



St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church
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A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. The Episcopal Church in the Anglican Communion.

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I
December 3, 2023

Welcome to St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church. Our congregation has been part of the greater Boston area for over one hundred years. Having deep roots in the Caribbean immigrant community, the parish continues to welcome people from all that region and beyond.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Celebrant – The Rev. Noble Scheepers
Organist – Natalie Rist
MC -- Charles Knight
Readers: Yvonne Clarke and Cheryl Mottley
Eucharistic Minister: Edward Rewolinski

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 3, 2023

10:30 AM

Holy Communion Rite 1

Prelude

Call to Worship

The days are surely coming, says the Lord
When I will fulfil my promise to my people
Justice and righteousness will fill the land
And all will live in peace and safety

Processional Hymn57

Lighting of the Advent candles:

(Reader 1): We light this candle as a symbol

Of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming

(Reader 2): For the Lord will fulfil His promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah

A righteous branch will spring up for David

And he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land

ALL: Come Lord Jesus, come

Call to Confession:

Testify with honesty the condition of your souls

Give defense not for yourselves but only the Lord's grace

Which will save you in the time of trial

With confidence in God's mercy, let us confess our sin

Lord have mercy on us; we are not ready for your coming

We live in sin, as though there were no justice

We live in fear, as though there were no grace

Forgive us, Lord

Show us your mercy and steadfast love

Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths

For you are the God of our salvation, Amen.

Declaration of forgiveness:

The Lord is our righteousness.

In Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayer of the day:

Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near
Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer
So that we may stand with confidence and joy
At the coming of Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen

The Collect:

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.

Prayer for illumination:

Amid much confusion, signs leading away from you,
We seek your truth. Open our hearts to the wonders of your work
And the wisdom of your word. Amen

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First LessonIsaiah 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.

The PsalmPsalm 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 Second Lesson1 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.

Sequence Hymn66

Holy GospelMark 13:24-37

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.”

Sermon.....Rev. Noble Scheepers

The Nicene Creed Page 327

Prayers of Intercession:

Let us pray to the Lord saying,
In your mercy, Lord, save us

Merciful God, you called us to goodness and lead us to right paths.
You encourage us with the signs of your coming, and urge us to keep watch
That we might greet you with heads raised high
When you come to restore all of creation
Watching and praying, we pray for this world that needs your saving power.

In your mercy, Lord save us

God of love and wisdom, we give you thanks for St. Cyprian’s Church, our
loving and caring community. May we continue to love and care for each other and to be the hands and feet
of Christ in the world.

In your mercy, Lord save us

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.

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.

We pray for the sick.....

In your mercy, Lord save us

We pray too, for your church in the world,
That we may increase in ardor for you and your children,
And work in confidence for your coming reign.
Now by the power of your Holy Spirit, make us ever more faithful,
That we may greet you in confidence and joy on that great day,
Through Christ, in whose name we pray: **Amen**

The Peace

Please stay in the pews and wave a sign of peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please remember the sick and shut-in members in your prayers:

Gloria Burke, Lesia Clarke, Angeline Elmore, Zelda Godfrey, Albertha Herbert, Ernest Herbert, Patricia Jackman, Traci King, Roslyn Morris, Mae Nelson, Marva Toppin, Leroy Wason,, Amelia Winston, Margaret Lowell and Viola Padmore.

- Bible study is held Fridays at 6:30pm in the library.
- Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the birthdays of Zelda Godfrey, Sarita Richards and Jamae Richards by the family.
- Kindly consider flower donations for Christmas in remembrance of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion. The cost of each poinsettia is \$20. Please see Joyce Stanton.
- Choir members are reminded there will be rehearsals on Thursday, December 7th at 7pm and Saturday, December 9th at 1:30pm in preparation for the service of lessons and carols.

UPCOMING SERVICES:

December 10 Service of Nine Lessons & Carols at 4:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: There will be morning prayer at 10:30 am

December 24: Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 4:00 pm. There will be no morning service.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNION:

The Sanitizer station located in the aisle must be utilized prior to receiving communion.

Reminder: Receiving communion in your hand remains the method of distribution.

Birthday Blessing: Persons celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries this week are invited to come to the altar for a blessing.

Anthem.....*How beautiful upon the mountain*.....Choir

Offertory Hymn.....59

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving and
Breaking of BreadPages 333-338

Communion Hymn.....53
13 LEVAS

Post Communion Prayer339

Charge

Hear with your hearts the word and wisdom of the Lord. About that day and hour no one knows. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Be ready, for the Lord will come at an unexpected hour.

BLESSING

May the God of mercy keep you, the Holy Spirit cheer you,
And the Christ in glory greet you, now and at the day of his coming;
And the Blessing of God, Father, and Holy Spirit,
Be among you, and those whom you love
And remain with you, this day, and always, Amen

Closing Hymn123 WC

DISMISSAL

Postlude

We thank you for worshipping with us. Please join us next time you are visiting the Boston area and if you live nearby, we would love to have you worship with us on Sundays at 10:30 AM

Our vestry, the parish's governing board consists of :

Arthur Thorne	–	Senior warden
Cecil Pryce	–	Junior warden
Josephine Mitchell	-	Treasurer
Harriet Carmichael	-	Clerk
Dario Boyce		Charles Knight
Henry Cadogan		Margaret Lowell
Rosalyn Coppin-Donovan		Justin Petty
Zelda Godfrey		Edward Rewolinski
		Keith Selman