

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 134, 14 Treble Cove Rd.
N. Billerica, MA 01862

The Third Sunday of Advent

Service of Holy Eucharist



December 12, 2021
9:00 am

St. Anne's, N. Billerica Online Services can be found at:
Website: <http://stannes-billerica.org>
YouTube: St Anne's Episcopal Church No Billerica MA
Face Book: St Anne's Episcopal Church No Billerica MA
Billerica Access Television (BATV) - See programing guide

St. Anne's Mission Statement

*We seek to be led by the spirit to understand God's purpose for the world
with our mission being to respond through Christ
in worship, education, fellowship and service.*

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Prelude

“Light the Advent Candles”

Mark Clark

Please stand for the procession; then you may be seated.

Welcome & Announcements

Social Justice Committee Story by Marguerite Massey

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

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

Amen.

The Celebrant may say

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 Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“The Light of Christ”

Composer unknown

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People Amen.

The Lessons

The people sit. The lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying

A Reading from the Book of Zephaniah (3:14-20).

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

After each Reading, the Reader may say
The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Canticle 9, BCP p. 86

The First Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 12:2-6)

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.

The Gospel

Then, all standing, the Priest reads the Gospel, first saying
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke (3:7-18).

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Rev'd Jennifer D. Beal

The Nicene Creed

All standing, say

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

The people may kneel.

Form IV, BCP p. 388

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Hear our prayers, Holy God. Breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth, that barriers would crumble and divisions cease. Make us more fully your co-healers of the broken world. Unite us with all people in bonds of love, that the whole earth and all its peoples may be at peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and 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 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.

The Priest stands and says

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

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

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

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord, remaining in your pew as you signal a gesture of peace to one another.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present
yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

As a way of minimizing touching shared objects, we have placed offering plates in both the front and rear of the church. We are very grateful for your gifts and offerings. You may leave them in the plates as you enter or leave our service of worship.

Offertory hymn

“Prepare the way, O Zion”

Hymnal 65



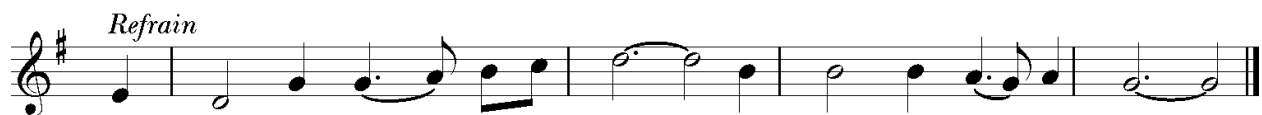
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



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.

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The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p. 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say 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 people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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 [_____ and] 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.

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

People and Celebrant

**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. Then may be said

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

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

The ministers receive the Sacrament, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

Please be seated. A minister will come to you with a single serving package of Communion wafer and wine, and a napkin. If you do not wish to receive, you may cross your arms over your chest. After you have received, please place your empty package and napkin in the basket that an usher will bring to you.

Please be seated.

Communion hymn one “There’s a voice in the wilderness crying” Hymnal 75

1. There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the Lord our God may go!

2. O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away;

3. but the word of our God endureth,
the arm of the Lord is strong;
he stands in the midst of nations,
and he will right the wrong.
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd,
the lambs he'll gently hold;
to pastures of peace he'll lead them,
and bring them safe to his fold.
(text by James Lewis Milligan, 1930)

Communion hymn two

“Rejoice! rejoice, believers”

Hymnal 68

1. Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh;
up, watch with expectation! at the midnight comes the cry.

2. See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
The marriage-feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand;
Rise up, ye heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!

3. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

*(text by Laurentius Laurenti, 1700, translated from German by S.L.
Findlater, 1854)*

After Communion, please 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,**

Ministers today

Priest-in-charge
Lector-in-chief
Lector
Prayers of the People
Director of Music and Organist
Singer
Acolyte

Ushers

Film Crew (Video)

Film Crew (Audio)

The Rev'd Jennifer D. Beal
Mr. Edward Giroux, Co-Warden
Mr. Kevin Kotelly
Mr. Edward Giroux, Co-Warden
Mr. Peter Morelli
Ms. Maria Martin
Ms. Brenda Komarinski
Mr. Michael Hopkins, Co-Warden
Mr. Russell Bent
Ms. Marguerite Massey
Ms. Sandra Giroux
Mr. Ron Desmarais
Mr. Mark Komarinski
Mr. Michael Hopkins, Co-Warden

Meetings in our parish this week

Tuesday	10 am	Bible Study at St. Anne's
	7 pm	Bible Study on Zoom
	7-7:20 pm	Advent Wreath Lighting on Facebook Live
Wednesday	7-7:20 pm	Advent Wreath Lighting on Facebook Live
Thursday	3:30 pm	Church School
	7-7:20 pm	Advent Wreath Lighting on Facebook Live
	7 pm	Vestry Meeting

Priest's office hours

Tuesday 12-4 Thursday 3-5

Parish Office hours

Tuesday 2-5

Prayers for the Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Canada

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Parishes of the Alewife Deanery

Christ Church, Cambridge; St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge;
St. James' Church, Cambridge; St. Peter's Church, Cambridge; Diocesan Disciplinary Board;
Our Presiding Bishop, Michael; Our Bishops, Alan and Gayle; Our Priest, Jennifer

St. Anne's Prayer List

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others

Ana Blesso, Barbara Rogers, Cyndi, Debbie Blesso, Dianne Brown, Donald Fudge,
Donald Sutton, Sr., Elaine Howland, Elaine McLaughlin, Fred Brown, Helen, Irene Mouradian,
Janet Lyna, Jean Flight, John Phillips, Jose Torres, Sr., Joseph Pleva, Joshua Young,
Kathy Chang, Leonard Youens, Linda E., Marie Figenbaum, Marie Horgan, Mark Figenbaum,
Mary Hyatt, Mary Lander & her daughter Christine, Norm & MJ Zarella, Pat McCleave & family,
Paul Hamner, Ricky & Mrs. Greene, Sally DiRocco, Sarah Komarinski, Susan Fader, Tammy, Tom,
Vicki Mahoney

Announcements for December 12, 2021

Join us for Coffee Hour today in Bixby Hall.

Masks must be worn inside the building and physical distancing between households must be observed—thank you for helping to keep us all safe and healthy!

At home participants in our worship – please let us know if you would like to come by the church to pick up your own single serving package of communion wafer and wine. Also, let us know if you would like to receive information about making pledges or donations.

Advent wreath lighting (with poetry, singing, and prose) continues on Facebook Live each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening, from 7 to 7:20 pm, through December 23.

Schedule for Christmas Services (all are invited!):

Friday, December 24: 1 pm Service of Holy Eucharist, followed by a Silver Tea (in-person)

Friday, December 24: 9 pm Service of Holy Eucharist (in-person and online)

Sunday, December 26: 9 am Pre-recorded Service of Lessons and Carols (online)

Sunday, January 2: 9 am Service of Lessons and Carols (in-person and online)

**The Thrift Shop is open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.
The last Saturday it will be open is December 18. The shop will be closing December 23, 2021,
at 2 PM until January 12, 2022, at 10 AM.**

Starting in December, the members of the Social Justice Committee (Brenda Komarinski, Marguerite Massey, Russell Bent, and Michele O'Shea) will be sharing personal stories of our experiences with racism at the beginning of the service. All are welcomed to share their stories. If you have a story that you would like to share, please let one of us know.

You may have noticed that boxes of personal pledge envelopes have arrived in the narthex. If you have submitted your pledge card and know your pledge number, please take your box home with you. If you know other parishioners who are not here, please take theirs to them, too. Thank you very much for your loyalty to St. Anne's.

(The boxes are in alphabetical order back to front and left to right.)

You may also stop by or make an arrangement with the office to collect your box.

The Small but Mighty church of St. Anne's has again chosen to support the House of Hope as the recipient of our 2021 Angel Tree efforts. Our admins of Realm have set up an Angel Tree giving option within Realm to make giving easy. If you prefer the cash method, please feel free to see Sandra Giroux after church, or leave an envelope in the donation basket (please mark it as Angel Tree). All donations should be received by December 12.

If you would like to donate towards poinsettias and greenery that will be in our sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons, please fill out the form that was sent with this bulletin (paper copies are available at the church). You can also contact the church office with your name (given by) and the names of those your donation is in thanksgiving or memory of. Donations may be made by cash, check, or through Realm (flower donation option). Please submit all names by December 12 so they can be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

"The 12 Days of Christmas Fair": Starting Sunday, December 12th, and continuing through Thursday, December 23rd, we will have a raffle drawing each day for a variety of prizes. You can help by donating prizes: theme baskets, gift cards, or anything that you would want to win. (You can also offer a monetary donation that will go toward a prize.) These are needed by December 9th. You can buy raffle chances at 1 for \$5, or a book of 5 for \$20.

These will be available for purchase from November 28th through December 12th during coffee hour, at the Thrift Shop, or through Realm

(please note whether you are donating toward a prize or buying chances).

Winners will be announced daily on Facebook and will be contacted through phone or email.

Please feel free to contact me, Lisa "Kinser" Carpine, at 978-808-2068 or lisa.carpine@outlook.com.

The Social Conscience Book Club will be meeting on Monday, December 20, at 5:30 PM. We learned this week that the media shaped stories and were very influential with the politicians. The media was collecting funds to impact the impeachment process of President Johnson.

The 236th Diocesan Convention happened on November 13. Michele O'Shea, Lisa Lavoie, and Todd Baldwin attended on behalf of St. Anne's. We will be sharing part of the experience of the Convention in both the bulletin and the newsletter. We would like everyone to be able to see Bishop Gates's address. Please see the following link for the video.

<http://www.diomass.org/news/diocesan-news/searching-our-humanity-annual-address-bishop-gates-2021-diocesan-convention>

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newburyport will be providing temporary housing for Afghan evacuees coming to our area, for a few months at a time while permanent homes are found. They have already received enough donations of material items, but they are still accepting financial contributions. Funds are needed to prepare the space and make necessary accommodations to the building. You can give at <http://stpaulsnewburyport.org/give>, providing a note that it is for Afghan evacuee housing, or by check to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 166 High Street, Newburyport, 01950 (with a note in the memo line).

The date for our Annual Meeting has been changed to Sunday, February 6, 2022, after the morning service. We hope that it can be in person this winter!

**If you see any problems with the facilities that need to be addressed, please let us know!
Something broken, something not cleaned or something out of place:
Contact Mike Hopkins, Ed Giroux, Jayleigh, or Mother Jennifer and report what you see.**

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
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Land of the Pawtucket and Shawsheen

Social Justice – a way to allow everyone to feel welcome and respected when they come to worship