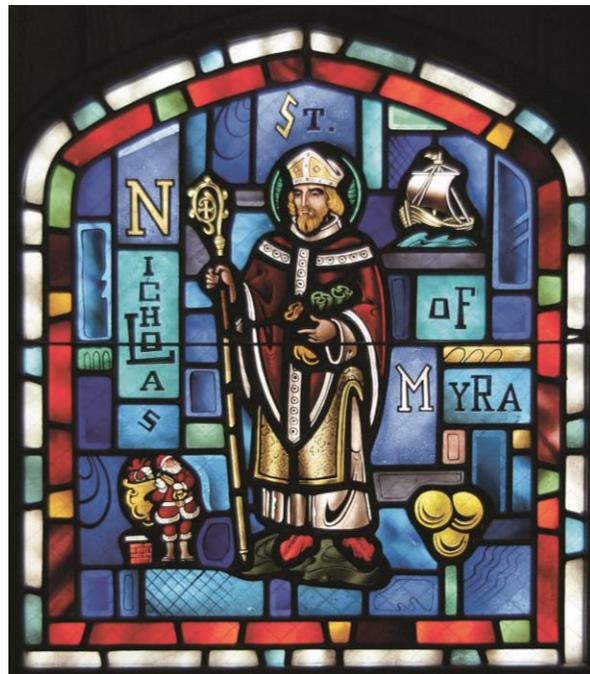


A SERVICE OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

December 6, 2020

The Second Sunday of Advent and The Feast of St. Nicholas



St. Nicholas window, Grace Cathedral

GRACE EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
701 SW Eighth Avenue Topeka, Kansas 66603
785-235-3457 www.GraceCathedralTopeka.org
A House of Prayer for All People

PRELUDE: “Hark! The Glad Sound” based on *Richmond*

Robert J. Powell (b. 1941)

Steve Burk, Organist

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

Malcom Archer (b. 1952)

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors, to you be praise and glory forever. You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. For you are our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

HYMN: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

Hymn 59 – tune: *Merton*

The Virtual Hymn Choir

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.

WELCOME

ACCLAMATION

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Officiant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Officiant and People:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

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.**

FIRST READING: 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 forever. 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

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.

SECOND READING: 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.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

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

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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us turn our eyes once again to God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of all creation.

God, we forget your life for us; our ears and eyes grow dull. Yet out of love you send your word over and over, in countless ways, until the Word incarnate comes.

Tune us to hear the prophets.

We neglect to thank you for what you have given us. Today we look to you in gratitude and offer thanks:

... for the Church Universal, and the spread of your word
... for the gift of Christ who is coming into the world
... for the ministry of all baptized persons, lay and ordained
... and for our partners in this work, especially St. John's, Wichita and Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit, Michigan.

Give us heart, help us keep watch together.

We are divided on many unhappy sides by our need to be right. Yet your word is never silent. Give to all who are in power the grace and wisdom they need for today; that we may be protected and inspired by their many examples.

Assist us to do and say what is right and true.

We live among so much need and can be so cold in return. Help us to look into the faces of strangers – particularly the poor and needy of our city – and know how we are called to respond.

Meet us in this place.

We think of those gone before us into the mystery of life beyond life, especially those who have died recently from the coronavirus. We remember too [permanent flower memorials]. For all the departed, may we see your word sewn into the fabric of their stories. May their faithfulness be ours.

Teach us to honor them, for no one who trusts in you will ever be put to shame.

In a time of pandemic, we hear and experience stories about the end of life all around us. Nothing is clear or certain. But we know you love what you have made, and will never turn us away. Your Word coming into our world is the great sign of all this. Teach us to be patient.

Be with us, for we know you provide.

The Officiant continues

God who makes us, loves us, keeps us: hasten the coming of your kingdom. Grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

Amen.

Our Cathedral cycle of prayer

Grace Cathedral: Don, Judy Gilliland, Jude Highberger, Lauren, Georgia McCurdy, Dustin Price, Scott, Tom Seddon, Aaron Sommers

Permanent Altar Flower Memorials: John Alfred Crow, Tracy H. Thompson, Helen L. Burton, Alice L. Metcalf, Albert Morss Patten, Mrs. George W. Reed, James L. McKinney, Bernice Emahiser Kritser, Helen Isis McClintock, John Blanchard Bellamy, Anna T. Marshall, Patricia A. Waugh

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 your Son 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.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANTHEM: "Adam lay ybounden"

Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

Choral Scholar: Anna Feigenbaum

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond, Four thousand winter Thought he not too long: And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took, As clerkes finden Written in their book. Ne had one apple taken been, The apple taken been,
Ne had never Our Lady A been Heaven's Queen. Blessed be the time That apple taken was. Therefore we moun
sing: Deo gratias!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 him 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.

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:

Celebrant and People

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.

The Celebrant continues

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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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.

People **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People **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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

A spiritual communion is a devotional action that anyone can pray. It expresses the desire to receive Holy Communion at a moment where circumstances impede them from actually receiving the consecrated bread and wine.

Celebrant and People

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate me from you. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

ADORATION MUSIC

Steve Burk, organist

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: **Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: “People, Look East”

Steve Burk, organist

Kristina Langlois (b. 1956)

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

OFFICIANT/PREACHER.....	Mother Ashley Mather
CELEBRANT	Dean Torey Lightcap
DEACON.....	Don Chubb
LECTOR	Janet Chubb
ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER	Steve Burk
ASSISTANT ORGANIST	Sylvia Hamilton
MUSIC ASSISTANT.....	Zachary Cope
VERGER.....	Kent Wingerson
VIDEOGRAPHER/VIDEO EDITOR	Connie Vosburgh
VIRTUAL HYMN EDITOR	Dylan Ediger

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Virtual Coffee Hour: We will meet via Zoom at 11 a.m. this morning, as we begin a 5-part series entitled “A Journey with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—Finding God in Everyday Life.” This is a video adaption of a forum previously presented by Steven Roth in 2013. The series examines the life, times and societal practices that shapes the story of these three foundational Bible figures, along with timeless and practical applications these stories provide for us today.

Zoom Coffee Hour link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82776027871>. **You will also need to enter the passcode: grace.**

Compline: A live service of Compline continues at 9 p.m. each evening on our Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/gracecathedraltopka

Remember that you do not need to have a Facebook account to access the Cathedral's Facebook page.

Old Saints for New Days: Bishop Cathleen Bascom and clergy members of the diocesan staff will offer a service from Grace Cathedral’s St. Mary’s Chapel every Monday at 12:10 p.m. The service will be livestreamed to the diocesan YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/episcopaldioceseofkansas>.

“Parking lot church”! Even when circumstances keep us apart during COVID, we are doing our best to try to keep to some sense of worship. Sometimes, if we can figure out a way, that may include being together even when we can’t be in the same room.

Honoring the current moratorium on indoor, in-person worship, we are experimenting with a unique experience of an outdoor service where all will stay in their cars. This will take place at 9:30 a.m. Sundays for the time being. Here’s what you need to know:

- Come to Grace Cathedral on Sunday. Try to arrive a few minutes early, please.
- Stop briefly by an usher as you drive in, and put on your mask for that part. The usher will provide you with a bulletin. If you have an offering envelope or your 2021 pledge card, those can be left with the usher.
- Find a parking spot and face the direction of the Cathedral. **Tune your car’s radio to 96.9 FM** where you should be able to hear us speaking from the edge of the parking lot.
- Our service is adapted from the morning service for individuals and families in the *Book of Common Prayer* (p. 137). It will offer readings, a homily, prayers, and a blessing. It should be about 30 minutes in length.
- If it is cooler, dress warm so you don’t have to run your car the entire service. (A thermos of coffee might also help.)

As numbers concerning the pandemic have gotten worse, we ask that you do all you can to stay in your cars. Thank you.

St Nicholas Ornament now available! Designed by Prairie Glass Co for Grace Cathedral, this ornament of St Nicholas is the perfect addition to your tree, AND the proceeds go to support our Youth & Children’s Ministries! Just \$25.00, and comes complete with doorstep delivery! Contact Kathy Smith at 785-430-8427 or knsmith@gracecathedraltopeka.org to order. Thank you!

Please continue giving to the mission of Grace Cathedral: We have created a website which allows you to see the many different ways you can still be giving during this time away. The website is www.givetograce.org.

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