

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023 | 5:00 PM | THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER  
Holy Eucharist in the Celtic Tradition

*This liturgy is adapted from “A Celtic Liturgy for Every Season” by Elizabeth Grover.*



## PRELUDE

SLANE

ISLE OF THE BLEST

*The people's response is in bold.*

## OPENING WORDS

The God of love is with us.

**The Spirit of love is in us.**

Blessed be the one God, whose prophets foretold the coming of the Light,  
**And blessed be the Son, whose coming we await.**

## THE LIGHTING OF THE THREE CANDLES

We will light a light in the name of the Maker –  
**God who spoke in the silence and gave the gift of sound.**

We will light a light in the name of Christ –  
**Jesus, whose human ears heard the sounds of his Father's creation.**

We will light a light in the name of the Spirit –  
**The Holy One who speaks to us with a still, small voice.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, to you our hearts are open and our inmost desires known. We cannot hide our most intimate secrets from you. Be present at all times in our thoughts and hearts and purify, so that we may love you with the love of the Spirit and praise your name with humility and joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **SILENCE**

*A chime of the singing bowl will signal the beginning and end.*

## **A HYMN OF PRAISE**

Let us praise the Holy One in the words of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*

to Abraham and his children for ever.

## A PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. 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.**

## FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence~  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil~  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE RESPONSE**

"Speed" by Cornelius Eady

I have seen the swallows spin  
Above the bell tower,  
Quick feathers gathering air.  
If an arrow could think  
These are the handsome moves  
It would choose for itself.  
In Florence, the swallow Is a swirl of pigment,  
A blurred hunger under  
Dappled light.  
I am big and chunky, I am dressed incorrectly,  
And I have yet to think  
At the speed of the world.

## **SECOND LESSON**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

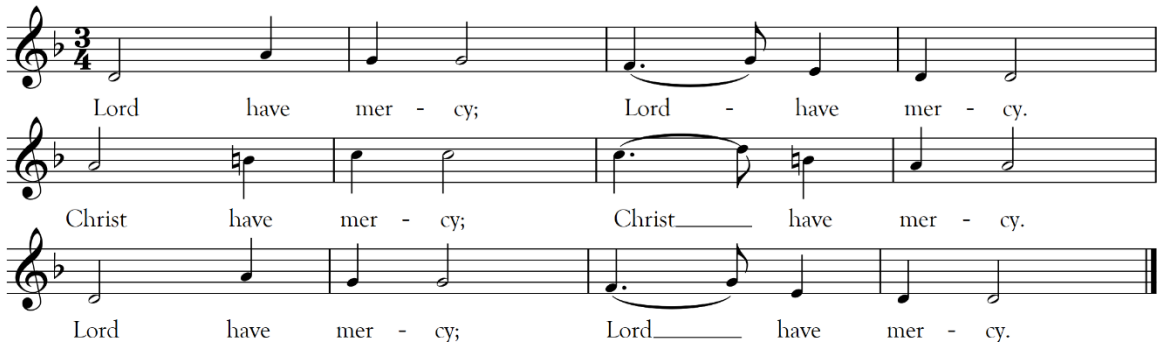
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind~ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you~ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL SONG

ST. ANNE'S KYRIE



Lord have mer - cy; Lord - have mer - cy.  
Christ have mer - cy; Christ have mer - cy.  
Lord have mer - cy; Lord have mer - cy.

## THE GOSPEL

MARK 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

## **SILENCE**

*A chime of the singing bowl will signal the beginning and end.*

## **THE HOMILY**

## **SILENCE**

*A chime of the singing bowl will signal the beginning and end.*

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

With prayers for a world waiting in hope, let us turn to the Lord, and we shall be saved.

For the Church, still waiting for unity, still hoping for renewal. May all the faithful be  
blessed by the sound of the Gospel proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

**Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.**

For all nations, still waiting for peace, still hoping for an end to war, still searching for  
common ground. May all peoples be blessed by the sound of understanding between clans  
and tribes, rulers and races.

**Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.**

For those who have lost hope, still waiting for a job, still hoping for a cure, still searching  
for a place to call home. May those without joy this season be blessed by the sound of  
God's promise for them fulfilled.

**Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.**

For travelers and visitors, families and friends, still waiting for welcome, still hoping for  
reconciliation, still searching for a way to mend what has been broken. May everyone we  
encounter this season be blessed by greetings of peace, compassion, and hospitality.

**Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.**

For the thanksgivings of this life for all things wonderfully created, for your love and goodness. May we share the divine life of Jesus who humbled himself to share our humanity.

**Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.**

For the sick and the dying and those who care for them, still waiting for results, still hoping for a miracle, still searching for courage and comfort, including those we now name, either silently or aloud. May all the sick be blessed by the sound of God's healing word and the strength of our prayers.

**Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.**

For the dead – loved ones whom we miss this season, forgotten ones who died alone, innocent ones caught in the crossfire of violence, including those we now name either silently or aloud. May all who have died be blessed by the sound of God welcoming them home.

**Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.**

You are near to us, Lord, as close to us as the child in the womb of her mother. And yet we wait in expectant hope for your coming. Attune our ears to hear your voice in all those we meet, and open our eyes to see your abiding presence in our world. Hear our prayers and make us turn to you that we may leap for joy at the sound of your saving Word, Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

As we await the coming of Jesus,  
So we often wait for others to forgive us.  
Our sin separates us from God and from one another.  
Let us forgive our brothers and sisters  
And confess our own sin together

**God of all people, as we await once again  
The birth of your love in our hearts,  
We confess that we have lost sight of that love.  
In this busy season we turn away from pain and poverty,  
We avoid the sick and the lonely,  
And we ignore the outcast and the oppressed.  
Have mercy on us and give us the strength**

To truly welcome Christ into our hearts  
And live our lives according to your will.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord enrich us with grace,  
And further us with heavenly blessing.  
The Lord defend us in adversity and keep us from all evil.  
The Lord receive our prayers  
And graciously absolve us from our offenses. In God's name we pray. **Amen**

## **SILENCE**

*A chime of the singing bowl will signal the beginning and end.*

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

God makes peace within us.  
**Let us claim it.**  
God makes peace between us.  
**Let us share it.**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **OFFERTORY**

DOWN THE BRAE

*We encourage you to give your offering electronically today through our CoR App.  
(Search Redeemer Cincy in your app store.) Or you may choose to give online via our secure online system  
located here: <https://redeemercincy.tpsdb.com/Give/offering> There are also two collection spots in the narthex  
(look for the Give Here signs) where you may deposit your offering safely.*

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give God thanks and praise.



We offer you praise and hearts lifted high, O God, who is Father of all life and of all sound. Though our days vanish like mist, and the sound of the earth fade away in the distance, still your Spirit is within all life, and every human soul is born in your likeness. And so with the whole created order, with the stars that silently glisten with life's glory, with the wind that howls and the gentle breeze that whispers, with the trumpets of heaven's messengers and the echo of each of the saints, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

*Celebrant and People*

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might  
 heaven and earth are full of your glor - ry, Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Bless - ed is he, O bless - ed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - sa - na in the high - est, ho -  
 san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God, whose wisdom from above has inspired men and women through the ages to fulfill on earth your purposes - to hear the cry of the poor, to act with mercy, and to live together in gentleness and peace. We bless you for the coming of Christ, who in life and in death embodied the law of love. By his rising again, he has saved our souls from despair, and by the gift of the Holy Spirit, he has given us courage and hope to face the forces of evil and death that rage around and within us.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took wine, and having given thanks for it, he gave the cup to his disciples, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Remembering his eternal self-giving, we proclaim the mystery of Christ among us. Made one with him and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.

O God, whose generosity is unbounded and who wills that we should lack no good thing, bless this bread and this wine with your Holy Spirit, that in receiving them into ourselves we may be made whole again, strengthened not merely to hear the truth, but to do it, and be blessed in our doing; through Christ, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, world without end. **AMEN**  
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now say,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us 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

## **SILENCE**

*A chime of the singing bowl will signal the beginning and end.*

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The Spirit we await is with us in the bread.

The voice of the Holy One speaks to us in the cup.

## **THE SHARING OF A HOLY MEAL**

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

LAMENT FOR OWEN CHRISTIE

## POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us stand and join in thanking God for this holy meal  
O God, we have heard your call to us,  
And we have responded by gathering in your name  
To await your voice.

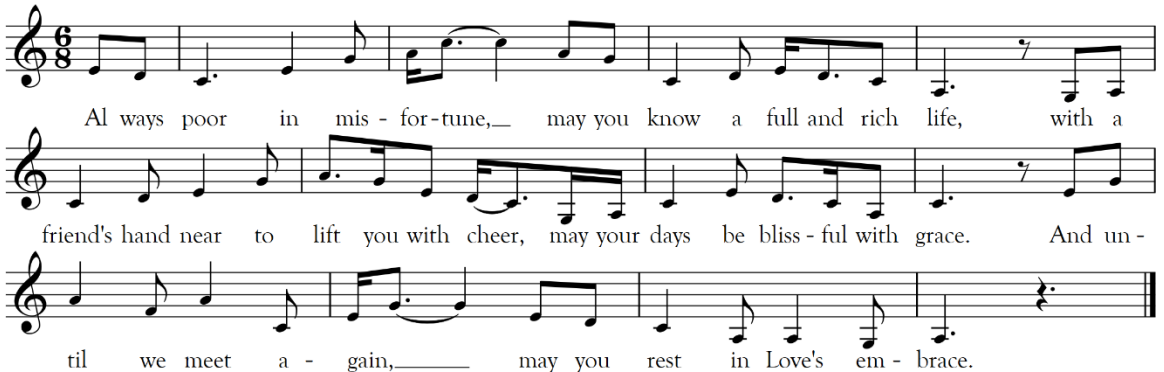
Help us to listen to your presence  
In silence and in sound - the voices of your people,  
The noises of your animals, the music of creation -  
That, reconnected with you and one another through this holy meal  
We may hear the voice which calls us home to you  
Our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen

## SILENCE

*A chime of the singing bowl will signal the beginning and end.*

Lord of all light, as we go forth into the world, we extinguish this light.  
But we will carry the light in our hearts and we pray that as we go about our work in the  
work, we will shine with the love of God. Amen.

## CELTIC BENEDICTION



Al ways poor in mis - for - tune, — may you know a full and rich life, with a  
friend's hand near to lift you with cheer, may your days be bliss - ful with grace. And un -  
til we meet a - gain, — may you rest in Love's em - brace.

## THE BLESSING

May the Wonderful Counselor guide you,  
The Mighty God protect you  
The Everlasting Father be with you,  
And the Prince of Peace comfort you.  
And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Be upon you now and ever more. Amen.

# CLOSING SONG

'LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS...'

Music: Tallis' Ordinal ('Slane')  
Lyrics: Jan Struther, 1931



1. Lord of all — hope - ful - ness, — Lord of all joy, whose —
2. Lord of all — ea - ger - nes, — Lord of all faith, whose —
3. Lord of all — kind - li - ness, — Lord of all grace, your —
4. Lord of all — gen - tle - ness, — Lord of all calm, whose —



trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could des - troy, be  
strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, be  
hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace, be  
voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm, be



there at — our — wak - ing, and give us, we pray, your  
there at — our — la - bors, and give us, we pray, your  
there at — our — hom - ing, and give us, we pray, your  
there at — our — sleep - ing, and give us, we pray, your



bliss in our hearts, — Lord, at the break of the day. —  
strength in our hearts, — Lord, at the noon of the day. —  
love in our hearts, — Lord, at the eve of the day. —  
peace in our hearts, — Lord, at the end of the day. —

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth with joy to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE**

MOLLY MALONE

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Celebrant.....The Rev. Hershel Wade  
Preacher.....The Rev. Philip DeVaul  
Lector .....Nico Rumboll  
Lay Reader .....Tom Hill  
Intercessor ..... Anny Stevens-Gleason  
Musicians..... Guy Byars, John Calhoun, Elizabeth Grover, John Grover  
Celtic Guild..... John Calhoun  
Bread Guild..... Emily von Allmen  
Altar Guild .....Karen Staffiera, John Morabito, Katy Mallon  
Flower Guild ..... Kathleen Stengel, Courtney Vice, Laurie Maguire, Michelle Kirk

**Make a Christmas offering that enables the work of our Flower Guild in beautifying the space.** Please consider making a special Christmas Flower gift in thanksgiving or memory of a loved one. To give electronically, use the QR Code at right or pick up one of the Flower envelopes in the Narthex.







#### VISION STATEMENT

We have a vision of a worshipping community  
that **knows Jesus and grows in love:**

- **United** in relationships of holy connection and communion;
- **Growing** with people of every age, race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, and political persuasion;
- **Inspired** by our understanding of why we are Christian, why we are Episcopalian, why Redeemer matters to us;
- **Sent** into the world, rooted and grounded in love, to serve all people with humility, compassion, and faithfulness.

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**



# The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

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