

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Ministers of the Church

The People of St. Michael

Our Vestry & Staff

Zollie White II, **Senior Warden**
850-321-2817

Charile Clark **Junior Warden, Ag.**
850-631-0780

Renee Frazier

Cassandra J. Grayson

Lenin Mongerie

Henry Okafor

Lauren Sapp

Sheila Hickman, **Vestry Clerk**

Laureatte Scott, **Treasurer**

Kathleen Rodgers, **Financial Secretary**

Monique Alleyne, Ivana Kenny Carmola
and Debralee LaSeur-Helfand,
Organists

Chris White, **Drummer/Choral Director**

John Grayson, **LEMS Co-Ordinator**

Elizabeth Humes, **Admin .Assistant**

Our Clergy

The Right Reverend John Howard
Bishop – Diocese of Florida

The Reverend Hugh Chapman, **Rector**
340-513-1123

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HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE ONE

Prelude

Darryl Tookes

Introit

O come, o come Emmanuel!! Come to our hearts and in our presence dwell.
We wait in hope for peace once again
Return to us the joy of Bethlehem
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come in love, our darkness to dispel

Opening prayer

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Processional Hymn

H76, On Jordan's Bank

Winchester New

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!
2. Then cleansed be every life from sin:
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony readings:

Light of Peace

Camille Usher

Narrator: An angel of the Lord appeared to simple shepherds, saying “today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.” Suddenly the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all on whom His favor rests.”

Narrator: In gratitude for the shepherds who were the first to see the Prince of Peace, we light this candle of peace.

The announcement of His birth was not to royalty, nor to the famous, but to the simple, common people of the day. After they had seen Him lying in the manger, the shepherds told everyone they met about this Child. The bearer of peace. Hear the word of the Lord: “Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace, for there is a future for the people of peace.

Narrator : For yesterday’s simple shepherds and for today’s ordinary people across the globe who welcome peace and work on its behalf, we give thanks.

THE WORD OF GOD

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People His mercy endureth for ever.

Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires know, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear what our Lord Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it:

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord , have mercy upon us.

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect for the Day

Merciful God, who didst send thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

People Amen.

The people sit

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of Baruch (5:1-9)

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 4: The Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,*
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;

And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us*
In the house of his servant David.

As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets,*
which have been since the world began:

That we should be saved from our enemies,*
and from the hand of all that hate us;

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers,*
and to remember his holy covenant;

To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham,*
that he would give us,

That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies*
might serve him without fear.

In holiness and righteousness before him,*
all the days of our life.

And thou, child shalt be called the prophet of the Highest,*
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people*
for the remission of their sins.

Through the tender mercy of our God,*
whereby the dayspring from on high visited us;

To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,*
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

A Reading from Paul’s Epistle to the Philippians (1:3-11)

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn **L11v 1-2, Prepare ye the way of the Lord** Moore

Refrain:

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

1. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. [Refrain]

2. Fill ev’ry valley, bring all mountains low. [Refrain]

The Holy Gospel

Gospeler **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus according to Luke (3:1-6)**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God

came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

After the Gospel the Reader says:

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn L11 v-3-4, Prepare ye the way of the Lord Moore

Refrain:

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

3. Go up to a mountain and shout with a loud voice. [Refrain]

4. Say to all people, here is your God. [Refrain]

The Sermon

The Reverend Hugh Chapman

The Nicene Creed

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 Father and the Son he is worshipped 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 resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

Prayers of the People Form II

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Presiding Bishop **Michael**, our Bishop **John**, our Rector **Hugh**; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed especially_____Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the special needs and concerns of this congregation especially our sick and homebound, as well as those who are in need of prayers and healing:

For those at Home:

Fr. Laughton Thomas, Rosalyn Greene, Ella Woodbury, Sam Oliver Sr., James Manning, Toni Jarmon, Rev. Leslie R. White, Rev. Ralph Griffith, Leonel Jones, Charles Walton, Joan Jackson Taylor, Howard Vincent Lewis, Franklyn Bramble, Christine Seymour, Mary Ann Nottage, Kove Lawson, Cynthia Holland, Genevie Vaughn, Harriet Bowen, Livy Hitchcock, Sheila Gonzales, Sam & Sharal Jugger and Allan Johnson.

For those in the care of the Doctor:

Joycelyn Stephens, Jo Ann Robinson, Williamae Jackson, Lauren Sapp, Dr. Derek Spencer, Marva Davis, Delores Brown, Hattie Olivia Scott, Alexis Shermise Brown, Jasmine Hartin, Shevette Newkirk, Rudolph & Marva Griffith, Delois Abraham, Stella Harris, Pamela Harris Williams, Klcey Scott, Erica Scott, Renrick Alleyne, Jeffery Adams, Mayleen Rosheuvel, Ena Mason, Darlene Sheppard, Merrick Winston Edwards, Devonias Sears, Landon Dyre, Brittany Lee, Fr. William Guthrie, Herma Watson Taylor, Fred & Sheila Hickman, Barbara Gruden, Carolyn Allen, Cn. Nelson Pinder, Camilla Stapleton, Elijah Malone, Carl Maxwell, Fr. Ranfurly Brown, Al Lawson Jr. ,Bill Bush, Kendra Nixon and Nohemy Reid.

For those on the front lines in the fight against the Coronavirus Pandemic:

Especially all doctors, nurses, scientists, and our own, Dr. Shaun Laurie, Dr. Nwamaka Onyeozili, Dr. Ross Howard McMillan, Dr. Ciara Grayson, Dr. Alaine Sharpe, Zuri A. White and Cheston Williams.

For those in the Military:

Linzie Bogan II, Clark Bogan, Brianne Edwards, Vashti Thompson, Thandi Williams and you may add your own petitions.

Pray that they may be healed and delivered from their distress.

Silence

I ask your thanksgiving for all life's blessings.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored especially _____those whom we remember today.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

Collect for the Coronavirus Pandemic. Page 19.

Confession of Sin

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. *Amen.*

The priest stands and says:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ of Lord. *Amen.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are happy laden, and I will refresh you

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

The Peace

Celebrant says to the people.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

The Peace**A498, Let There Be Peace on Earth**

Miller

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God as our Father, family all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let us each other be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow; to take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally! Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Offertory**Organ Interlude****Doxology****A650, Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow**

Hatton

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Presentation of the Offering – prayer to be said

Father, we offer you these gifts which you have given us; this bread, this wine, this money. With them we offer ourselves, our lives, and our work, to become through your Holy Spirit, a reasonable, holy and lively sacrifice. As this bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, so may we and all your people become channels of your love; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

Celebrant proceeds

It is meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once satisfaction, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he break it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrances his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son and Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonably, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee, humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen.*

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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 into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant breaks the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

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.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

Celebrant continues:

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep in everlasting life. *Amen.*

Refrain:

My Lord, what a morning,
My Lord, what a morning,
Oh, my Lord, what a morning
When the stars begin to fall,
When the stars begin to fall.

1. You will hear the trumpet sound
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
When the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]

2. You will hear the sinner cry
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
When the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]

3. You will hear the Christian shout
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
When the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]

Special Selection

Darryl Tookes

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Benediction

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always

Announcements

Dismissal

Our Worship has ended

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn H657 v 1&3, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

3. Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Instrumental Postlude

Special Notices

Return of Pledge Cards

The Stewardship Campaign concluded last Sunday with an address by Fr. Dave Killeen who spoke on treasure (spiritual). We ask that after you have prayerfully considered your pledge of time, talent, and treasure, to return the signed copy by Sunday December 12th, either by email or snail mail. Those cards will be consecrated the following Sunday at the celebration of the Eucharist. That very day, the music and youth ministry will join in presenting the service of Advent Lessons and Music. To complete the day, Leslie Baker and the Hospitality Committee will host a stewardship luncheon. Do remember to register.

News from Grace

The Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries at Grace Mission, Dr. Jenny Blalock has written seeking our support at this time. Instead of asking for Christmas gifts this year, the request is for monetary gifts/donations to be used to purchase items to be utilized for the after-school program. We urge your participation/support.

A tree adorns the vestibule – stop and indicate by taking one of the cards hanging on it.

PRAY FOR JOHN

My brother in the Lord and friend, John Melville had emergency brain surgery yesterday in New York and is recovering at this time. I ask that you keep him, Vashti (wife) and the rest of the family in prayer.

Fr. Hugh+

Stewardship Luncheon

Take out lunches will be served by the Hospitality Committee on Sunday December 19., Leslie Baker.

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

*We extend a warm welcome to our guests. Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are without a church home, we invite you to join our church family. Please sign the guest register, **include your home address, phone number and, if you would like to receive the monthly newsletter, news of special events and other happenings, please also add your e-mail address.***

***OUR VISION** is to be a cornerstone for serving the spiritual needs of the greater Tallahassee community, extending an eternal invitation to join our caring parish and to enrich the spiritual life of all people as we journey with Christ.*

***OUR MISSION** is to experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ by feeding the mind, body and spirit of our community in fellowship and service.*



HOLY COMMUNION: All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive the real and living presence of Christ in Holy Communion. To receive the Bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed. When receiving the Wine, please guide the chalice as it is offered. If you prefer, you may leave the Bread on your palm for the person administering the chalice to dip into the Wine and place on your tongue. All persons are welcome to give thanks for God's blessings at the altar rail, simply crossing your arms at the wrist with fingertips extending upward towards your shoulders.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY!



Karen Goodlett (12/9), Rosalyn Greene (12/10), Brooks David Duncan (12/10), Fr. Hugh & Genevieve Chapman (12/06).

Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace, which passeth understanding, abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Anniversary Prayer

God our Father, who made men and women to live together in families: we pray that marriage may be held in honor; that husbands and wives may live together faithfully, according to their vows; and that members of every family may grow in mutual love and understanding. In courtesy and kindness, so that they may bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ; for His name's sake. *Amen.*

From the Rector's Desk

Look in the Mirror – another interesting reflection shared with me. The writer says:

Some of us have a hard time admitting that we are wrong, or we've made a mistake. Instead of admitting that we are at fault, we chose instead to get into a defensive crouch, all the while seeking to justify what we have done. Actually making excuses for our blunders, changes nothing and may result in our losing stature in the eyes of those who admire us. Why, because our real friends see right through the façade, our failed attempts to appear blameless, and our putrid efforts at self-righteousness. For us Christians, this is truly regrettable, for even if we succeed in deceiving others, we surely cannot fool God! What should we do? Let's just look in the mirror (remember that Michael Jordan classic), and who we are, will look right back at us. No more casting of blame on others will do. Here's what Jesus has to say about our misguided attempt at blaming others (Luke 6:14-42), "and why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye. Or how can you say to your brother (sister), let me remove the speck that is in your eye, when you do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from you own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother/sister's eye." No one is perfect, everyone of us is a sinner in the eyes of God – remember that always. So beloved, let us ask God to identify what is amiss in our own lives before we begin passing judgment on others. Remember the words of Jesus – judge not and you shall not be judged, condemn not and you shall not be condemned. In other words, take a look in the mirror. *Fr. Hugh+*

The Choir Returns

Our choir director DL LaSeur-Helfand, has indicated that the choir will return on Sunday December 19, 2021, fully masked and ready to go! Those interested in becoming part of this ministry are asked to note the following:-

Rehearsal – Sunday December 5th at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday December 12th at 9:00 a.m. and possibly after the service

Dress rehearsal – Sunday December 19th at 9:00 a.m.

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Collect for the Coronavirus pandemic

Almighty God, Heavenly Healer, we bring to you all who are affected by our present pandemic; for the infirm and infected, the anxious and afraid. By your power defend us and heal us. Let us see one another not as vectors of infection, but as opportunities for love and service, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Capital Campaign Prayer

Most gracious Lord Jesus Christ and generous source of all abundance, in gratitude we invite you to expand our hearts as we seek to increase and improve this place of worship, peace, healing, forgiveness, outreach, service and fellowship. May all who enter here be restored and strengthened on their journey of faith. Guide us Heavenly Father, that we may make manifest your vision of a beloved and enlightened church and community, and be a shining example of the living presence of the Holy Spirit. May we and our Capital Campaign be a channel of God's abundant grace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Advent/Christmas Schedule of Services at SMAA

Sunday December 5th – 10:00 a.m.

Sunday December 12th – 10:00 a.m.

Sunday December 19th – 10:00 a.m.

Friday December 24th – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday December 25th – 10:00 a.m.

Sunday December 26th – 10:00 a.m.

Suggested daily Readings for the Season of Advent: Dec. 6. to Dec. 11.

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| Mon. | Isa. 5:8-12,18-23 | Psalm 25 | Luke 21:20-28 |
| Tue. | Isa. 5:13-17,24-25 | Psalm 26, 28 | Luke 21:29-38 |
| Wed. | Isa. 6:1-13 | Psalm 38 | John 7:53 – 8:11 |
| Thurs. | Isa. 7:1-9 | Psalm 37:1-18 | Luke 22:1-13 |
| Fri. | Isa. 7:10-25 | Psalm 31 | Luke 22:14-30 |
| Sat. | Isa. 8:1-15 | Psalm 30, 32 | Luke 22:31-38 |

Today Sunday, December 5

Acolytes:

Hollis Sams, **Crucifer**

Camille Usher, **Gospel Book Bearer**

Lectors: Laureatte Scott, Chenikka Usher,
Charlie Clark

Vestry: Zollie White II

Organist: Ivana Kenny Carmola