Christmas.



Reminder: You can look at all the titles in our collection by visiting the church

website: stpetersbridgton.org

Next, click "MENU"

Then click "Our Church"

Scroll down and click "Our Library"

And finally, click "Visit our online Library Catalog"

You may also visit the library located in the church office. Please be sure to use the sign-out cards located in the back of each book.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Always the second Tuesday from 10 - noon.

We gather to knit, crochet, sew, and enjoy coffee, a sweet treat, and fellowship. Mostly, it's about fellowship so please consider joining us.

December 10: Pat Sprackland 64 Christmas Tree Ln, Bridgton 207.647.2577

If you plan to attend, please let them know.

NOTICE: St. Peter's will be emailing a weekly newsletter through MailChimp. It's called e-Phish Tales newsletter. Please click the link that says Sunday Service Bulletin to view.

How to Subscribe to Mailchimp: If you have not subscribed to Mailchimp and want to receive the e-Phish Tales newsletter go to stpetersbtidgton.org website to subscribe. It is located on the Home Page.

If anyone has someone, they wish prayers for, please call Pat Sprackland or Carmen Doughty.

St. Peters is doing a Parish Directory update. Please email any changes with your address, email or phone to stpetersbridgtonmaine@gmail.com.

We have updated St. Peter's website: Click the link below to visit the website <https://stpetersbridgton.org/index.html>.

We are collecting food for the Bridgton Food Bank. There is a box on the table in the Narthex for the items.

Reminder: Bridgton Public Library started a program where they will deliver once a month, a box of free books to the church for anyone to take. Also, there is a form in the box of books that they would appreciate it if you could take the time to fill out, so that it can help them learn what theme or topics that are of interest. And the box of books are on the table in the Narthex.

Regarding the Chalice: Per the instructions from the Diocese, we have gone back to the Chalice for Communion, and we are not supposed to have Intinction (dunking) of the wafer into the Chalice. If you choose not to sip from the Chalice, touching the wafer to the Chalice is considered Communion In Kind.