



St. Boniface Episcopal Church

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The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith, DMin., Bishop
The Very Rev. Wayne Farrell, Rector
The Rev. Jonathan Evans, Associate Rector
The Rev. Elisa Hansen, Deacon
Dr. James W. Guyer, Organist/Choirmaster

The Holy Eucharist: Morning Prayer with Holy Communion December 6, 2020 10:00 a.m. ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Once He Came in Blessing *Ernst Pepping*

Von Himmel hoch (From heaven above) *Johann Pachelbel* Ann Stephenson-Moe, organ

Welcome and Announcements *(see notes page 7)*

Hymn 76 vs. 1, 2, 5 **On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry** *all stand as the choir sings*

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

The Order of Morning Prayer

Celebrant In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

The priest gives an absolution

The Invitatory and Psalter

Celebrant Lord open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Celebrant and People **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.**

Celebrant Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

Jubilate S-15

O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

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.

The Lessons

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 4 (S-190)

Through the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high hath visited us.
Blessèd 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 hath 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.

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.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 9 (S-213)

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things.

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Jonathan Evans

The Apostles' Creed *all stand*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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.

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. Amen.

The Prayers

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Suffrages A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. **And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. **Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
V. Give to the departed eternal rest;
R. **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant Merciful God, who sent your 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.** *Greet one another with a nod, or a bow, in the name of the Lord.*

The Holy Communion

Celebrant Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Offertory Anthem Comfort Ye; Ev'ry Valley (from Messiah) G. F. Handel David Kesler, tenor
Comfort, ye, my people. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.

Sing, ye heavens, and be joyful, O earth. Break forth into singing, ye mountains, for the Lord hath comforted his people.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

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 our thanks and praise.**

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

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 S-114

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.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People **We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S-172

Blessed are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb. Praise the Lord, all you nations; laud him, all you peoples.

For his loving-kindness toward us is great, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.

Celebrant These are the gifts of God for the People of God. To those who, due to this pandemic, are unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine; I assure you that all of the benefits of this Holy Communion are received spiritually, even though the Sacrament is not received physically.

People may pray **A Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

Lord Jesus Christ, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I offer my praise and thanksgiving in communion with those who are receiving the blessed bread and cup at this Holy Eucharist. As I embrace you with all of my affections, send your body and blood to dwell spiritually in my life. Amen.

Communion Music:

Choir Motet

Drop down, ye heavens *Heathcote Statham*
Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness. Let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together. Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall flourish out of the earth and righteousness hath looked down from heaven. Alleluia!

Hymn 53 Once he came in blessing



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
 2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us
 3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,
 4 One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.

came in like - ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
 from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us;
 but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,
 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;

bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
 not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.
 he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee.
 let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

After Communion, the people stand as the Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People **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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

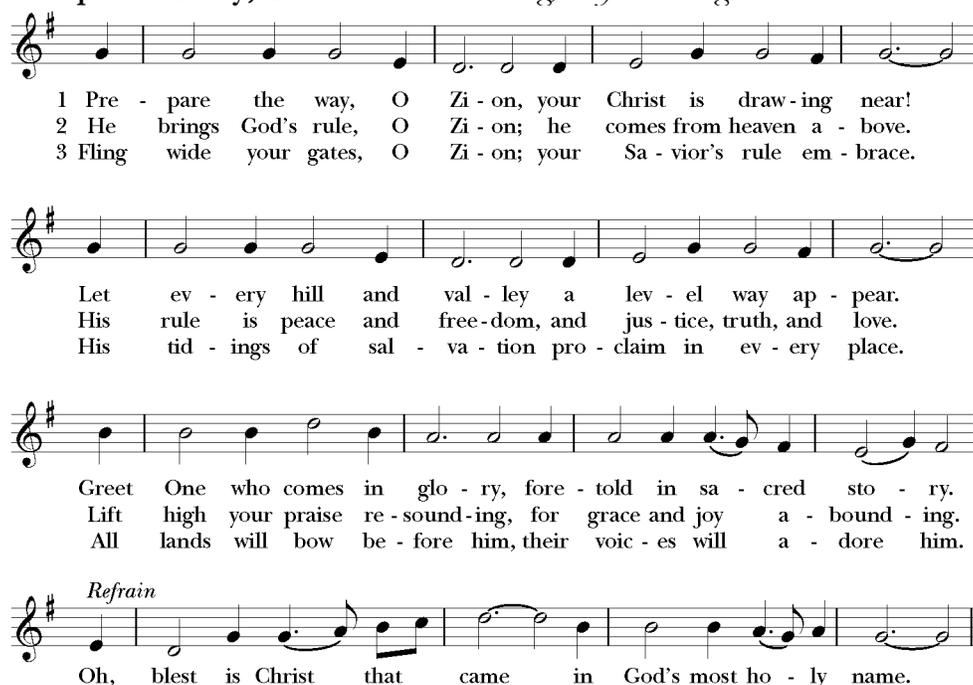
Blessing

Celebrant May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Minister Let us bless the Lord. *People* **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn 65 Prepare the way, O Zion *remain standing, only choir sings*



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Refrain
 Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Announcements

- ❖ Best wishes to those who **celebrate birthdays and anniversaries** this week: Merrill Fell, Stella Holmes, Melba Hye-Knudsen, Frankie Krueger, Bob Lewis, Edward Palermo, Robert Reeves, Donna Smith, Glenn Tompkins, Stevan Diklich & Robert Reeves
- ❖ A gift towards **altar flowers** today is Given by Charlotte & John Calhoun, in loving memory of our daughter Katherine and John's brothers David and Eric.
- ❖ **Sunday morning Adult Ed** at 9:00 a.m. continues by Zoom, for **Bible Study** contact Fr. Jeff Hamblin, jlh@jeffreyhamblin-md.com, and for the **Book Discussion** group contact Vince Brennan, vhbrennan43@gmail.com.
- ❖ **Faith Filled Generosity** To-date 172 households have pledged \$673,332 toward our \$833,000 goal. We give thanks for all who have pledged for 2021 – especially our first-time pledgers! To add your pledge, supporting our mission and ministry next year, materials and information are available in the church entry, in the church office and on the website.

Christmas services and Lessons & Carols Following health protocols, our Holy Eucharist Christmas services will be limited to **4 pm and 7 pm Christmas Eve and 10 am Christmas Day**. Our popular family service at 4 pm will be a “Safer” Bag Pageant, where everyone will have a role and receive a costume to keep. Orchestra, organ, and choir will play and sing the carols at both Christmas Eve services, and music on Christmas Day will be organ and choir. As always, the services will be livestreamed. Also join us for **Lessons & Carols on Wednesday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.** In-person seating for each service is **limited to 115 seats, reservations are required** by calling the church office or registering online.

This week's meeting and worship opportunities:

- ❖ Join us weekdays at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer**, and at 5:00 p.m. for **Evening Prayer** via our St. Boniface Church Facebook page. Go to www.facebook.com to open your account.
- ❖ **Prayer Shawl Ministry** continues on Tuesdays by Zoom to knit prayers together into shawls for those needing to be wrapped in God's healing love. Contact Meg Larrabee by email meglarrabee@hotmail.com.
- ❖ **Contemplative Prayer** meets via Zoom bi-weekly at 10:30 am on the first and third Wednesdays of the month (**December 2 & 16** ID: 886 9678 4674 Passcode: 077733), and first Mondays (**December 7** ID: 860 34285 784 Passcode: 097079).
- ❖ December **Quarantina concerts** continue, next Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. features members of Astralis Chamber Ensemble: Angela Massey, flute; Phoebe Powell, harp. In-person attendance is available for the concert; seating is limited and by reservation only. Register online or call the church office 941-349-5616 by Wednesday 4:00 p.m. The event is free (free-will offering). The program will be broadcasted on Boxcast, Facebook Live, and our Youtube channel.

- ❖ **Circulo español** Conversational Spanish Group meets by Zoom on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. Contact Mary Gordon for more information, 941-923-2302 or jmkpl@aol.com.
- ❖ Join us for **virtual coffee hour** at 10:00 a.m. every Thursday via this Zoom link (password 207747) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83690988158?pwd=UC9ZSmtiWWtuSGNjcUJKbG9ITnpDUT09>
- ❖ **Men of Boniface** gather each Friday at 8:00 a.m. by Zoom, contact Reg Irvine for the invite information, reg.irvine@verizon.net.
- ❖ **A Mystic Looks at Advent** This Advent we would like to invite you to reflect with Fr. Jonathan Evans on the writings of Evelyn Underhill, one of the most read mystics of the early 20th century. We will meet via zoom on Monday nights during Advent at 7pm. You will need to order a copy of “Advent with Evelyn Underhill.” Please email jevans@bonifacechurch.org to register for the class.
- ❖ **“Curbside” Communion** Should you desire to receive the Holy Communion at home during the week, please call the church office.
- ❖ As you are able, your **financial gifts** and continuing payments toward your pledge are appreciated. On-line giving is easy through the donate button at the bottom of the video, or at bonifacechurch.org/stewardship.