

Note:

* Please feel free to remain seated during the service if that is more comfortable

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

H = The Hymnal 1982 (all hymns are from this hymnal, unless otherwise noted)

HS = May be found in the front of The Hymnal 1982.

Prelude

Please stand

Processional Hymn *Prepare the way, O Zion* **H- 65**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Celebrant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Celebrant Lighten our darkness, we beseech you, O Lord:
and by your great mercy defend us from all
perils and dangers of this life; for the love of
your only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People *Amen.*

The Opening Acclamation BCP p. 351

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People *His mercy endures for ever.*

The Confession BCP p. 352

Kyrie *Lord have mercy* S-96

The Collect

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

Please be seated

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. The Word of the Lord.

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary

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.*

Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
The Word of the Lord.

Please stand

Gradual Hymn

Watchman, tell us of the night

H-640

The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is

the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."
The Gospel of the Lord.

Please be seated

Sermon

Joanna White

Please stand

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

Prayers of the People

Remember in Your Prayers

Almighty God, whose gentle hands shaped the shores of the Chesapeake and molded the hills of the Alleghenies: guide and direct your people as we seek a chief pastor for the Diocese of Maryland. Give us clear eyes and wise minds to see beyond our desires so that we might choose a bishop who loves and serves you. Support those who hear your call to discernment and surround their families with your care. Lead us by your grace to a greater understanding of your mission and ministry so that together we might grow more and more into Christ-likeness; through Him who died and rose for us and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. *Amen.*

We pray for Christ Church, Rock Spring – Frances LeBlanc; Holy Cross Church, The Rocks – Donald & Gloria Belcher; St. Mark's, Ardayman, Diocese of Accra

We pray for Katharine our Presiding Bishop, John our own bishop, Michael and Rodney our assistant bishops, Joanna our priest, Greg our music director, the vestry, church school teachers, the choir and volunteers.

We pray for those with immediate critical needs:

Robin Alway, Bob Ambrose, Bill Anthony, Edith Barraclough, Ginny Brown, Lisa Flaherty, Marge Christ-Gohlinghorst, Nancy Clatterbuck, Judith Cloughen, Sue Gardner as she grieves for her daughter Jenny, Janet

Gossow, Catherine Hammel, Eric Hanenberg, Harry Jessop, Agnes Jones, Cheryl Lightner, Bud Lyon, Tripp Miller, Becky Perkins & Barbara Perkins, Jack Sadler, Robert Sharpe, Susan Slattery, Alford Smith, Doris Tallman, Roger Walters, Anne Wismer, Oskar the dog.

We pray for those in the military and their families

Michael Albright, Charles Barton, Sean Brack, John Bryan, Patrick Carter, Charles Cosette, Timothy Diehl, Matt Foster, Mark Hollis, Brian James, Paul Jones, Rachel Kinnemont, Paul Leckinger, Jerrett Peake, Christopher Poole, Elizabeth Stitz, Joshua Watkins, and all others facing violence and terror. We pray for peace.

We pray for all those who are addicted and in prison.

The world now has the means to end extreme poverty;

We pray we will have the will.

We pray for parents-to-be: Allison.

We remember those celebrating milestones and pray that they be strengthened in wisdom and grace: We celebrate the birthdays of Ruth Perkins and Hilda Wells and the anniversary of Butch and Cecilia Hodgson.

Christmas Present

For all who give you a face, Lord Jesus, by spreading your love in the world:
We praise you.

For all who give you hand, Lord Jesus, by doing their best toward their brothers and sisters:
We praise you.

For all who give you a mouth, Lord Jesus, by defending the weak and oppressed:
We praise you.

For all who give you eyes, Lord Jesus, by seeing every bit of love in the heart of man and woman:
We praise you.

For all who give you a heart, Lord Jesus, by preferring the poor to the rich, the weak to the strong;
We praise you.

For all who give to your poverty, Lord Jesus, the look of hope for the Kingdom:
We praise you.

For all who reveal you simply by what they are, Lord Jesus, because they reflect your beauty in their lives:
We praise you.

God our Father, you are the God of a thousand faces, yet nothing can reveal you completely except the face of the child of Bethlehem:
We pray to you:
Continue in our lives the mystery of Christmas.
Let your Son become flesh in us so that we may be for all our brothers and sisters the revelation of your ever-present love.
Amen.

The Confession BCP, p. 360
The Peace *Shalom, Salaam, Peace*
The Offertory

All are welcome to receive communion

The Holy Communion
Eucharistic Prayer A BCP p. 361
Sanctus *Holy, Holy, Holy* HS130
The Lord's Prayer BCP p. 364
Agnus Dei *Lamb of God* HS164
Communion Hymn *Comfort, comfort ye my people* **H-67**
Post Communion Prayer BCP p.366
Dismissal

Recessional Hymn *O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel*

H- 56
Verses 1,5,6,8

Postlude

Ushers Bernice Denbow, Bernice Arnold
Acolytes Chris Baumann, Andre' Ifill, Emma Bevard
Altar Guild Alice Huffiman, Doris Tallman, Ruth Perkins,
Jacki Murphy
Hospitality Karyn Galetto

Lay Participants at this morning's service:

Lector Norval King
Chalicians Carolyn Fowler, Taylor Graff
Intercessor Jean Goldsmith
Ushers Bud & Cecil Offutt
Acolytes CJ Roebuck, Emily Roebuck, Chris Baumann
Altar Guild Alice Huffiman, Doris Tallman, Ruth Perkins,
Jacki Murphy
Hospitality Debbie Stipa

PARISH LIFE NOTES

December 16, 2007

TODAY AT SHERWOOD

Blood Pressure Screening Our parish nurses will be available to take your blood pressure after the service.

Attention Parents There is a rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant immediately following the service this morning.

Christmas Altar Flowers

Last chance! In order for names to be included in the Christmas bulletin, **requests for altar flowers must be received today.** Please use the form included with this bulletin.

The Giving Tree

All food items for the Christmas baskets are due today. If you would still like to donate money or food, see Debbie Stipa, or email her at debbie@trellisservices.com

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NOTICES

Lay Participants for Sunday, December 23, 2007, 9:00 AM

Lector Bud Offutt
Chalicians Kit Slafkosky, Carolyn Fowler
Intercessor Lynn Shuppel

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES.

Please sign up today. Thanks!

5:00 PM: 1 acolyte

10:00 PM: 1 chalician, 2 ushers and 1 acolyte

Sherwood Book Club

The January 2008 book of the month is *EXILE* by Richard North Patterson. This historical novel is a story of a trial lawyer who must defend the woman he loves against a charge of conspiring to assassinate the Prime Minister of Israel. *EXILE* is also a tale of betrayal and deception, a love story and a fascinating journey into the lethal politics of the Middle East. Discussion of this book will be near the end of the month and a date will be announced as soon as it is determined. In the meantime interested persons may want to start reading its 562 pages.

Sherwood Events Calendar

<i>DECEMBER</i>		
Sun. 12/16	? ?	9:00 AM service – Third Sunday of Advent Church School 10:00 AM – rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant
Mon. 12/17	? ?	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM
Sun. 12/23	? ?	9:00 AM service The Fourth Sunday of Advent No Church School
Mon. 12/24	? ?	Christmas Eve 5:00 PM (Pageant) Christmas Eve 10:00 PM – Festal Choral Eucharist
Mon. 12/25	?	CHRISTMAS DAY – no service
Sun. 12/30	? ?	9:00 AM service No Church School

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