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# WELCOME

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## *St. Clare's Episcopal Church*

**Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 2023**

### **HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

#### **The Word of God**

##### **Prelude**

*On Jordan's Bank*

Michael Burkhardt

##### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

*Reader:* We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope.

May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way to salvation.

*People* *O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

##### **Processional Hymn**

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

Hymnal 76

##### **The Opening Acclamation**

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* You come to your people and set them free.

##### **Collect for Purity**

BCP 355

##### **The Collect of the Day**

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.*

##### **The Lessons**

###### **The First Lesson – 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

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

BCP 708

### **The Second Lesson – 2 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

### **Sequence Hymn**

*There's a voice in the wilderness crying*

Hymnal 75

### **The Holy Gospel (Matthew 3:1-12)**

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

### **The Sermon**

The Rev. Liz Schellingerhoudt

*A period of silence is kept*

**The Prayers of the People**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

*Presider: Gracious God, through your messengers the prophets you have called your people to prepare the way and to welcome the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: Speak tenderly to your people that we may wait for and hasten the coming day, saying: Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*

Litanist: Indwelling God, you have baptized your Church with the Holy Spirit: Inspire us to lead lives of holiness and godliness as we prepare for the new heavens and a new earth, so that as Christ comes he finds us to be a people of peace and justice.

Mercy and truth have met together;

**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Holy and Mighty One, open the ears and eyes of the leaders of all the nations and people, especially those in Israel and Hamas, and Russia and Ukraine, that they may listen to what the Lord God is saying, for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

Mercy and truth have met together;

**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Compassionate One, look upon the needs of all humanity: Feed your flock like a shepherd; gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom, gently leading the mother sheep, that all may know the comfort of your strength.

Mercy and truth have met together;

**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Ever-present God, lift up your voice with power to herald good tidings to the people of this community to cast out all fear as we listen for the happy cry of your coming salvation.

Mercy and truth have met together;

**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Glorious One, come with might in your divine recompense to reveal your glory to all who look to you in hope; give them courage and hope in their troubles now as we say their names responsively: Peg, Kathryn, Piper, Marie, Greg, Sharon, Ben, Ronan, Jackson, Rachel, Bucky, Ronald, Elba, Jason, and Kyle, Keri, Carolyn, Bonnie, MaryAnn, Travis, Annie, Jane, Sally, Mary, Joy, Anne, McKinley, Katie, Edwina, Terri, Herb H., Al, Josh, Roz, Bob, Ann, Delores, Mary Lou, Pat, and Joan.

Accept our glad tidings for those who offer you their gracious thanksgivings, especially for those celebrating birthdays, including Phoenix Wallace, Michael Smith-Foot, Mark Siekmann, and Rick Workman; and those celebrating anniversaries, including Holly & Michael Smith-Foot, and Carlene & Tony Dockery.

Bring into your everlasting reign those who have died, especially Joanne, Mike Litton, and Joan Cholomitis.

Mercy and truth have met together;

**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**



Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrated.*

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Celebrant and people*

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

*The Celebrant continues*

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed St. Clare all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. *AMEN.*

**The Lord’s Prayer (*contemporary, sung*)**

Hymnal S-148

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**Fraction Anthem**

Hymnal S-157

**Distribution of Communion**

BCP 364

<b>Communion Hymns</b>	<i>Comfort, comfort ye my people What is the crying at Jordan?</i>	Hymnal 67 Hymnal 69
<b>Post Communion Prayer</b>		BCP 366
<b>The Blessing</b>		
<b>Processional Hymn</b>	<i>Prepare the way, O Zion</i>	Hymnal 65
<b>Dismissal</b>		
<b>Closing Voluntary</b>	<i>Wake, O wake! With Tidings Thrilling</i>	J.F. Greiss

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### **Announcements**

**Evening Prayer** – Every weekday during Advent (Dec 4-22), we will hold Evening Prayer in the Assisi Chapel at 5:00 PM.

**Lessons and Carols** – Join us tonight at 7:00 PM as our Chancel Choir presents a service of Advent Lessons and Carols, followed by cookies and hot chocolate in the parish hall.

**Christmas Flowers** - It's time to think about making the church look festive for Christmas! You will find envelopes in the pews to make your donations for flowers. You can also indicate your dedication when you send your check. To include your dedication in the bulletin, please send in your donation no later than December 18<sup>th</sup>. All donations help provide altar arrangements throughout the year and support our beautiful gardens.

**The Advent Outreach Tree** is back! Paper cards adorn the tree in the Narthex, and each donation of \$10 or more to Sleep in Heavenly Peace earns an ornament that may be given to friends and family, or placed in stockings, to let them know that a gift was made in their honor. Sleep in Heavenly Peace provides beds for children in Union County.

**We will celebrate our octo- and nonagenarians** (parishioners 80 and older) with a lunch on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Our celebration will be held at Liz's home, 314 Smoke Rise Ridge, Blairsville, GA 30512. Please RSVP using the link in the eClare or by calling Carlene Dockery at 404-323-4377.

**A Service of Healing and Remembrance** will be held on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 12:15 PM in the Assisi Chapel. The holidays can bring into sharp focus the loss of a loved one, disappointments, loneliness, bad memories, and a host of other difficult feelings. This service offers us a space to come together and share our challenges during this time of year.



### **Church Calendar**

#### **Advent III, Sunday, December 17th**

9:30 AM Adult Ed, The Art of Advent with Ken Alexander  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

#### **Advent IV, Sunday, December 24th**

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
12:00 PM Decorate the church for Christmas

#### **Christmas Eve Service**

7:15 PM Christmas crafts with children in the parish hall  
7:30 PM Prelude Music by Chancel Choir  
8:00 PM Festive Eucharist with reception following the service

#### **Holidays/Office Closings**

December 25-Jan 1 – Christmas Week & New Year's Day

### **Weekly Services**

Sundays, HE Rite II, 10:30 AM (In person and on Facebook)  
Wednesdays, Centering Prayer, 11:30 AM (Assisi Chapel)  
Wednesdays, HE Rite II, 12:15 PM (Assisi Chapel)  
Morning Prayer is 8:00 AM M-F (Facebook)  
Evening Prayer is 5:00 PM M-F (Assisi Chapel and on Facebook)  
Compline is 7:30 PM M-F (Facebook)  
Choral Compline, First Sundays, 7:00 PM (In person and on Facebook)

*Welcoming all people to worship with us.  
Unapologetically Christian.  
Learning to love like Jesus.*

## **Those Who Serve**

December 10, 2023

Verger – Lynnae Boudreau

Crucifer – Steve Wilson

Lector 1 – Susan Marr

Lector 2 – Steve Wilson

Eucharistic Minister – Sandy Bell

Ushers – Kathy McNeese & Frank Kinmonth

VPOD – Pat Murray

Altar Guild – Lisa McElfresh

Flower Guild – Entire Guild

Videographer – Lamar Barber

Fellowship – Diana & Richard Guimond

## **2023 Vestry**

Lynnae Boudreau, Senior Warden

Lisa McElfresh, Junior Warden

Lamar Barber, Treasurer

Jo Ellen Clow, Clerk

Sandy Calloway

Amy Cox

Katherine Duello

Lynne Joynes

Pat Murray

Herb Pilcher

Michael Smith-Foot

## **Clergy and Staff**

Bishop of Diocese of Atlanta

The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright

Rector—The Rev. Liz Schellingerhoudt, OA

[Liz@StClaresEpiscopal.org](mailto:Liz@StClaresEpiscopal.org)

Parish Administrator—Kitty Taylor

[Admin@StClaresEpiscopal.org](mailto:Admin@StClaresEpiscopal.org)

Treasurer—Lamar Barber

[treasurer@stclaresepiscopal.org](mailto:treasurer@stclaresepiscopal.org)

Organist-Choirmaster—Karen Calloway

[edwins@windstream.net](mailto:edwins@windstream.net)

Sunday Sexton—Billy Clayton

St. Clare's Episcopal Church

777 Ledford Road, Blairsville, GA 30512

Office Hours: Mon—Thurs 9:00-5:00

Phone: 706-745-0607

Email: [Admin@StClaresEpiscopal.org](mailto:Admin@StClaresEpiscopal.org)

On the Web: [StClaresEpiscopal.org](http://StClaresEpiscopal.org)