

# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
DECEMBER 13, 2020

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROUS SUPPORT OF ST. MARY OF THE HILLS!

Your financial contributions enable this mission and ministry of this parish to continue.

Gifts may be received online at <https://www.stmaryofthehills.org/donate>  
or via mail (P.O. Box 14, Blowing Rock, NC 28607).

*All contributions must be received in the parish office or postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup>  
to appear on 2020 giving statements.*

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



*If you've not yet made your pledge for 2021, we invite you to do so today.  
You may submit your pledge online – [HERE](#).*

### *Credits and References*

*\*Liturgical references are from the Book of Common Prayer (1979), The Hymnal 1982, and the Book of Occasional Services (2018)*

*\*\*Biblical references are from the Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version (1989)*

# MORNING PRAYER

## RITE II

Join the service via YouTube here –  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSIER6UDGf9FyTvPRGs8\\_1A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSIER6UDGf9FyTvPRGs8_1A)

### ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*A prayerful silence precedes the service.  
The tower bells ring the hour.*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN 65

*Bereden väg för Svenska*

Prepare the way, O Zion



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.

## THE OPENING SENTENCES

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

*Isaiah 40:3*

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 79

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**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 Celebrant pronounces the absolution and the people respond, Amen.*

## THE INVITATORY

BCP 80

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.  
*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant 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.**  
**Alleluia.**

*All say the Antiphon:*

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

*Psalm 100*

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \***  
**serve the Lord with gladness**  
**and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God; \***  
**he himself has made us, and we are his;**  
**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;**  
**go into his courts with praise; \***  
**give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

**For the Lord is good;**  
**his mercy is everlasting; \***  
**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

*All repeat the Antiphon:*

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

## THE CANTICLE

Luke 1: 46-55, *Magnificat*

*The Cantors sing the appointed Canticle.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
 for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
 the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
 in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
 and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
 and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
 for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
 to Abraham and his children for ever.

*At the end of the Canticle is sung*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

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

CANTICLE 11

BCP 87

*Isaiah 60: 1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19*

**Arise, shine, for your light has come, \***  
**and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.**  
**For behold, darkness covers the land; \***  
**deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.**  
**But over you the Lord will rise, \***  
**and his glory will appear upon you.**  
**Nations will stream to your light, \***  
**and kings to the brightness of your dawning.**  
**Your gates will always be open; \***  
**by day or night they will never be shut.**  
**They will call you, The City of the Lord, \***  
**The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.**  
**Violence will no more be heard in your land, \***  
**ruin or destruction within your borders.**  
**You will call your walls, Salvation, \***  
**and all your portals, Praise.**  
**The sun will no more be your light by day; \***  
**by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.**  
**The Lord will be your everlasting light, \***  
**and your God will be your glory.**

**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 SECOND LESSON

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you

the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

CANTICLE 16

BCP 92

*Luke 1: 68-79*

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \***  
    **he has come to his people and set them free.**  
**He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \***  
    **born of the house of his servant David.**  
**Through his holy prophets he promised of old,**  
**that he would save us from our enemies, \***  
    **from the hands of all who hate us.**  
**He promised to show mercy to our fathers \***  
    **and to remember his holy covenant.**  
**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \***  
    **to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**  
**Free to worship him without fear, \***  
    **holy and righteous in his sight**  
    **all the days of our life.**  
**You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \***  
    **for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**  
**To give his people knowledge of salvation \***  
    **by the forgiveness of their sins.**  
**In the tender compassion of our God \***  
    **the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**  
**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and 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.**

*A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

BCP 96

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

**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

BCP 97

*Officiant*     The Lord be with you.

*People*        **And also with you.**

*Officiant*     Let us pray.

**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 forever. Amen.

BCP 97

- 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. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

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. **Amen.**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Free intercessions may be offered.  
The people add their own petitions and thanksgivings.  
These may be shared with one another in the comment box on YouTube.*

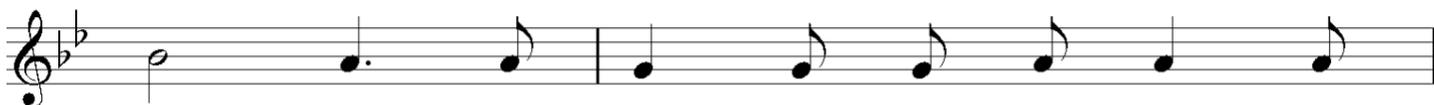
*The Officiant concludes the prayers with this collect,*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

HYMN 69

*St. Mark's, Berkeley*

What is the crying at Jordan?



1 What is the cry - ing at Jor - dan? Who  
2 Who then shall stir in this dark - ness, pre -  
3 Lord, give us grace to a - wake us, to  
4 Now comes the day of sal - va - tion, in



hears, O God, the pro - phe - cy? Dark is the  
pare for joy in the win - ter night? Mor - tal in  
see the branch that be - gins to bloom; in great hu -  
joy and ter - ror the Word is born! God gives him -



sea - son, dark our hearts and shut to mys - ter - y.  
dark - ness we lie down, blind - heart - ed, see - ing no light.  
mi - li - ty is hid all heaven in a lit - tle room.  
self in - to our lives; O let sal - va - tion dawn!

Words: Carol Christopher Drake (b. 1933), alt. Copyright ©1971, Carol C. Stone. Music: *St. Mark's Berkeley*, Irish melody from *Danta De: Hymns to God, Ancient and Modern*; harm. Norman Mealy (b. 1923) Copyright ©1971, Norman Mealy. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

THE BLESSING

*The Officiant pronounces God's blessing, and the people respond, Amen.*

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

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

**COFFEE MINUTE**

Are you missing the opportunity to connect with  
St. Mary's friends during Coffee Minute? We are too!  
After worship, join us for an online Coffee Minute on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84753510585>

*Password: coffee*

## Please Pray for the Following in Your Daily Prayers

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, Andrew our rector, Sam and Gary our assisting clergy, for our Vestry and staff, for all bishops and ministers, and for all God's people throughout the world.

For Donald, our President, Joseph, our President-Elect, Roy, our Governor, those who hold elected office, and all those in positions of public trust.

For all medical personnel and all ministering to the needs of those affected by COVID-19.

**For healing:** Rob, Alice Holt, Bria McKnight, Richard Miller, Erby Miller, Anna, Chantz, Ann Greene, Tom Veale, Kathy, Bill T., Tina, Blaine Smith, Bob Amos, Frank Thomas, Mills Poole, Pam Ayoub, Jim Ayoub, Eartha McKnight, Pat R., Gerry H., George Eden, Jo Barbre, Joe Dyer, McDonough family, Peter, Terry, Judy, Barbara Horton, Sherri, Larry, Corrinne, Coba

*\*\*\*(Please note that the names on this list will remain for four weeks, unless the office is notified that the person(s) needs to remain on the list for a longer period of time.)\*\*\**

**For those who have died:** Georgia Day, Tom Dillard, Tae McAlpin, Shana, Sonny Howard, Ginny Peterson, Barbara Collier, Wendy, Kilton B., Nick, Buck Bellmore, Mabel Jones

**For safe pregnancy and delivery for:** Anna, Kristen, Amanda, Claire, Kimmi, Falconer

### **For those celebrating birthdays this week:**

12/15 Bill Furr

12/19 Stephanie Rickenbaker

### **Parish Prayer Cycle:**

12/13 Kevin and Christina Hayes

12/14 Andy and Claudia Heath

12/15 Andrew and Amanda Hege, Eleanor

12/16 Bo Henderson

12/17 Adam Hill and Leslie Temple

12/18 Norman and Janet Hillis

12/19 Torre Hinnant and David Brendle

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

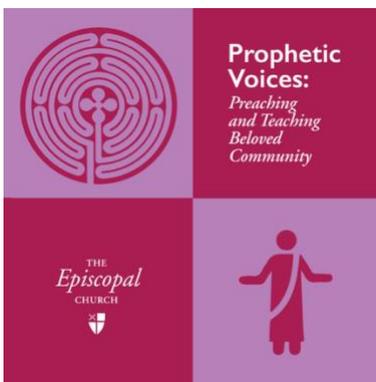
**Rector's Forum** – During the season of Advent, Fr. Andrew will offer reflections and invite conversation using the appointed Sunday Gospel texts and familiar hymns of the season. This Sunday the Gospel text is John 1: 6-8, 19-28 and the hymn we'll consider is, 'Prepare the way, O Zion'. We meet via Zoom each Sunday morning, 9:00-9:30AM. Use the link – [HERE](#) – to connect (password: forum) All are welcome!

**Christmas Flower & Greenery Offering** – In a few short weeks, our worship space will be decorated with greenery and flowers to usher in the Christmas season. Though we will not be able to gather in large groups, as is our custom, the Church will continue to proclaim the beauty of Christ among us. For many, it is a tradition to make a gift toward flowers and greenery in honor or memory of a loved one, to be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletin. If you'd like to do so, contact Parish Administrator, Greta Wilson ([office@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:office@stmaryofthehills.org) or 828.295.7323) by December 15th.

**Advent Heifer Fair (Online)** - This year, in lieu of our annual in-person Advent Heifer Fair, we invite you to remember Heifer International as a part of your holiday shopping. A contribution to the work of Heifer International makes a great gift for friends and family. Learn more about the work of Heifer International by clicking the image of their logo above to visit their website. Wondering how much to give or how your dollars are used?



Check out Heifer's Shopping List - [HERE](#). To contribute, you may use our online giving portal - [HERE](#) - select 'Other' in the drop-down menu and type 'Heifer' in the text box. Alternatively, you may place a check in the mail, addressed to St. Mary of the Hills, with 'Heifer' in the memo line.



**Advent Prophetic Voices** - Beginning Monday, November 30, and continuing for the following Mondays before Christmas, there will be a Zoom discussion group using the Episcopal Church podcast series, Prophetic Voices: Preaching & Teaching Beloved Community. Each week, the preparation expected will be a one-hour podcast available by computer, tablet, or phone that focuses on each Sunday's Old Testament & Gospel readings through the lens of social justice. The prophetic voices on the podcasts come from all over our church, voices from many perspectives that share our Christian values and our Anglican/Episcopal heritage. Each session, facilitated by a

different St. Mary's parishioner, will engage the scripture readings of Advent with our time of needing to heal our deep divisions. Sessions will be from 3:30-4:45 and available by Zoom, whether in-person or asynchronously by recording. Please let Fr. Sam ([sam@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:sam@stmaryofthehills.org)) know of your interest and especially whether you wish to participate by receiving the recording link each week.

**St. Mary of the Hills on YouTube** – Did you know that all services are available for streaming and are also archived on YouTube? Visit our channel – [HERE](#) - and don't forget to subscribe.



Episcopal  
Relief & Development

**Responding to Natural Disaster** – As hurricanes and fires continue to afflict many in our nation, please remember the work of Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). ERD is an international relief and development agency and a compassionate response to human suffering on behalf of the Episcopal Church. As an organization, ERD continues to work diligently in response to the needs

of those affected by multiple natural disasters, including areas of the Gulf Coast Impacted by hurricanes and along the West Coast as communities confront the destruction of wildfires. Visit their website – [HERE](#) – to learn more and support our efforts

# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## PARISH STAFF

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege	Rector
The Reverend Samuel V. Tallman	Priest Associate
The Right Reverend J. Gary Gloster	Assisting Clergy
Dr. James Bumgardner	Organist/Choirmaster
Greta Wilson	Parish Administrator
Joe Raulerson	Financial Secretary
Bill Stroh	Sexton
Caleb Brigman, Emme Hooks, Kathryn Santiago, Jacob Smith	Choral Scholars
Megan Redford, Alex Scheurer, Chloe Shaut	Nursery Assistants

## THE VESTRY

### 2020

Crawford Cleveland  
Bill Furr  
Jane Milner  
Chip Myers, Sr. Warden

### 2021

Sterling Hutcheson  
Gigi Poole  
E.B. Springs  
Jim West

### 2022

Doug Galke  
Lisa Kaufmann  
Roy McCraw  
Tim Silver, Jr. Warden

Amanda White, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk

+++

**St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church**

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