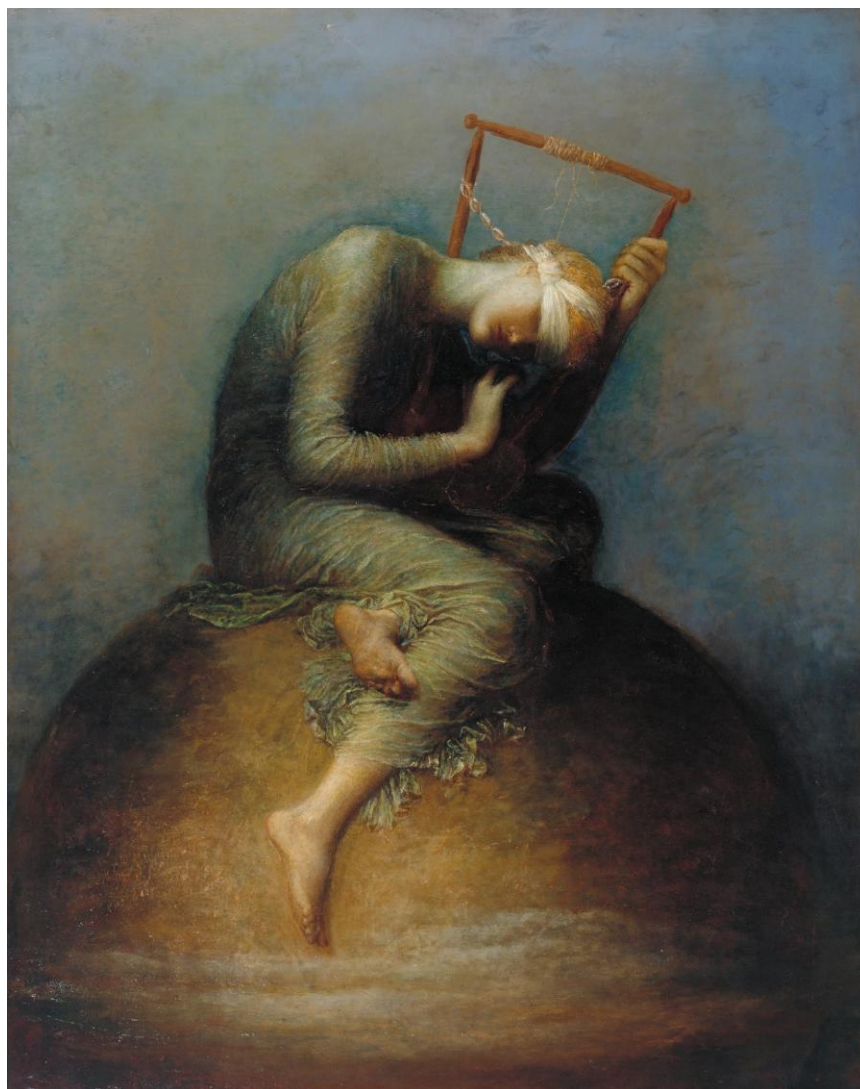


Trinity Episcopal Church

Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



"Hope" – George Frederic Watts

The Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist ~ Rite II

December 7, 2025 at 10 AM



The Reverend Andrew David Kruger ~ Rector & Presider

Anthony J. Rafaniello ~ Director of Music & Organist

Casey Woodruff ~ Senior Warden & Thomas Kaercher ~ Junior Warden

Welcome

Andrew Kruger

The People kneel.

I. Gathering of God's People

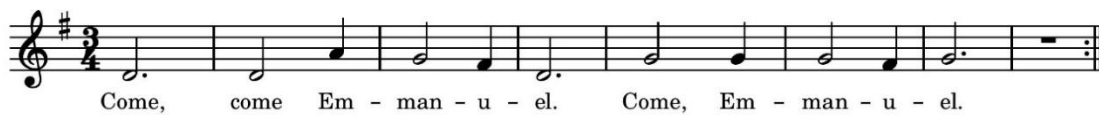
Prelude

Piano Improvisation

Advent Gathering Song

James Chepponis

The People sing the chant and the Cantor sings the verses.



1. For a shoot from Jesse will...
2. He will judge with justice and...
3. For the source of all patience will...
4. Now accept one another and...
5. Oh reform, for God's reign has...
6. Oh prepare the way and...

Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer 128

Presider O God, make speed to save us:
People **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Preparatory Prayer

Celebrating Sunday

Presider Let us pray.

The People stand and say together

Almighty and eternal God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again in glory, he may find in us a home prepared for himself; who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

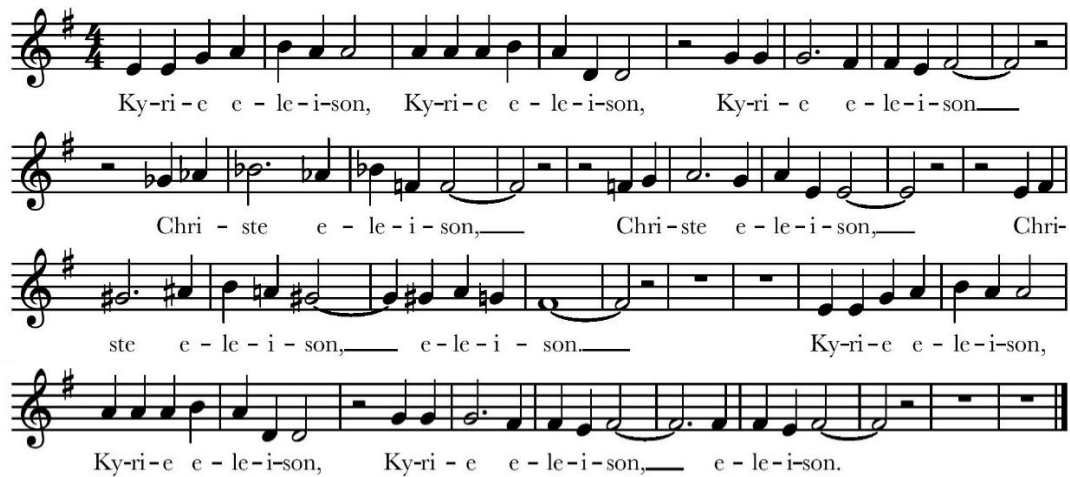
Lighting the Advent Candle

CS

The Lector says

Today is the second Sunday of Advent when we listen carefully for the prophetic voice of God which calls us to repentance. As we light the second candle let us be reminded of our need to expose our sin to the light.

The second Advent Candle is lit while the people sing.



Collect of the Day

BCP 211

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

Blessing of the Sunday School Children and Teachers

Andrew Kruger

Presider May God bless you as you prepare to enact again the coming of our Savior,
✠ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

II. Proclaiming and Receiving the Word of God

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Reader A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Deus, judicium

Plainsong Psalter

All sing the Antiphon and Psalm.



He shall have pit - y on the low - ly and poor, and shall re - deem their lives from op - pres - sion.



TONE I.1

- 1 Give *thē* King your *jú*stice, Ó God, *
and your righteousness / to the Kíng's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your *pé*ople *rí*ghteously *
and the / poor with *jú*stice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity *tó* the *pé*ople, *
and the little / hills bring *rí*ghteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy *amó*ng the *pé*ople; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush / the oppr^éssor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the *sún* and *mó*on endure, *
from one generation / to *án*óther.
- 6 He shall come down like rain *upón* the *mó*wn field, *
like showers that / water *thē* earth.
- 7 In his time shall the *rí*ghteous *fló*urish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the / moon shall *bē* no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the *Gód* of *Í*srael, *
who a/lone does *wó*ndrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious *Ná*me for *é*ver! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
/ Amen. *Ā*men. [Ant.]

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name" and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people" and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him" and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

Proclaiming Hymn

Winchester New

Hymnal 76

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

Presider ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

III. Responding to the Proclaimed Word of God

Homily

Andrew Kruger

Affirmation of Baptismal Faith

BCP 292 alt.

The Presider moves to the font and the People stand.

Friends in Christ, Baptism is not the rite of a moment but the commitment of a lifetime. In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with our Lord. Therefore let us reaffirm our Baptismal Vows together with all those who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this month.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Blessing the Water

Common Worship alt.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord:

People **God is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.**

Blessèd are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be glory and praise for ever! You are our light and our salvation. From the deep waters of death you have raised your Son to life in triumph. Accept our sacrifice of praise, we pray, and sanctify these waters of your new creation, that we, with all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit, may be renewed in your image, walk by the light of faith, and serve you in newness of life; through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of praise, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **Blessèd be God for ever.**

The Presider sprinkles the People.

Baptismal Chant

“We Shall Draw Water” – Paul Inwood



1. Truly God is our salvation; we trust, we shall not fear.
For the Lord is our strength, the Lord is our song; he became our savior.
2. Give thanks, O give thanks to the Lord; give praise to his holy name!
Make his mighty deeds known to all of the nations; proclaim his greatness.
3. Sing a psalm, sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds.
Make known his works to all of the earth; people of Zion, sing for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Prayers of the People

CW alt.

The Presider says

Awake and alert for the advent of our Lord, let us pray for the grace to embrace the gentle rule of Christ.

The intercessor prays

Holy God, from whom the Spirit proceeds, empower your church, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Sally, our Bishop; Andrew, our Priest; and all lay leaders so that they will reveal Christ's reign of justice and mercy in us, through us, and among us.

Come, Lord Jesus. **Amen. Maranatha.**

Holy God of wisdom and might, guide all people in positions of leadership, especially Donald, our President; Philip, our Governor; and Terrence, the mayor of this town; so that they will exercise their power for the common good.

Come, Lord Jesus. **Amen. Maranatha.**

Holy God, by whose word the cosmos was created, fill us with awe when we encounter the work of your hands so that we will tread gently and reverently on this good earth.

Come, Lord Jesus. **Amen. Maranatha.**

Holy God of compassion and love, bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick and raise up the fallen.

Come, Lord Jesus. **Amen. Maranatha.**

Holy God, the source of light, let the radiance of God's coming dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

Come, Lord Jesus. **Amen. Maranatha.**

Holy God of time and eternity, may we with all the saints in light shine forth as lights of the world.

Come, Lord Jesus. **Amen. Maranatha.**

The Presider adds the concluding collect.

Almighty Father, your Son came to us in humility as our savior, and at the last day he will come again in glory as our judge: Give us grace to turn away from darkness to the light of Christ that we will be ready to welcome him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Peace

BCP 360

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The People greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

Announcements

Andrew Kruger

IV. Celebrating at the Lord's Table

Offertory Sentence

Romans 13:11

Presider The hour has come for you to wake from sleep.

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offering of bread and wine to the Holy Table.



*The Ushers pass the collection plates among the people.
Another option is to give to Trinity online –
scan the QR code and go directly to our Breeze link.*

Offertory Anthem

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” – David H. Williams
Words – Charles Wesley

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign and thou alone. Amen.

The ushers bring the collection plates to the ministers and the People stand.

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.

Presentation of Gifts

An Anglican Prayer Book 1989

Presider

Source of all life, everything in heaven and on earth is yours:

People

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer for Advent

Scottish Episcopal Church, 1982 alt

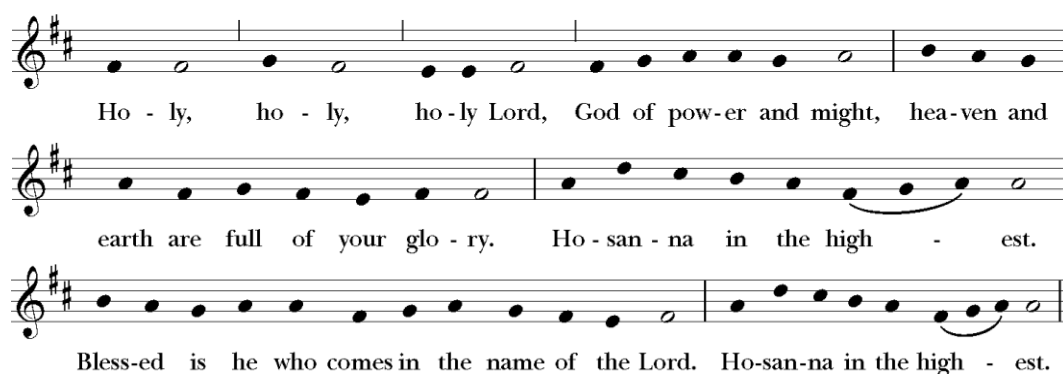
Presider The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus you showed us yourself. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, he opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, at supper with his disciples he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body. It is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, again he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

Presider We obey your Son's command:

People **We recall Christ's blessed passion and death.**

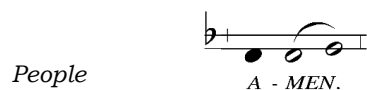
We celebrate Christ's glorious resurrection and ascension.

We look for the coming of Christ's Kingdom.

Made one with Christ, we offer you these gifts, and with them we offer ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine. By the Spirit's life-giving power may they be for us the Body and Blood of your Son, and kindled by the fire of your love, may we be renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Make us grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter our true eternal home, where with Mary the mother of our Lord, and the holy ancestors of every generation we will worship you in glory everlasting.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.



The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Agnus Dei

David Hurd

Hymnal S 161

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation

BCP 364

Presider

The Gifts of God:

People

for the People of God.

The ushers guide the people to receive Holy Communion. All who hunger for God, including children, are cordially invited to share the Gifts of God offered at this table. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here. All persons may, but no person must, receive communion in both kinds to receive the full spiritual benefits of communion. Wine is offered by way of a sip from the common cup. You may choose to receive only the host. Gluten-free wafers are available by request to the priest.

First Communion Hymn

Merton

Hymnal 59

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
 4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end-ing a - ges run.

Second Communion Hymn

Ascension

Hymnal 75

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a____
 2 O____ Zi - on, that bring-est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 but the word of our God____ en - du - reth, the____

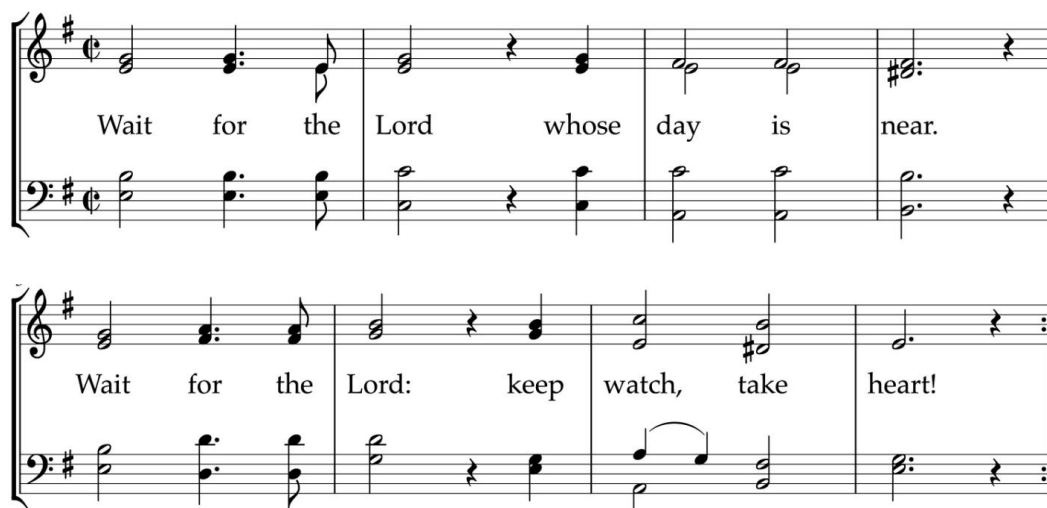
call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst____ of

high - way, a high - way for our God! The____
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 flowers of the field they____ per - ish, like
 feed his____ flock like a shep - herd, the

lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll

pla - ces where the Lord our____ God____ may go!
 na - tions shall____ pass like a dream____ a - way;
 lead them, and____ bring them____ safe to his fold.



1. Prepare the way for the Lord. Make a straight path for God. (Is. 40)
2. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. All the earth will see the Lord. (Is. 40)
3. Rejoice in the Lord always: God is at hand. Joy and gladness for all who seek the Lord. (Phil. 4, Ps. 70)
4. I waited for the Lord. God heard my cry. (Ps. 39)
5. Our eyes are fixed on the Lord our God. (Ps. 122)
6. Seek first the Kingdom of God. Seek and you shall find. (Matt. 6-7)
7. O Lord, show us your way. Guide us in your truth. (Ps. 118)

Post-communion Prayer

Celebrating Sunday

Presider Let us pray.

The People stand.

**Holy God, you draw near to us in word and sacrament
to Strengthen and renew us.**

**Kindle in us the fire of your Spirit,
may your light so shine through us
that all may welcome your Son at his coming.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Emmanuel.

Amen.

Blessing

CW

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from your path
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory:
And the blessing of God almighty,
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

V. Going out as God's People

Sending Hymn

Bereden väg för Herran

Hymnal 65

1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Refrain
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Dismissal

BCP 366

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Improvisation on *Bereden väg för Herran*

For Friends, Visitors and Newcomers

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford, New Jersey. Thank you for joining us in worship. The bulletin is designed to make you feel at home and includes everything you need for the service (liturgy, hymns, rubrics, etc.). Please connect with us; introduce yourself to the ushers so they can make you feel more comfortable.

Father Andy is in the narthex (entrance) at the end of the service; it is an opportunity to connect on a more personal level. All are invited to Fellowship Hour in Sherlock Hall immediately after the service. An email blast is sent every Thursday by 2 PM with hyperlinks to sign-up sheets, methods to contribute to the parish or other charitable organizations, ways to contact individuals or receive information on events, etc. Please contact the parish office to receive it or alternative methods of communication.

Banns of Marriage

The Banns of Marriage are published between Tiffany Tangorra and Justin Bain. You are required to give your consent to their marriage; if you cannot, you are to speak now or else for ever hereafter hold your peace. The wedding date is Saturday, December 13, 2025 in Hampton, New Jersey. This is the third time of asking.

Baptismal Anniversaries

When we think about birthdays, we immediately recall the date we were born and took our first breath in this world. But if we take a moment to reflect, we will realize that we have another “birthday” of even greater significance: the day we became members of the body of Christ – our Baptismal birthday. Through the waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit anoints us and sets our inner compass, to walk in a path that is pleasing to God, to do all good works that God has planned for us, and to “seek God’s face” [Psalm 27:8]. This is the path that ultimately leads us into abundant life both in this earthly existence, and in the world to come. Whether baptized as a child or an adult, we prayerfully grow in our understanding and appreciation of our baptismal identity, as individuals and as a community. Once a month, we acknowledge those who have a baptismal “birthday” during that month and share with them in the renewal of baptismal vows. We hope this recognition of our “birth from above” [John 3:3] will allow us to develop a deeper appreciation for the essence of our baptism. These parishioners are celebrating their Baptismal Anniversaries in December:

Diane Baldwin	December	Albert James Michael	Dec. 18	Anders Laursen	Dec. 26
Christy Barone	Dec. 14	Dianne Pecoraro	Dec. 13	Megan Harris	Dec. 17
Gwenn Cuozzo	Dec. 28	Casey Woodruff	Dec. 14	James Garstka	December
Bonnie Gentesse	December	Miles Woodruff	Dec. 18	Jim Behnke	Dec. 16

What you need to know today...

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals Children will receive the blessing as usual during the 10 AM service, and then move to Sherlock Hall.

Fellowship Hour In Sherlock Hall, immediately after this service; coffee, tea and snacks are provided.

Children’s Choir Rehearsal today at 11:30 AM in Witherington Hall.

Confirmation Class Today from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM; the class will join the Taizé service at 7:30 PM.

Taizé Service Today at 7:30 PM in the church. Set up takes place after the 10 AM Eucharist at 11:30, and take down takes place at 11 AM, Monday, December 8. Please email Fr Andy to assist with set up and take down.

Ministry for the Imprisoned For children who have a parent who is incarcerated, the holidays are a particularly difficult time. Trinity’s ministry is looking for donations of new gifts for children aged birth to 17 years old. Gifts should be unwrapped and not in gift bags. \$25 gift cards to Target or Walmart are good gift ideas for older children. Please contact Senior Warden Casey Woodruff (908-868-4915 or woodruff5073@gmail.com) to arrange donations. Collection ends today.

Sanctuary Candle During Advent, while there are no flowers on the altar, we can still remember our loved ones and the attributions on the front cover will read as follows: “The Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of _____.”

Christmas Flowers As part of the preparation for celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord, please contribute towards this year’s flowers. The deadline is Sunday, December 14. Envelopes marked for this purpose are in the narthex of the church. Alternatively, give to Trinity online and write ‘Christmas Flowers’ in the memo line. All remembrances must be logged online by completing the form which can be accessed via the QR code. Loved one’s names will be on the Christmas bulletins and will be prayed for at Morning Prayer during the season of Christmas.



Christmas Wreaths and Grave Blankets For the next weeks before Christmas, Cranford Troop 80 Boy Scouts from Trinity will be selling after each service during coffee hour. Wreaths will be delivered to the church the following Sunday, and special arrangements can be made for deliveries. Funds raised help support Troop activities, service projects, and summer camps.

Trinity Nominating Committee is in the process of identifying individuals interested in serving the parish in the following roles: Junior Warden, Vestry Member (3), Delegates to Diocesan Convention, and Delegates to Northern Convocation. To learn more about these positions, please contact Casey Woodruff (Senior Warden and Chair of this year’s Nominating Committee).

Youth Representative Applications are being accepted for this appointed position on the Trinity Vestry. Open to high school students in their sophomore or junior year to represent the youth of the parish. See email blast to apply by Sunday, December 14.

Cranford HS Madrigal Choir Holiday CD Today through Christmas Eve, the session recorded at Trinity in December 2024 will be on sale. See Anthony Rafaniello after the 8 AM or 10 AM services to purchase. Each CD is \$25; cash, check made out to “Cranford High School” or Venmo (@CranfordChoir). Proceeds support the Cranford HS Choir Program.

Disaster Relief in Jamaica Outreach collected \$817; \$1000 will be given to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD).

TEDS Pajama Drive Thank you to all who participated; 110 sets of pajamas were collected which will be distributed to children right here in Union County. Thank you again, your support is a blessing.

The Diocese of NJ is providing a \$1 million gift to the Diocese of Jerusalem. This gift was announced by Bishop French, Diocese of NJ, and Archbishop Naoum, Bishop of Jerusalem, and will support medical and trauma care for children, youth, and families in Gaza and the Palestinian Territories. A link to the Pastoral Letter is in this week’s email blast.

Diocesan Convention was last weekend, the full texts of the Convention Address, Presentation on the Listening Sessions, and State of the Diocese Address, as well as the full Report on the Listening Sessions are now available on the Diocesan website.

What you need to know this week...

The Daily Offices Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are offered online from Monday to Friday at 8:30 AM and 5 PM.

Trinity Women’s Group Monday, December 8 from 7 to 8 PM online.

Parish Office Parish Administrator Marion Nechuta is in Tuesday (12 noon-2:30 PM), Wednesday (1 PM-3:30 PM) and Thursday (12 noon-2:30 PM). Father Andy’s sabbath day is Friday.

Handbells and Choir Rehearsals This Wednesday, December 10; rehearsal for Handbells is 7 to 7:50 PM and Adult Choir is 8-9 PM.

Compline Thursdays at 8 PM online. A contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace.

Santa/Polar Express Event Saturday, December 13 in Sherlock Hall. All are invited; see email blast for details. This is a fundraiser for the Moscoso Foundation.

Knitting Circle Saturday, December 13 meeting is cancelled; the group will meet in January.

What you need to know in the future...

Christmas Cookie Fellowship Hour Sunday, December 14 after both services. Please bring in a few dozen of your favorite treats. Due to allergy concerns, please list the ingredients, especially if it contains NUTS. Recipes are also welcome. A sign-up list is accessible via the weekly email blast. Contact Cynthia Kolby (908-451-4370) or Carol Beier (cbeier@gordonherlands.com) for more information.

Fellowship Luncheon Thursday, December 18 from 12:30 to 2 PM in Witherington Hall. TEDs students singing Christmas Carols will serenade while Shepherd’s Pie (beef) is served – everyone’s favorite Luncheon. Call Susan Olszewski (908-757-9561) or Susan Nelson (908-397-3944) for questions or to help.

St. John’s Sandwich Sunday December 20; people are needed to make sandwiches after the services and deliver them to St. John’s in Elizabeth. Sandwich donation items needed are listed in this week’s email blast. Food bags will be made on Saturday, December 19 in Sherlock Hall from 10 to 11 AM. Only sandwich bags are being accepted at this time, no additional food items or clothing. To help, please contact Marion Nechuta (marionnechuta@yahoo.com) or Helen Shteynberg (hshteynberg@gmail.com).

Martin Luther King Jr. Thursday, January 15 at 7 PM at St. Mark’s AME Church, Cranford. Highschoolers are invited to submit an essay on MLK; the winner will be read during this annual Cranford MLK service. Details may be viewed in the weekly email blast.

Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 25, 2026 following one service at 10 AM. Reports are due by Sunday, January 4.

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 7	Second Sunday of Advent	8 AM, Rite I and 10 AM, Rite II
Sunday, December 7	Taizé Service	7:30 PM
Sunday, December 14	Third Sunday of Advent	8 AM, Rite I and 10 AM, Rite II
Sunday, December 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent	8 AM, Rite I and 10 AM, Rite II
Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Pageant	4:30 PM Rite II Eucharist with the blessing of the creche
Wednesday, December 24	Lessons & Carols	10:30 PM Traditional Anglican feast of music and scripture
Thursday, December 25	Christmas Day	9 AM One single worship service, Rite I
Sunday, December 28	First Sunday after Christmas	9 AM One single worship service, Rite II
Sunday, January 4	Epiphany (observed)	8 AM Rite I Eucharist and 10 AM Rite II Eucharist
Sunday, January 11	Baptism of our Lord	8 AM Rite I Eucharist and 10 AM Rite II Eucharist

Introduction to the Advent Liturgy at Trinity

Every liturgical year begins with the season of Advent. The word “advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which literally means “coming.” Bernard of Clairvaux summarized the theology of Advent with reference to the three comings of Christ – past, present and future: “In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last he will appear as our life; in this middle coming, he is our rest and our consolation.” Traditionally the color for Advent has been purple. This has led many congregations to think of Advent as a mini-Lent replete with penitence and abstinence thus obscuring the central themes of the hope and expectation in Advent. In recent times there has been a growing use of blue – the color that represents Mary, the mother of our Lord – in Advent. At the heart of Advent is the theme of hope and expectation in the midst of waiting.

Therefore, the Season of Advent invites us to craft our Liturgy in ways that reflect and elevate the themes of alert, expectant preparation. For this reason, this service includes a ritual for lighting the candles of the Advent Wreath and Advent-styled Prayers of the People. The successive lighting of the candles of the Advent wreath will take a central role in our liturgy. Our Advent wreath is made up of blue candles (the liturgical color for Advent) in a circle of evergreens. The circle has no beginning or end, reminding us of God’s unending love for us. The evergreens are a sign of life in an otherwise lifeless winter. The focus of the candle lighting centers on the increasing light of God in the world.

As has become our custom, the sanctuary is adorned with two evergreen trees. While these trees foreshadow Christmas celebrations, their primary symbolism is that of hope and life in the midst of a winter landscape. The “call and response” for the Prayers of the People will include the word *Maranatha*, an Aramaic word that means “the Lord is coming” or “come, O Lord.” It was the common greeting among our brothers and sisters in the early church who were eagerly expecting the second coming of Christ.

Lectionary & Liturgy

This is the first of the two Advent Sundays in which John the Baptist is the dominant figure. John’s ministry as the forerunner of the Messiah is introduced in today’s gospel reading by his preaching: a stern call to repentance. John warns that neither reliance on the religious practices of the Pharisees and Sadducees nor descent from Abraham is of any use unless one turns around and repents. The first reading is one of the visions of Isaiah. From the almost moribund family of Jesse (King David’s father) a new shoot will appear, a new David. his Messiah will establish God’s universal reign as a time of peace even extending to the natural world. Paul’s message in the second reading also reflects on the character of the Messiah’s ministry as one for all peoples: Jews and Gentiles. Advent calls all people, not just those who are religious, into relationship with God and with each other. Nevertheless, a key element in this new relationship is repentance, entering into the new Way of living brought through the dying and rising of Jesus.

.From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. © 2007 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Inc. NY

- † **Cover Art** – “Hope” is a Symbolist oil painting by the English painter George Frederic Watts (1817-1904) who completed the first two versions in 1886. Radically different from previous treatments of the subject; the background is almost blank, its only visible feature a single star. Although Watts received many offers to buy the painting, he had agreed to donate his most important works to the nation and felt it would be inappropriate not to include *Hope*. Consequently, he later painted a second version. President Theodore Roosevelt displayed a copy at his home in New York. It remained influential. MLK Jr. based a 1959 sermon on the theme of the painting, as did Jeremiah Wright in Chicago in 1990. Among the congregation for the latter was the young Barack Obama, who was deeply moved.
- † **Gathering Chant** – Words & Music: James J. Chepponis. “Dedicated to Michael McGrath. Verses are based on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8) but can also be used as general Advent verses.” –[©1995 GIA Publications]
- † **Service Music** – Dr. David Hurd (b. 1950), composer, concert organist, choral director and educator; professor at General Theological Seminary for 28 years. Presently Director of Music at Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in Times Square, NYC. –[© 1981 GIA Publications]
- † **Collect** – This new collect is based on that for the third Sunday of Advent in the Book of Common Worship of the Church of South India; the theme is “The Fore-runner.” The prayer might be compared to a collect in the 1662 Prayer Book, generally attributed to John Cosin. The essential difference between Bishop Cosin’s collect and that in the present revision lies in the placing of responsibility not only upon the ministers and stewards but upon all of us to be prepared for Christ’s coming again. –[*Notes on the American Prayer Book*, Marion Hatchett]
- † **Proclaiming Hymn** – Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); originally written in Latin, early translators thought the text medieval. Coffin was principal of the college at Beauvais, 1712 and rector of the University of Paris, 1718. His hymns are described as having less brilliancy, but more simplicity and unction. –[John Julian, *Dictionary of Hymnology* (1907)] Music: melody from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).
- † **Gospel** – The Christian gospel, for Augustine, wasn’t just the answer to an intellectual question (though it was that); it was like a shelter in a storm, a port for a wayward soul, nourishment for a prodigal hungering, whose own heart had become, he said, “a famished land.” It was, he said, like someone had finally shown him his home country, even though he had never been there.
- † **Affirmation of Baptismal Faith** – Erasmus proposed a ritual in 1522 for adolescents to renew their baptismal vows; it was first recorded in the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* as part of the confirmation rite. The ritual is conducted in both Protestant and Catholic liturgies on similar lines. The presider faces the people, gives a short address and conducts a “dialogue” in the vernacular with the whole congregation.
- † **Celebrating Common Prayer** – Daily Office book for Anglicans, with Church of England texts, based on *Common Worship*.
- † **Baptismal Chant** – Words: Isaiah 12:3, 2, 4-6. Music © 1986, 1988 Paul Inwood (b. 1946), published by OCP Publications.
- † **Prayers of the People** – Adapted from “Leading Intercessions: Prayers for Sundays, Holy Days and Festivals and for Special Services Years A, B & C” by Raymond Chapman. Prayers reflect the Bible readings of the day, creating a more integrated act of worship. The prayer leader represents before God all those who are present so that at the close of the prayer all can say with integrity the ancient word of assent: *Amen*. It is a Hebrew word that has come down untranslated through Greek and Latin into English. Virtually every other language Christians speak has similarly made room for this untranslated term. Often said to mean “so be it.”
- † **Maranatha** – An Aramaic phrase meaning “Our Lord, come!” or “Our Lord has come”. It is a Christian expression of hope and anticipation for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The term appears in the New Testament as a closing to St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, and it is often used as a prayer and a rallying cry by early Christians.
- † **Offertory Anthem** – David Henry Williams, organist & composer, was born in 1919 but the editor can find no further information.
- † **Offertory Hymn** – Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andchtige und Schone Gesang*, 1715 and now attributed to Christian Friedrich Witt; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870).
- † **First Communion Hymn** – Words: as old as the 5th century, based on Latin hymn *Vox clara ecce intonat* and 1632 revision *En clara vox redarguit*. The text in the Psalter Hymnal is a revision of both Edward Caswall’s translation in his *Lyra Catholica* (1849) and the translation in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1861). Music: William Henry Monk (1823-1889), a follower of the Oxford Movement; the tune has been associated with this text since the 1861 edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. Title refers to Walter de Merton, founder of Merton College, Oxford, England.
- † **Second Communion Hymn** – Words: Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961); a Methodist lay-preacher, this active layman handled public relations for 3 denominations (Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational) planning to amalgamate into The United Church of Canada, despite signs that not all welcomed such a step. His sole hymn, a paraphrase of Isaiah 40, expressed the stated goals of the new denomination well enough to figure in its *Hymnary* (1930). Music: Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988); the only hymn-tune for which this Canadian composer and church organist is known. –[©1938 Estate of Eldred Bancroft].
- † **Communion Meditation** – Words & Music: Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community –[©1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.]
- † **Sending Hymn** – Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847), Swedish-Finnish poet and clergyman. Music: melody from *Then Svenska Psalmiboken*, 1697; arrangement *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930. “Zion” refers literally to a mountain near Jerusalem. It is used figuratively to refer to the people of God or the city where God dwells. It is the city of God’s Presence and the Source of His Salvation. It came to carry connotations in Jewish thought of the “World to Come” (Ha’olam Haba).

Liturgical Year A

Today, Advent I, is the beginning of Year A in our three year liturgical cycle. Each year is centered on one of the synoptic gospels. Year A is the year of Matthew, year B is the year of Mark, and year C is the year of Luke. John is read each year, especially in the times around Christmas, Lent, and Easter, and also in the year of Mark, whose gospel is shorter than the others. The three synoptic evangelists have particular insights into Christ. As we embark on our journey through Year A it is worth taking a moment to establish a 'bird's eye view' of how the lectionary is structured: The gospel readings from the season of Advent through the Sundays after the Epiphany tell of the coming of Christ and his manifestation especially through his preaching. Most of the first readings, chosen to illuminate the gospel passage, are from the prophet Isaiah. The second readings include selections mainly from Romans and 1 Corinthians. From Ash Wednesday through Pentecost, we continue to focus on Matthew. Many of the gospel readings, however, are traditional selections from the gospel of John, including the great initiatory (baptismal) texts of John 4, 9, and 11 on Lent 3, 4, and 5, and the discourses of John during the season of Easter. During the season of Lent, the first readings, chosen to illuminate the gospel, include important narratives of faith. During the season of Easter, the first readings are from Acts. The second readings highlight Romans and the initiatory exhortations in 1 Peter. During the Sundays after Pentecost, the gospel readings move forward through the gospel of Matthew. The lessons from the Hebrew Scriptures are a semicontinuous series of readings that focus on the major Genesis narratives, the covenant with Moses, and the establishment of Israel in the promised land. The second readings are taken from Romans, Philippians, and 1 Thessalonians. The final Sundays after Pentecost focus on eschatological (end times) themes and the reign of Christ. The Revised Common Lectionary emphatically relates the gospels for the Sundays of Lent with the Easter proclamation. This is particularly true in year A, where the baptismal emphasis is strong. As we continue to nurture our baptismal identity, with the monthly recognition of baptismal anniversaries, let us also lean into the baptismal emphasis of our lectionary.

Advent; the prophets' season

With the ubiquitous displays of Santa themed decor, and the relentless playlist of carols, you'd be forgiven for assuming that we're already in the season of Christmas. But actually, and quite wonderfully, we are in the midst of the season of Advent. Advent is a season of expectant hope and prophetic vigilance. The collect appointed for this Sunday reminds us to heed the warnings of the prophets whom God has sent. The Biblical prophets are always alert to what is leading their societies to health, and what aspects of their culture foreshadow brokenness.

I'm convinced that one of the most critical prophetic warnings needed in our time is the sinister direction in which technology is taking humanity. My own capitulation with technology – I'm writing this on a MacBook with an Apple Watch strapped to my wrist – leaves me in need of repentance. I'm old enough to remember when we were promised that email would save us hours of time: no more faxing, or opening and replying to letters. Now we spend, by some estimates, thirty days a year on email alone, and it is increasingly impossible to be out of touch with anyone, anywhere.

This is the devil's bargain of the technological society, and we have been falling for it for a long time: embrace the new, lose the old, and find yourself more deeply entwined in a technological web from which you cannot extricate yourself even if you want to. We only have to look at what screens are doing to our children for even the most oblivious parent to feel a shiver of unease. A compelling contemporary prophetic voice on this subject is Paul Kingsnorth, whose recent book *Against the Machine: On the Unmaking of Humanity* is a most worthwhile read in this season of Advent.

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