

February 17, 2021

THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
MEDFIELD, MA

ASH WEDNESDAY
February 17, 2021
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who hastest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in
parched places, and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;

you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to
live in.

Psalm 103:8-14

Read in unison

8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, * slow to anger and of great
kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no

obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

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

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to thee, O Lord.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Marc G. Eames

Invitation to a Holy Lent

Imposition of Ashes

Psalm 51

1. Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness;* according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offenses.
2. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness,* and cleanse me from my sin.
3. For I acknowledge my faults,* and my sin is ever before me.
4. Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight;* that thou mightiest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou shalt judge.
5. Behold, I was shapen in wickedness,* and in sin hath my mother conceived me.
6. But lo, thou requires truth in the inward parts,* and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.
7. Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;* thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
8. Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness,* that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
9. Turn thy face from my sins,* and put out all my misdeeds.
10. Make me a clean heart, O God,* and renew a right spirit within me.
11. Cast me not away from thy presence,* and take not thy holy Spirit from me.
12. O give me the comfort of thy help again,* and stablish me with thy free Spirit.
13. Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked,* and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
14. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health;* and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.
15. Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord,* and my mouth shall show thy praise.

16. For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee,* but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.

17. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit:* a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.

Litany of Penitence

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to thee and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

The Celebrant continues

We have not loved thee with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

We have not heard thy call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved thy Holy Spirit.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

We confess to thee, O Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People: We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our lust, gluttony, and abuse of others.

People: We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our anger, hatred, malice, and envy.

People: We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our laziness, intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

People: We confess to thee, O Lord.

Accept our repentance, O Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.

For our poor stewardship and misuse of thy creation, and our lack of concern for the generations to come,

People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let thy anger depart from us;

People: Favorably hear us, for thy mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the word of thy salvation;

People: That we may show forth thy glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of thy Son our Lord,

People: Bring us with all thy saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Absolution

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Celebrant:

Eucharistic Minister:

Altar:

The Rev. Marc G. Eames

Jill Moon

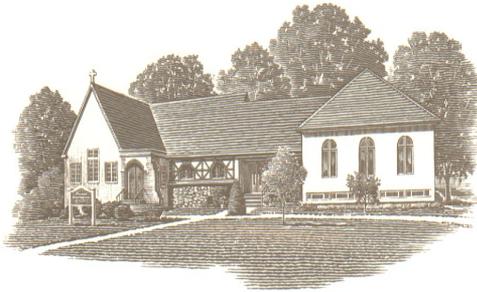
The Altar Guild

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We Welcome Visitors and Newcomers

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>.

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.