

Grace Episcopal Church

The Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2024 The Holy Eucharist: Rite I - 10:30 a.m.



PRELUDE

Come now, Savior of all nations, Come - J. S. Bach

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

INTROIT (vv. 3-4)

(Choir only)

O come, O come, Emmanuel

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #53 (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

Once he came in blessing



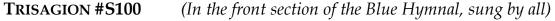
323 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

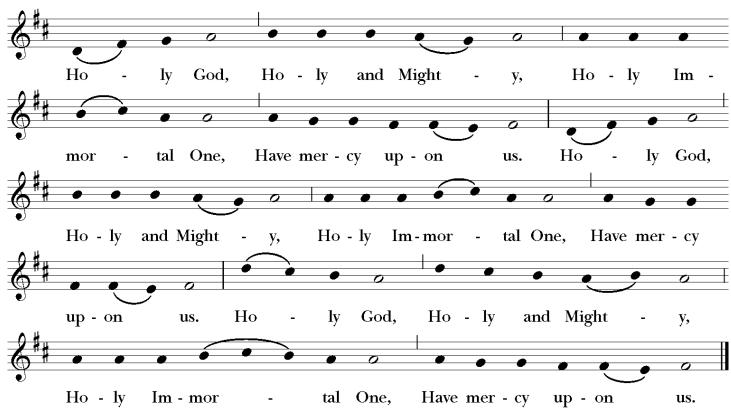
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.





159 THE COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant 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.**

Please be seated

Lector A Reading from the Prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

- The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 16 (In Unison)

92

The Song of Zechariah

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:

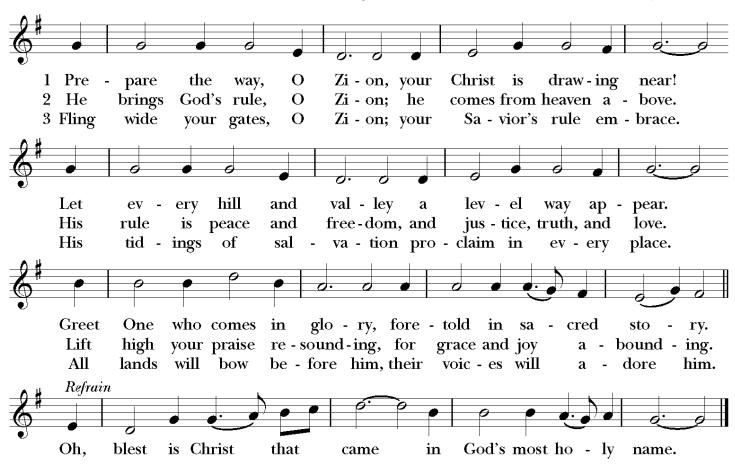
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE Philippians 1:3-11

Lector A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

- The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
 and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.""

-- The Gospel of the Lord People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE ADVENT WREATH - The Second Candle: The Candle of Peace

The congregation remains standing

The Reader:

Each year during the Season of Advent, we light these candles. They together stand for us as a symbol of Christ breaking into a darkened world in need of the gifts he brings. We prepare, during this Advent season, to celebrate how that light first broke in at his birth on Christmas Day. We also look forward, in these days, to his return at his second coming, when the fullness of that light will shine on those who are prepared to receive him in joy.

The light of each of the flames symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ in the world and in our lives with the four outer candles representing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The center candle is the Christ Candle to be lighted on Christmas Eve celebrating Jesus's appearance among us.

Last Sunday we lit the first candle of our Advent Wreath, the candle of <u>hope</u>. We light it again today remembering that our hope is in Jesus.

Here the first candle is lighted.

The Reader:

The second candle of Advent is the Candle of *Peace*.

It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle to remind us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

Peace is a gift that we must be prepared for and God gives it to us when we turn to him in faith. The prophet Isaiah called Jesus "the Prince of Peace."

Through John the Baptist, as in today's Gospel, and all the other prophets, God asks us to prepare our hearts so that he might come in.

Our peace is found in Jesus Christ. We light this candle today to remind us that he brings peace to all who trust in him.

Here the second candle is lighted.

Let us pray.

The People:

Loving God, thank you for the peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts to receive him. Bless our worship. Guide us in all that we say and do. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher

326 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.

328 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other Ministers, especially **Sean**, our Presiding Bishop, **Samuel and Jennifer** our bishops, and **Ed** our priest, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. Lord in Your mercy **Hear our prayer**

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

Lord in Your mercy Hear our prayer

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially **Joe**, our President, **Roy** our Governor, **Jason** our mayor, and **John and Tommy** our Councilmen, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. Lord in Your mercy

Hear our prayer

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. Lord in Your mercy

Hear our prayer

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. *Silence*

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Sidney** Briggs, **Cameron** Klass, **Julia** Klass, and **Josey** Parker and those with special needs:

Sharon Smith, Lou Adkins, Mark Adkins, Amanda Amon, Ella Asebes, Paul Batson, Sissy Bolstad, Alice Brandon & family, Susan Branscomb, Lynne Broch, Gayle Burke, Seraphina Byers, Jean Campbell, Lynne Cleckley, John Clippard, Joan Clodfelter, Tom Cook, Morgan Curia, Roy Deese, Dan DiRenzo, Susan Dixon, Kim Dube, Renee Ewbank, Charlotte Froehlich, Jenny Gallen, Shana Garland, James Giles, Earnest Graham, Jane Grimes, Jim Hackney, George Hanna, Rob Hare, Kristen Harris, Nancy Hinkle, Chris Hodges, Brittany Hudson, Nancy Hutchins, Alisa Johnson, Vickie & Mike Johnson, Andrew Jones, David Jones, Brian Kent, Cara Lee, Becky Lendahl, Warren MacKinstry, Liz Marr, A.C. Marshall, Debbie Mason, Kate McKenzie, Charles McNeair, Roan Mitchell, Dan & Fran Moore, Howard Palmer, Walker Peoples, Thomas Pierce, Gabby Plott, Jacklyn Rojas, Melissa Routh, Christine Ryals, Lucas Sanabria, Lynn Santolla, Suzy Sheets, Patty Short, Talmadge Silversides, Morgan Simmons, Clyde Smith, Martha Ellen Smith, Sean Sullivan, Jackie Touchton, Brenda Tyndall, Perry Grimes Van Dyke, Flynn Williams, Mary Williams, Paul Wylie, and Charlotte Young.

"Are there others?" Lord, in your mercy; *Hear our prayer*.

Celebrant

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

331 CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved thee with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Minister may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 *Timothy* 1:15

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

332 THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

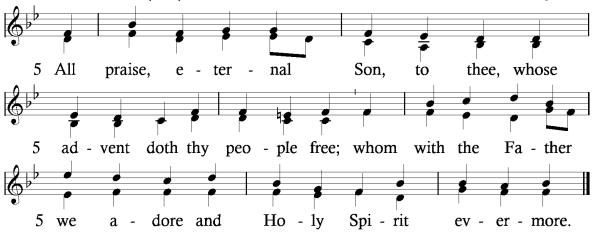
Comfort, comfort now my people - arr. J. Ferguson

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

The offering is brought forward as the hymn is sung.

PRESENTATION HYMN #76 (v. 5)





340 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer II)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And with thy spirit.Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

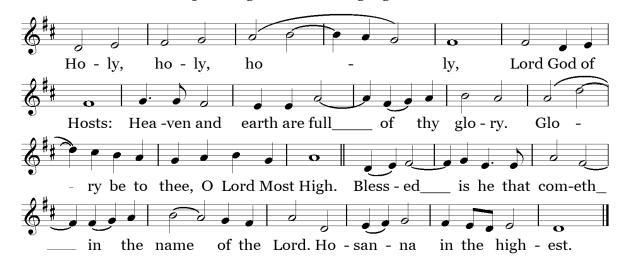
Celebrant

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,





The people may stand or kneel

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.

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.

337 THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore, let us keep the feast.

And forgive us our trespasses,

337 FRACTION ANTHEM AND PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Celebrant People

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Celebrant and People

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

338 INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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.

All baptized Christians are invited to come forward for Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. You may receive both the bread and wine, or only the bread or only the wine. Receiving Communion in one or both forms is sufficient sacramentally. If you prefer neither bread nor wine, you also are invited to come forward and to simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the minister to provide you with a holy blessing of the Lord.

During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

9 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,

we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship,

and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you in holy light as you remain steadfast in faith, filled with joy, nurtured in peace, encouraged in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, † the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION HYMN #59 (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding



- 1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
- 2 Wak-ened by the sol-emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
- 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex pect ed, comes with par don down from heaven;
- 4 so when next he comes with glo ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
- 5 Hon or, glo ry, might, and bless ing to the Fa ther and the Son,



- 1 "Cast a way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
- 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis pel ling, shines up on the morn-ing skies.
- <u>3</u> let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for-given;
 - may he with his mer-cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
- 5 with the ev er last-ing Spi rit while un end-ing a ges run.

339 THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major (The Little) - J. S. Bach

The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God in honor of the members of the vestry.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Kathy Young **Greeter:** Frances Garner

Intercessor: Elizabeth Purdy Ushers: Sims Riggan, Bill Gilleland LEMs: Kathie Goodman Acolytes: Jack Briggs, Analise Petruzzi

Pam Harvey Chandler Allred

WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex.

Infants and young children are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary. The restrooms are located in the rear hallway, and diaper-changing stations are provided in both rooms.

During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Emerita Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator John Taylor, Facilities Manager



THE VESTRY

2025	2026	2027
Wes Allred Sr. Warden	Karl Bolstad	Dan Briggs
Thompson Miller Asst. Treasurer	Bright Carter	Melissa Helms
Marjorie Parker Jr. Warden	Sally Dodd clerk	Mary Matthews
Marilyn Taylor	Henry Duquette Asst. Jr. Warden	Leslie Sheets
Lynn Meeks Treasurer (Ex-Officio)	_	

The Vestry Person of the Month for December is Dan Briggs.