The First Sunday of Advent

Celebration of Holy Baptism with Eucharist

November 29, 2026

10:00 a.m.



We seek to be instruments of God's peace, bearing witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people.

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ministers: Every member of the Congregation



Welcome in the name of the living Christ to St. Francis Church! May you find renewed grace and peace as we worship together today. St. Francis is an Episcopal Church, part of the wider ministry of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. If you are visiting with us today, please help us get to know you by introducing yourself at the door, and also by signing our guest book or filling out a pew card. *Please be sure to include an email address if you wish to be added to our mailing list.*

Please remember to take your cell phone or electronic device off silent mode at the end of worship.

You are invited to enter in reverence and awe of God's presence in this holy place. Before the liturgy begins we commend the keeping of silence as a time for prayer and reflection. The holy season of Advent is a time of watchfulness and a season of preparation. We are eager to celebrate the feast of the Incarnation – Christmas. But as with all "pregnancies" there is first a time for waiting.

All baptized persons – regardless of denomination or age – are invited to receive the sacrament with us. All are welcome to the Table; even if you choose to not receive, you may wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free bread is provided for those who request it; please let one of the clergy or ushers know of your request.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP:

The liturgy that we use for worship is from the red Book of Common Prayer (**BCP**). **Bold** print is to be spoken by the people of God.

The hymnals used for our worship service are indicated by their name, and the specific hymn by its associated number. The blue hymnal book located in your pew book rack is the "1982 Hymnal."

THE ADVENT WREATH: The Advent wreath, as we know it today, was first used in 16th century Germany. The Advent wreath may have some local differences and meanings, but in general, the wreath has four candles around the wreath, and one candle in the center. The candles can be seen with varying colors: sometimes purple (meaning a season of penitence, much like Lent), or they may be a deep blue (meaning a season of hope and waiting). The candle representing the Third Sunday of Advent is often pink, to represent "Joy" and is called "Gaudete Sunday" (from the Latin, "Gaudete in Domino semper" meaning, "Rejoice in the Lord always"). The candle in the center is nearly always white, to represent the purity of Christ.

HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

GATHERING HYMN: *O come, O come Emmanuel, vv. 1-2* **Hymnal 56**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *Lo, he comes, with clouds descending* **Hymnal 57**

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING ACCLAMATION **BCP 299**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

There is one Body and one Spirit;
There is one hope in God's call to us;
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all.

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

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 64:1-9*
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN: *Jesus came, adored by angels* **Hymnal 454**

GOSPEL: *Mark 13:24-37*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its

leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
"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."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON: The Rev. Rich Simpson

THE HOLY BAPTISM **BCP 301**

Celebrant The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.
Parents/Sponsors **I present Daniel / Nora to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

Celebrant Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?
Parents/Sponsors **I will, with God's help**.

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help Daniel and Nora to grow into the full stature of Christ?
Parents/Sponsors **I will, with God's help.**

Baptismal questions for parents/sponsors:

Celebrant Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?
Parents/Sponsors **I renounce them.**

Celebrant Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?
Parents/Sponsors **I renounce them.**

Celebrant Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?
Parents/Sponsors **I renounce them.**

Celebrant Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?
Parents/Sponsors **I do.**

Celebrant Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?
Parents/Sponsors **I do.**

Celebrant Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?
Parents/Sponsors **I do.**

Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support him in his life in Christ?
People **We will.**

Celebrant Let us join with Daniel and Nora who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT **BCP 304**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?
People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People **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.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People **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.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creatures?
People **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE **BCP 305**

Celebrant Let us now pray for Daniel and Nora who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER **BCP 306**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

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

Celebrant We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM **BCP 307**

Nora / Daniel, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.
Nora / Daniel, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.
Amen.

Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen**.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

THE PEACE **BCP 360**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN: *Judge eternal* **Hymnal 596**

OFFERTORY PRESENTATION AND DOXOLOGY Tune: Hymnal 380

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: *Eucharistic Prayer A* **BCP 361**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you***.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People ***We lift them to the Lord.***
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise***.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

SANCTUS **Hymnal S130**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER **BCP 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.

FRACTION ANTHEM: Agnus Dei **Hymnal S164**

COMMUNION HYMN: *Watchman, tell us of the night* **Hymnal 640**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION **BCP 365**

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: *Rejoice! rejoice believers* **Hymnal 68**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace and walk in the Way of Love.
Thanks be to God.

SERVERS THIS WEEK

Altar Guild: Bev Giarusso, Lucy Nowack, Kim Whamond
Nursing Home: Bev Giarusso
Ushers: Steven and Mary Cook
Reader: Leah Giles
LEMs: Mary Cook and Linda Shelton

St. Francis Episcopal Church



Bearing Witness
to
Christ's Love

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