

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, West Roxbury
Online Liturgy for January 10, 2021
The First Sunday after the Epiphany

The Word of God

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.
Amen.

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

The Celebrant

The Lord be with you.
Let us pray.

The Collect

O gracious God in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The Old Testament

Lector. A reading from Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Lector. The Word of the Lord.

People. Thanks be to God.

The Psalm is to be led by the Lector, responsively, the people reading the alternate verses

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, *
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; *
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; *
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; *
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the Lord *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; *
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; *
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The New Testament

Lector. A reading from Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

Lector. The Word of the Lord.

People. Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark 1:4-11

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

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."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Dialogue Sermon: Everyone is to join the conversation.
The Priest will offer some thoughts and listeners may respond
with comments or questions.**

The Creed or Affirmation of Faith

We believe in the God of life, who creates and loves people, who acts in history and who promises to never leave us alone. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who is our brother, who wants not to be idolized but to be followed. We believe that we dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Without her we are nothing, filled with her we are able to become creative, loving, and free. We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ, a community where we find companions and courage for the struggles of life, where we grow in our understanding of faith, through worship, prayer, nurture, and service. We believe that God has a use for us in this time and place, that though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we are called to be instruments of God's peace. We believe in living, hoping, laughing, and enjoying the good of the earth; We believe that people can change, and that God keeps pulling us to life and to a new world of joy and peace. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The word of God lives among and within us to strengthen and inspire. With confidence let us pray to our God, the Father, with words of hope and faith.

Let us pray for the church of Jesus Christ:

God of light empower your ministers and people to proclaim your gospel fearlessly whenever darkness obscures human dignity. Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the nations of the world:

God of peace, in your word we recognize the abundance of your enduring love. Grant to this world, marked by division and strife, a thirst for justice perfected in selfless love. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of life strengthen us to serve with joy those who experience the darkness of suffering. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all educators:

God of wisdom, in your word we hear the proclamation of your truth. Enlighten all who teach with your Spirit of knowledge and understanding. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for this community of faith:

God of grace give us hearts filled with love, voices to speak your praise, and lives conformed to the image of your Son.
Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the sick and the dying:

God of glory, in your word we receive the promise of life beyond weakness and sorrow. Heal those who call upon you and reveal your light to those in the shadow of death. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

[Here other intercessions may be offered, either silently or aloud.]

Creator of all, you have not abandoned your creation, but have made your dwelling with us in Christ. Hear your faithful people, and grant us the blessings of your mercy, for we make this prayer in the name of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Celebrant. And now as let us pray as our Lord has taught us:

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.*

Communion Prayer in this time of Pandemic

Celebrant

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of our Savior through the miracle of Jesus' birth: Make our hearts and minds ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that we may be filled with hope, joy, peace, and love as we welcome the brightness of your light into the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer

Celebrant 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.
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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing

Celebrant

May the peace of the Lord which passes all understanding, keeps your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of his son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And may the Blessing of God Almighty, The Father and the son be with us all and ever more. Amen

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Thank you for joining us in prayer and witness today.