

Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

1305 Thomas Dr, Bellevue, NE 68005



**November 29, 2020
9:30 AM
First Sunday of Advent**

WELCOME EVERYONE

If you are our guest today, or are a member who has been away for a while, we are glad you joined us for worship today. Please let us know you joined us online by leaving a comment or emailing us so that we can say thank you.

God Bless
Fr Tom

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The Holy Eucharist Rite II

Time for Meditation

Instrumental

Welcome

Peace

Announcements

Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

Lighting of the First Advent Candle - The Candle of Hope

Celebrant: Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'Coming.' Advent begins the church year starting four Sundays before Christmas and is a time aside as a time of preparation since the 6th century. It is a time for preparing for Christ's second coming, even as we remember and celebrate his first coming at Christmas. The color of the season is the same as that of Lent, purple or blue, representing the coming of royalty as well as forgiveness and repentance.

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: *Thanks be to God*

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed, because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Old Testament spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We too believe in God's promise to send Jesus again to this world to establish his kingdom upon the earth.

(A person lights the First Candle here)

Leader: Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Celebrant and people

**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. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day *[Please kneel or stand]*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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.*

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson: 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **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.

The Epistle: 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

People: **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."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Message

Fr Tom Jones

Celebrant: Let us stand as we affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed *[Please stand]*

**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.**

Prayers of the People *[Please kneel or be seated]*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

A moment of Silence

In the Anglican Cycle of prayer we pray for the _____; in the Diocesan Cycle of prayer, pray for _____ in the DR for the _____. In the parish cycle of prayer, for the _____ and for all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit in and around our community due to the pandemic. For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For those in positions of authority, including our President, Donald Trump, our governor, Pete Ricketts, the elected and appointed officials in our community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Scott, our own Bishop; for Tom, our Priest and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

We pray that you stay with and strengthen all those who are ill; _____; Are there others?

For those who serve our country at home and abroad; especially those who are deployed _____: are there others? We pray that you will stay with them and their families Lord, giving them comfort and hope until they are once again reunited in peace.

For those in our community who travel, that you watch over them and keep them safe, especially: _____; are there others?

For all those with special concerns, especially; _____; are there others?

Hear us Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you Lord, for all the blessings of this life; and we pray that you continue to pour out your blessings on those who are celebrating birthdays this week, especially; _____; are there others? We pray also for those who are celebrating anniversaries this week, especially, _____; are there others?

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, [especially for _____] are there others? that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant continues:

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**

Almighty God, whose will it is to hold heaven and earth in the peace of your kingdom, give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. **Amen**

The Holy Communion

Offertory Music

Instrumental

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you, **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor tongue told of a glory like yours, Lord God, for you are the potter, and we the clay, and you fashioned us in your image. Though the pot was broken in your hands, in the exile of your people, and the rejection of your Son, you made an even more wondrous vessel out of agony and estrangement. In Jesus you glorify your chosen people and inaugurate your church to be his body in the world. In his death the pot was broken once and for all, but in his resurrection you refashioned a new pot from the same clay, to feed your people forever. And so we gladly thank you, joining with the company of angels and archangels and all the host of heaven in their unending hymn.

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.

Ever-present God, our prophets longed that you would tear the heavens and come down; and in your Son Jesus Christ you have come down and filled the earth with the splendor of your dwelling among us. In him you were present to friend and stranger, the intrigued and the suspicious, the betrayer and the bereft. Come down now in the power of your Holy Spirit upon this bread and cup and make them be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of **me**." After supper he took the cup, Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of **me**."

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Word of life, though heaven and earth will pass away, your words will never pass away. As you feed us with this living bread, strengthen those who wonder if they can survive this day; restore any who are downtrodden and heavy-laden; visit all who are forsaken and alone. Open the window of your heaven that your church may glimpse the hope of your glory and your world may be transfigured by the light of your truth, until that day when heaven finally comes to earth, when your Son returns on the clouds and your Spirit infuses your creation with resurrecting grace, and you are all in all, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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 not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant: 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.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen**

The Blessing

The Dismissal



The Nave Presence Candle is given by Fr Tom and Sharon Jones in Thanksgiving for our birthdays and anniversary this month.

This Week's Highlights

This Weekend's worship: As the covid wave continues, we are still unable to hold indoor public worship. **This Sunday's 9:30 am service will be online only.** All other weekly indoor public worship has been suspended through the middle of December. Online worship throughout the week includes Morning Prayer Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 9:30am, Compline/Evening Prayer Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at 8:00 pm.

Hands of Hope Holiday Giving: We are once again gathering gifts for area youth in support of this Bellevue Together cooperative. Tags for clothing and/or toys are available through the office. If you would like to reserve one or more tags, please call the office. We ask that all gifts and/or tags be returned to the office by Thursday (3 Dec) so that we can deliver them to Bellevue Together on Sunday (6 Dec).

Advent Kit Bags: Cindy has put together some wonderful Advent kits for youth and families to use in preparing from the season of Advent. Bags are available for pick up at the office. Please remember to call the office before stopping by to make sure someone will be there to hand it out.

Christmas Pageant: We are looking for 13-15 volunteers who would be willing to meet on Zoom, Saturday morning, 19 Dec, to record a Christmas pageant that we will then share on Facebook and our website beginning the Sunday before Christmas. If you are interested, please email or text Fr. Tom, or call the office at 402-291-7732, and we will send out the script and assign parts. The script is simple, short, and shares a blessed message.

2021 Pledge Cards: If you have not yet made your pledge for next year, please complete our online pledge card by [clicking here](#) to help us meet the fiscal obligations of our shared mission and ministry.

Holiday Craft Fair: Due to the ongoing pandemic, and Diocesan limitations on gathering, our annual Christmas Fair has been cancelled this year.

Mobile Pantry: Our next Mobile Pantry is scheduled for Saturday, 12 Dec. This will be another drive through event. Volunteers are needed. Please contact the office if you are able to join us between 9:30 and 11:30 am.

WEEKLY MINISTRY TEAMS			
Ministries		Nov 29	Dec 6
VPOD		Terri S	Lori E
Hospitality Team		Team 2	Team 3
Altar Guild		Team 4	Team 1
Recycle Team		Marcia A	Lynda W
LEMs			
Sunday 9:30 AM		Doug A	
Acolytes		Emily W	

Birthday/Anniversary Prayers

Birthday Prayer: O God, our times are in your hands: Look with favor, we pray, on *this* your servant, as *they* begin another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness, all the days of *their* life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Prayer: O gracious and ever living God, look mercifully on these who have been joined together. Grant them your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their promises and vows; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Birthdays:

Mary Barrett
Jessica Lichtas
Lora Cobbs

Anniversaries: