

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

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

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

VIGIL LIGHT

The vigil light today is given to the Glory of God and for healing and comfort for Betty and Ray, given by Judy Reich.

Prelude: *Susan Howland, Harp*

Processional Hymn: #268

Words: Vincent Stucky Stratton Coles; Music: David Hurd

Ye who claim the faith of Jesus, sing wonders that were done when the love of God the Father over sin the victory won, when he made the Virgin Mary mother of his only Son.

Blessed were the chosen people out of whom the Lord did come; blessed was the land of promise fashioned for his earthly home; but more, blessed far the mother, she who bore him in her womb.

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

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

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading

Reader A reading from the second book of Samuel

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

Silence

Canticle 15 *said by all, in unison*

**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.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Holy Gospel Luke 1:26-38

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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: *Susan Howland, Harp*

***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: *Susan Howland, Harp*

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 worshiping 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 #265

Words: Carl Daw Jr.; Music: melody Hunterian MS, 15th cent.

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; All hail, said he, thou
lowly maiden Mary most highly favored lady, Gloria!**

**For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy Son shall be Emmanuel,
by seers foretold, most highly favored lady, Gloria!**

Postlude: *People, Look East setting by Dale Wood*