

# The First Sunday of Advent

*November 29, 2020*

The Ven. Laurie Brock, *Celebrant and Litanist*  
The Rev. Canon Elise Johnstone, *Assisting Clergy and Litanist*  
The Rev. Deacon Kenny Pierce, *Preacher*  
The Clore Family, *Lectors*  
Ms. Ruth Witt, *Organist*  
Sarah Tully Marks, *Soprano*; Alana Boltz, *Mezzo-soprano*  
Charles Coulston, *Tenor*; Tom Hayward, *Bass*  
Jeanie Hartman, Martha Smith, Mary Brinkman, and Joe Hoffmann, *Choir*



FOR THOSE  
WHO ARE DEPRESSED,  
WE ASK YOU  
TO SHOWER UPON THEM  
THE LIGHT OF HOPE.

+ MAYA ANGELOU

*The service begins on page 148 of The Book of Common Prayer.*

*To prepare, gather with your household (including pets) and light a candle. This is the First Sunday of Advent - if you have an Advent Wreath, light one candle.*

*Spend a few moments in silence and in prayerful reflection.*

## THE GREAT LITANY AND THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,  
*Have mercy upon us.*

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our ancestors; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us, for ever.  
*Spare us, good Lord.*

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil;  
and from everlasting damnation,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred,  
and malice; and from all want of charity,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the  
flesh, and the devil,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of  
thy Word and commandment,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague,  
pestilence, and famine,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder;  
and from dying suddenly and unprepared,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.*

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.*

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.*

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.*

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all humankind,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of The Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Michael the Archangel, and all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

*Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

*Have mercy upon us.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

*Have mercy upon us.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

*Grant us thy peace.*

O Christ, hear us.

*O Christ, hear us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

### **The Collect of the Day (The First Sunday of Advent)**

*Celebrant*    The Lord be with you.

*People*        And also with you.

*Celebrant*    Let us pray.

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





“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.”

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

### **The Sermon**

*The Rev. Deacon Kenny Pierce*

### **The Nicene Creed**

*Book of Common Prayer, page 358*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant*    The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*        And also with you.

### **Welcome and Announcements**

- **We begin the Church year with Advent!** Advent marks the new year of the Church. This season of 4 Sundays precedes Christmas and invites us to prepare ourselves in prayer, quiet, and reflections as we celebrate the birth of Christ. We have several options for prayer and reflection on our website, as well as directions for making and praying with your own Advent Wreath.
- **Commonwealth Forgiveness Project is underway!** St. Michael's is joining with Central Baptist Church, Temple Adath Israel, First Presbyterian (all of Lexington) and Union Church in Berea to buy and forgive \$3.5 million in medical debt in Appalachia. Our goal is to raise \$35,000 by December 31<sup>st</sup> so we can give the gift of freedom from debt to our fellow Appalachians for the New Year. As of today, we've received over \$10,000 in donations. Thank you for your generosity!
- **Advent Giving** – In this season of preparing for the presence of Christ, St. Michael's offers several opportunities to share our gifts with those in need. We are supporting GreenHouse 17's Holiday Gift Drive, gathering gifts for youth who are residents at the Fayette County Detention Center, and welcoming donations to God's Pantry and/or our Backpack ministry. Information is in our weekly e-newsletter and soon to be on our website.
- **Together in Joy continues!** Thanks to all who have already made their sustaining member pledge. Please reflect on how you may be called to financially support St. Michael's in the coming year.
- **Advent Lessons and Carols will be next Sunday at 5:30 pm via Zoom.** Please join us for this traditional service of Advent done in a very non-traditional way. The link will be available in our weekly newsletter as well as on our website and Facebook page.

*We give thanks this Sunday for the birthdays and anniversaries our members and friends celebrate, especially the 37<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Jeffery and Brenda Zahn!*

### **Anniversary and Birthday Blessing**

Eternal God, Creator and sustainer of all life: Bless, preserve, and guide your children as they mark another year of life in you. Make their hearts ready to receive your love and free to love others. Grant them grace to grow into the fullness of Christ. Strengthen them, give them joy, and awaken them every day to the power of your saving help, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Offertory Anthem**

*Adam Lay Ybounden*

Boris Ord

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;  
 Four thousand winter thought he not too long.  
 And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,  
 As clerkes finden written in their book.  
 Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,

Ne had never our lady abeen heaven queen.  
Blessed be the time that apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen, Deo gracias!

### The Lord's Prayer

*Book of Common Prayer, page 364*

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.

### The Advent Blessing

#### The Dismissal

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### Closing Hymn 66

*Come, thou long expected Jesus*

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-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:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

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.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

You may support the mission and ministry of St. Michael's by giving financially in the following ways:

- **By mail** - Mail your check to St. Michael's, 2025 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40503
- **Online** - St. Michael's website allows you to set up a monthly automatic payment from your bank account or your credit card. Please note that credit card transactions to involve a fee for the church that you can choose to offset.
- **GivePlus+ app** (available as a free download for Android and iOS) - search the App Store on your phone, fill in the required information, and give easily.
- **Text to Give** - Text the amount you want to give in the message part to 833-917-0602. The first time you text, you'll receive a link to fill in credit card information to complete your donation. You can then text "repeat" to make the donation recurring.



## About Today's Worship

**Advent** is the first season of the Christian year. The word *advent* is derived from a Latin root which means coming or arrival, and in our Church, it is a time of waiting for the birth of Christ, the coming of God Incarnate. Advent finds us in the dark of winter, when days are short and darkness envelops us. While our secular world moves quickly to Christmas, Christians are called to sit in the darkness, and invite God to stir our souls, preparing the way of the Lord in our lives, and wait for the joyful moment of Christ's birth.

Our worship begins with The Great Litany, an intercessory prayer (meaning we are asking God for help for ourselves and on behalf of others) used as early as the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The Great Litany was the first communal prayer in the English language used by Christians in England in 1544 (previous services had been in Latin, a language few people understood or spoke). And yes, The Great Litany is a long prayer.

A l-o-o-o-o-n-g prayer.  
As it should be.

We are praying for all manner of situations we as humans find ourselves in that pull us from love of God, of neighbor, and ourselves, and quite honestly, that takes some time. We are praying for peace, for grace, for healing, for protection, for forgiveness, and for hope, among the many intercessions.

This year, we offer these prayers in a time of global pandemic. While this is a first for most of us, this is not a first for the words of this prayer. Christians from across the centuries have prayed these words during various plagues and pandemics (we literally mention the word *plague* in the Litany).

So today, as we begin a new Christian year in Advent, we begin the very first moments of this new year together as Christians in prayer. And not just any prayer, but a litany that has been prayed across centuries of pandemic, war, unrest, fear, and tribulation. We join our voices with the saints and angels to pray for healing, peace, calm, hope, and joy.

We begin to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus in prayer with each other and the saints across the centuries.

What a way to welcome a new year.

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Adam Lay Ybounden

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Come, thou long-expected Jesus (Hymn 66) - Public Domain

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