

Holy Trinity Church
446 Hamilton St. Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550
A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

The Rev. Richard Signore, Celebrant & Preacher
Anne Bouvier-Monroe, Organist; Susan Howland, Harp
John Grant, Reader

Prelude: *Harp Music, Susan Howland*

Processional Hymn: Signs of endings all around us *Words: Dean W. Nelson; Music: Thomas John Williams*

Signs of endings all around us darkness, death, and winter days shroud our lives in fear and sadness, numbing mouths that long to praise. Come, O Christ, and dwell among us! Hear our cries, come set us free. Give us hope and faith and gladness. Show us what there yet can be.

Can it be that from our endings, new beginnings you create? Life from death, and from our rendings, realms of wholeness generate? Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them into hopes for life anew. Fading light and dying season sing their Glorias to you

Advent Candle Lighting: O Come, O Come Emmanuel *Harp Instrumental, Susan Howland*

*** Collect** *(said by all)*

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 Reading

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah

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.

Isaiah 64:1-9

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

Silence

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

said by all, in unison

BCP, p. 702

**Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

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

**O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered**

despite the prayers of your people?

**You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

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

**Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

**And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**

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

Holy Gospel Matthew 13:24-37

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ

People **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.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord **People Praise to you Lord Christ**

Sermon

Fr. Richard Signore

Prayers of the People IV, BCP, p. 388 **RESONSE: Hear our prayer.**

Prayer for the Parish

O everlasting source of love, in whom our faith resides, guide us surely ever forward on our lifelong journey. Not so fast that we miss the beauty that surrounds us on the way, nor miss your grace so freely given that teaches us how to grow. But with a steady presence felt and a sense of gratitude may we find our place amidst the jungle of life within the kingdom of heaven on earth. Amen

Confession & Absolution

BCP, p. 360

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.

The Peace (*no handshaking or hugging please – solemn bow or wave only*)

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory: *Harp Music, Susan Howland*

***The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A**

BCP, p. 361

Sanctus (*said by all*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Book, p. 364

Fraction Anthem (*said by all*) *Words: Gary James*

Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread. The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ. Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread. One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread. Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

Communion: *Harp Music, Susan Howland*

Prayer (*said by those at home*) *My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)*

The Post Communion Prayer *(Said by all worshipping in person)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son and 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.

Blessing

Dismissal Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional Hymn: WLP #810 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

Words and Music: Michael Joncas

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: “My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!”**

**And I will raise you upon eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand.**

**Share of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear;
under God’s wings your refuge with faithfulness your shield.**

**And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand.**

Postlude

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