

Leaflet Info

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent November 28, 2021**

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Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

**Savior of the nations, come!**

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**Come, thou long expected Jesus**

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**Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding**

## **Advent 1 Service – November 28, 2021**

### **Prelude**

### **Hymn 54**

### **Savior of the nations, come!**

Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, both heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child of the Virgin undefiled!  
Mighty God and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!

Thus on earth the Word appears, gracing his created spheres;  
Hence to death and hell descends, then the heavenly throne ascends.

Come, O Father's saving Son, who o'er sin the victory won.  
Boundless shall your kingdom be; grant that we its glories see.

### **Opening sentence - BCP page 40**

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

### **Invitation to Confession – BCP page 41**

So that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship Almighty God, let us, with penitent and obedient hearts, confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

### **Confession – BCP pages 41-42**

*Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like  
los sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which  
we ought to have done, and have done those things which we ought not to have  
done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their  
faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared  
unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his*

*sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.*

### **Absolution – BCP page 42**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

### **Gloria – BCP page 42**

O Lord, open thou our lips.  
*And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.*

*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.*

### **Venite – BCP page 44**

Come, let us sing to the Lord;  
    let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving,  
    and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God,  
    and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are all the corners of the earth,  
    and the strength of the hills is his also.  
The sea is his and he made it,  
    and he prepared the dry land.  
O come, let us worship and fall down  
    and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is the Lord our God,  
    and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.  
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
    let the whole earth stand in awe of him.  
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth,  
    and with righteousness to judge the world and the people with his truth.

**Psalm 16 – insert**

**First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3 – insert**

**Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-25 - insert**

**Hymn 66**

**Come, thou long expected Jesus**

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

**Gospel: Mark 13:1-8 – insert**

**Sermon**

**Apostles' Creed – pp 53-54**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried,  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father  
almighty.*

*From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

### **Lord's Prayer**

The Lord be with you.  
*And with thy spirit.*  
Let us pray.

*Our Father, who are 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.*

### **Suffrages A – page 55**

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;  
*and grant us thy salvation.*  
Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
*and make thy chosen people joyful.*  
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
*for only in thee can we live in safety.*  
Lord, keep this nation under thy care;  
*and guide us in the way of justice and truth.*  
Let thy way be known upon earth;  
*thy saving health among all nations.*  
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
*nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*

Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
*and sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.*

### **Collect for Advent 1 – insert**

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 immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Collects for Sundays and Renewal – BCP page 56**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, the King eternal, who divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep thy law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done thy will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when the night comes, rejoice to give thee thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **General Thanksgiving - BCP pp 58-59**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to

whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end.  
Amen.

### **Announcements and *America***

#### **Prayer of St. Chrysostom – BCP, p 59**

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

#### **The Grace – BCP, p 59**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

#### **Hymn 59**

#### **Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding**

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
"Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day."

Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise;  
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven.

So when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear, may he with  
his mercy shield us, and with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might and blessing to the Father and the Son, with the everlasting  
Spirit while unending ages run.

## **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## **Postlude**



## Hymns for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – November 28, 2021

### Hymn 54

### Savior of the nations, come!

Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, both heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child of the Virgin undefiled!  
Mighty God and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!

Thus on earth the Word appears, gracing his created spheres;  
Hence to death and hell descends, then the heavenly throne ascends.

Come, O Father's saving Son, who o'er sin the victory won.  
Boundless shall your kingdom be; grant that we its glories see.

### Hymn 66

### Come, thou long expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

### Hymn 59, stanzas 1-3

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**Sermon preached by The Rev. Charles Rowins at St. Christopher-by-the-Sea, Gibson Island, Maryland, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2021.**

The theme for today is YAC. Not YAK as in the buffalo-like creature. But as in the first letters of Yet Another Chance, YAC.

We're talking about a brand new year. Another new year. Another chance to do a better job in some areas and to polish areas where we are already doing okay.

Yearly calendars – what a great invention. Critical for planting and harvesting all sorts of things, including human behavior.

Advent is the start of another such year. It starts on a really high note. Someone important is on the horizon, namely the Creator of the Universe, and this Creator is promising to be with us in a really interesting manner. Namely as one of us.

Of all the options available to the Creator, the Creator has chosen to be one of us. That decision alone is huge. God relates to us in a manner we can understand. A fellow human being. The mystery of life and death isn't so mysterious anymore. And what a gift that is, especially considering all the options the Creator has, all the other messages the Creator could deliver.

We are blessed to be given YAC, Yet Another Chance to get things right. And it's a brand new chance. Yes, in many ways it's a continuation of the year past. But it is also starting from scratch. A Clean Slate if you will.

Well, it's not an entirely clean slate. There is one huge element that is not new. And that is all the previous clean slates that we have had. Thanks, though, to the profound love of God, we get another Yet Another Chance. Pretty special.

It's called Forgiveness. And it's available, not just for the "asking," but for the "receiving." God has already decided that we need the forgiveness. This decision is acknowledged in today's lesson from St Paul (**I Thessalonians 3:9**): "And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God." We don't have to beg. We simply have to accept God's loving act, and, by our behavior, give thanks.

Yes, “say and mean.” We don’t want to grab the forgiveness and run. We want to honor the forgiveness and have a better year, or at least give the new year our best behavioral shot.

And one of the tried and true ways of giving our best behavioral shot is to engage the new year actively. And one means of engagement is to be attentive to the Church calendar and its seasons.

Advent is the first of these seasons. It’s our first opportunity to thank God for the promise of a Savior. Oh yes, he has come before. But there’s no guarantee that he will come again, that Advent will continue as an opportunity. The fact that the Savior will come again is not a given, unless God the Father says so.

Our conviction says just that. Christ will come again, first as an infant, then as a 12 year old teacher, then as one baptized by John, and finally as the Promised One.

**Yet Another Chance** for you and me. But, for God the Father, Jesus is more than a Chance. Jesus is the One. Jesus is the Savior. Jesus is fulfillment of a promise of Salvation.

This is high drama. And we are part of it if we choose to take part. By our presence today, we are making that choice. We want to relive the Church Year. And we want to get right at it. No sneaking up on Christmas. We start with a bang. Yet Another Chance is from the Creator of the Universe.

Look at the themes of Advent: **hope, peace, joy and love**. We will be looking at these themes Sunday by Sunday. And we will be lighting a candle for each Sunday. Today is the **Hope** candle. What a great beginning. **Yet Another Chance** wouldn’t mean much if we did not **Hope** that God not only makes promises, but keeps them.

God doesn’t give up on us. His stamina puts ours to shame. **From the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 33:14):** “The Days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made.” If it was just up to us, we probably wouldn’t give ourselves **Yet Another Chance**. We know all too well how mediocre our obedience to the Creator has been. But here we are, with yet an additional opportunity called Advent. A time of reflection. A time of confession. A time of

thanksgiving. A time of renewal. All grounded in **Hope** that the Creator will indeed give us **Yet Another Chance**.

Do you ever wonder just how many chances the Creator will provide? Just how deep is the Creator's forgiveness?

As Christians, we do wonder. We do ask the tough questions. We do recognize that, if **Yet Another Chance** was up to us, there might not be another chance.

All we can say is "Thank God." Thank God for believing in us when we often don't believe in ourselves.

This belief that we don't deserve **Yet Another Chance** was a hurdle for God. He could have agreed with us to the point of not providing relief. But God, out of a profound love, decided otherwise. We were worth Salvation. God Himself had **hope** in us and acted on that **hope**.

It is interesting that normally when we speak of hope, we think of **our hope in God**. But Advent is really about **God's hope in us**. That's the real gift of this Season. **God's hope in us**. Therefore, **Yet Another Chance**.

There's a reason why the **Hope Candle** is the first of the four Advent candles. It's first because without it, without **God's hope in us**, **our hope in God** would fall short, and our hope for one another would be in jeopardy, and no one wants that.

One final thought. As I was thinking about YAC, Yet Another Chance, I kept thinking of the song by the Coasters, Yakety Yak, Don't Talk Back. Well, it turns out that there is some real Advent flavor in the song. The theme is preparation, just like Advent. Well, sort of. Here are verses 1 and 2.

Take out the papers and the trash Or you don't get no spendin' cash  
If you don't scrub that kitchen floor You ain't gonna rock and roll no more  
Yakety yak (don't talk back)

Just finish cleanin' up your room Let's see that dust fly with that broom  
Get all that garbage out of sight Or you don't go out Friday night  
Yakety yak (don't talk back)

Not quite the Promise of God that we observe here. But, in terms of the importance of preparation, still a useful reminder. Today's Gospel (**Luke 21:36**) offers this message more succinctly: "Be alert in all times."

That's why we're here. *Amen.*

## Lessons for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent- November 28, 2021

**Collect:** 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 immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

### **Psalm 25:1-9**

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;  
*let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.*  
Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
*let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.*  
Show me your ways, O Lord,  
*and teach me your paths.*  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
*for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.*  
Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,  
*for they are from everlasting.*  
Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
*remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness,*  
*O Lord.*  
Gracious and upright is the Lord;  
*therefore he teaches sinners in his way.*  
He guides the humble in doing right  
*and teaches his way to the lowly.*  
All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness  
*to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.*

## **Second Reading: I Thessalonians 3:9-13**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

## **Gospel: Luke 21:25-36**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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