



Christmas Eve

2020

THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
MEDFIELD, MA

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

CHRISTMAS EVE

24 December 2020

Prelude *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”* — Willis

Opening Hymn No.83 *O come, all ye faithful* (*verse 1*)

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly, love you, and worthily magnify your Holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Praise No. 96 *Angels we have heard on high* (*verse 1*)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People: Amen.

The First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named.

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn No. 87 *Hark! the herald angels sing*

(verse 1)

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Christmas Candlelight Vigil

Hymn No. 79 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verses 1 and 3)
(While candles are being lighted)

Vigil Prayer

God of endless ages, father of all goodness, we keep vigil for the dawn of salvation and the birth of your Son. With gratitude, we recall Jesus' humanity, the life he shared with regular people with needs, fears, and loves. May the power of Christ help us answer his call to forgiveness and life, healing and restoration. Strengthen our patience and give us the will to look for the light that you have given even when all seems dark. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Petitions and Thanksgivings
(Parishioners are encouraged to offer their prayers).

Vigil Collect

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn at the Vigil No. 111 *Silent Night* (All verses)

Anthem at the Vigil “*In the Bleak Midwinter*” — Holst/Hayes

The Christmas Blessing

Celebrant: May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

People: **Amen.**

Celebrant: May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

People: **Amen.**

Celebrant: May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

People: **Amen.**

Celebrant: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

People: **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*A heartfelt thank you
to Eric
and the Advent Choir members
for their contribution of beautiful music.*

*Celebrant:
Minister of Music*

Lectors:

Vocals:

	The Rev. Marc Eames
	Eric Bouwman-Wozencraft
	Theresa Melzar, Ingrid Scanlon
4.00pm service	Christine Babson, Becky Poynot
5.00 pm service	Gretchen Eames, Heather Ford
6.00pm service	Donna Baker, Theresa Melzar



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The Rev. Marc G. Eames, Rector
Eric Bouwman-Wozencraft, Minister of Music
Rosemarie Nichols, Nursery Care Provider
Millie Downing, Parish Administrator

Chris Remington, Warden
Ellison Patten, Warden
Chad Colombo, Co-Treasurer
Theresa Melzar, Co-Treasurer
Helen Merlin, Clerk

Vestry
Peter O'Neil
Roger Travis

The Church of the Advent is part of the Neponset River Deanery of the Diocese of Massachusetts. The rector is the Dean of our section of the diocese. The Rev. John Brockman of Grace Church in Norwood is the clergy co-convener. Please learn more about the work of the Deanery by checking out our website at <https://neponsetriver.wordpress.com>.

We Welcome Visitors and Newcomers

If you are interested in finding out more about The Church of the Advent or being added to the mailing list, please fill out the *Welcome Card* in the pews and drop it in the collection plate, give it to an usher, or you may call the church office at 508.359.6303. Thank you.

Church of the Advent

