*The First Sunday of Advent Year B* December 3, 2023

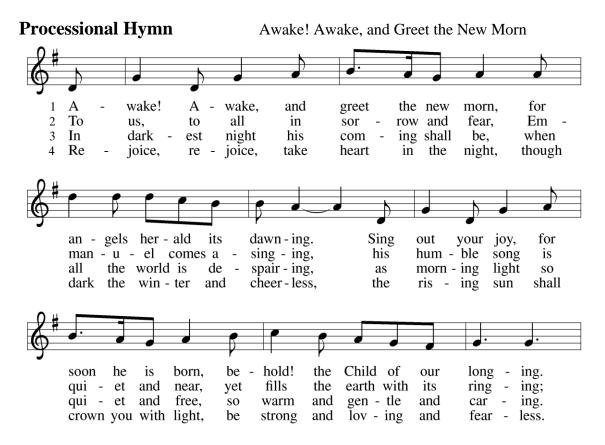


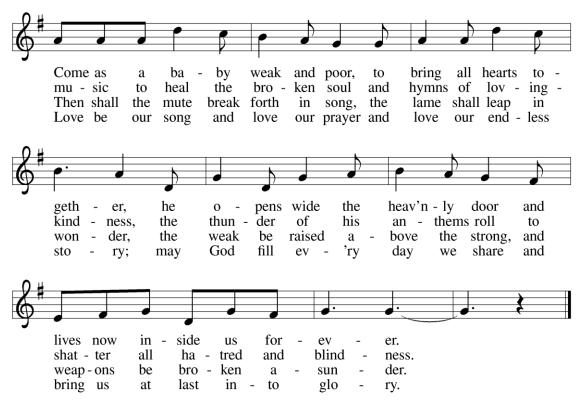
Advent carries two simultaneous visions of our expectations: we await yet again the birth of the babe in the manger, and we also await Christ's coming again to fulfill all things. We often prepare for Advent by "getting ready": planning, organizing, and ordering supplies for various gatherings and worship services. Yet preparing for the coming of Christ is not a matter of having everything under control. Christ's arrival disrupts disrupts injustice, sin, and brokenness in a society in which we are deeply embedded. A prayer for Christ to come to us is a prayer for a holy disruption of our lives that we cannot control and that we might struggle to accept.

> 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m., The Holy Eucharist, Rite II The Rev. William Petersen, Celebrant Holly Simons, Minister of Music

#### THE GATHERING ~ The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Prelude** Jubilate Deo – *G.F. Handel/arr. G. Blake* Choral: Joy of Longing Hearts - *C. Wesley/arr. by M. McDonald* 





## **Opening Acclamation**

| Celebrant | Blessed are you, holy and living One.      |
|-----------|--|
| People    | You come to your people and set them free. |

Gloria

(sung to the tune "Angels we have heard on high")

Glory be to God on high! Peace, goodwill to all the earth. Let us sing a joyful song to the Christ, the Living Word. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

## Collect Of The Day Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

# **First Sunday of Advent**

This blessing is read when lighting the first candle.

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. Amen.

THE WORD ~ God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

**Lessons** We hear the Word of God proclaimed.

## The First Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9

The Hebrew Bible lesson presents a contrite plea to God for merciful justice. The prophet recalls earlier times when the Lord's presence made the very mountains quake. Now the people have sinned grievously and are suffering for their wrongs. They can only pray that the Lord will remember them as God's children, God's creatures, and temper divine anger.

*Reader* A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

- 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.
- *Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
- *People* Thanks be to God

**Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18** The reader and people read responsively.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \* shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \* stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; \*

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, \*

how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; \*

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*

the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; \*

give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

## The Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

In this reading Paul greets the new disciples in Corinth, telling them of his gratitude to God on their behalf and offering comfort and assurance. Because they are sanctified in Christ, these converts, together with those everywhere who call upon Jesus, have a vocation as saints. They are rich in spiritual gifts. Trusting in a faithful God, they wait for the great revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Reader* A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

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.

ReaderHear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.PeopleThanks be to God

# The Gospel Mark 13:24-37

In this gospel lesson Jesus presents his disciples with a vision of the end of human history and repeatedly urges them to be on watch. The universe itself will reflect this transformation as the Son of Man comes. That time is near, but no one knows it exactly. Disciples must live expectantly and be on the alert for their Lord's coming.

GospellerThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

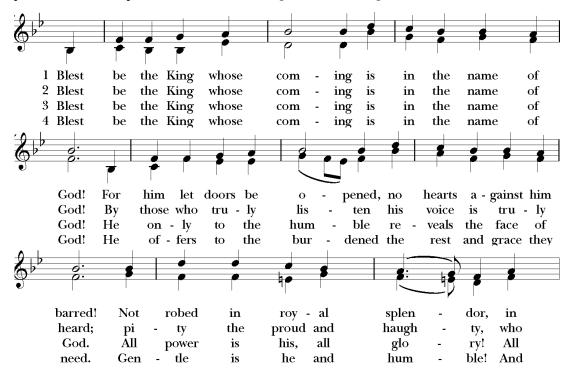
| Gospeller | The Gospel of the Lord.     |  |
|-----------|-----------------------------|--|
| People    | Praise to you, Lord Christ. |  |

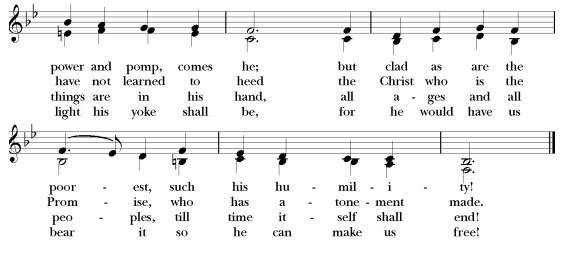
#### Sermon

The Rev. William Petersen

Silence for reflection may be kept. The people stand in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day #74 Blest be the King whose coming (v1, 3 & 4)





#### **Nicene Creed**

We profess our faith with the whole church.

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,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

- 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### The leader and people pray responsively.

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

## A brief silence.

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief. Deliver all in any need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

#### Here other intercessions may be offered.

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.** 

# Confession

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and selfcenteredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

# Absolution

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.** 

The Peace

We share the gift of Christ's peace and love.

Announcements

We share our life of faith together in community.

**The Offering** Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give.



For everyone's safety, we will not pass the traditional plate during today's service. Instead, an offering plate is available at the entrances to the worship space, or you may visit wolfesaints.com/donate.

Let us with gladness present the offerings and thanksgivings of our life and labor to the Lord.

**THE HOLY COMMUNION** God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

#### **Eucharistic Prayer B**

| Celebrant | 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. |

Because you sent your 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.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

#### Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

#### By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn: Celebrant and People

#### Sanctus

(sung to the tune "Bring a Torch)

Holy, holy One... God of power, God of might. Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed, blessed, blessed is the One Who comes, Blessed! Blessed! In the Name of God.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or 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 he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

#### We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.** 

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN** 

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

# 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.

Lamb of God (sung to the tune "O Come, O Come Emmanuel") O Lamb of God You take away our sin; have mercy on us, give us Your peace. Prepare us to receive Your grace, and teach us how to follow Your ways. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has come to you, O Israel.

A period of silence is kept.

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.

# Prayer For Spiritual Communion for those worshipping online

There is a long-standing practice in the Episcopal Church to offer a means for people to receive Holy Communion spiritually when it cannot be received physically.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.

Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

**Communion Organ Meditation** *O Savior Sweet, O Savior Kind – J.S. Bach (arr. G. Blake)* 

# **Prayer After Communion**

Let us pray together:

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

# Sending Blessing

May you trust in whatever sacred thing bubbles up from within you. May you remember that the Divine takes on flesh and yours is no exception. May you be a conduit of eternal love, and a moment of grace for a world that waits and longs for hope. In the name of the one who + creates, saves and sustains you. Amen. **Sending Hymn** God is with us! Alleluia! (sung to tune "All Creatures of our God and King)

His Name is called Emmanuel – More wonderful than words can tell. GOD IS WITH US! Alleluia! Born in our darkness, He is Light; born in our weakness, He is Might.

REFRAIN: God is with us! Alleluia! God is with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Rejoice and lay aside your fear. Rejoice, the Holy One is here. God is with us! Alleluia! Lift up Your voices, come and sing. Come worship Christ, the newborn King. REFRAIN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. God is with us! Alleluia! Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. REFRAIN

#### Dismissal

| People    | Thanks be to God.        |  |
|-----------|--------------------------|--|
| Celebrant | Go in peace. Keep awake. |  |

**Postlude** Morning Star – *Dorothy Wells* 

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **December 3 ~ First Sunday of Advent**

**We welcome** all who are visiting with us today or who are new in our midst. Please complete a Welcome Card found in the pew racks and sign the guest book in the Narthex. All are invited to join us for coffee hour in the parish hall downstairs immediately following worship.

#### LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE TABLE IN NARTHEX.

#### **PLEASE PRAY for:**

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Deborah Smith, Pauline Smith. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St Paul's Episcopal Church in Concord. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: For those who have died:

#### **Our Parish**

Howard Blaney, Linda Brown, Jim & Anne Bullitt, Prue Fitts, Felicity Freund, Judy Hess, Louise Graham, Don Johnson, The Jeffers family (Polly, Dave, Rachael), Zell Kellogg, Bhupendra & Judy Khetani, Jacqueline McLaughlin, Penny Meyer, Connie Mitchell, Warren Muir, Carol Pearson, Danielle Pierpont, Bree Schuette, Sebastian Tordonato, Inger Woerheide.

#### **Our Family & Friends**

Basil Brown, Rebecca DeNeault, Candy Desrocher, Michael Dowd, Anne Fish, Stephanie Fullam, Ruth Gray, Linda Hall, Susan Belt Hartson, Faye Juul, Jim Lunney, Margie, Tom Southern, Marguerite Truesdale, Peggy Young.

# The Altar Flowers are given in the glory of God.

If you wish names added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the Parish Office by phone or email: allsaints@metrocast.net

#### Birthdays this week:

Maureen Boornazian 12/03 Steve Cloutier 12/07 Ralph Simons 12/08

| December<br>Ministry<br>Assignments     | <u>3- Advent 1</u>                              | <u>10-Advent 2</u>                       |
|---|---|--|
| Altar<br>Guild                          | Mary Bertsch<br>Susan Harding                   | Ritva Torma<br>Susie Walker              |
| Usher                                   | Jones   | Bertsch                                  |
| Lectors<br>10am                         | Kathleen Codyrachel                             | Lucy Hancock                             |
| Eucharistic<br>Ministers<br>8am<br>10am | Carol Simpson<br>Skip Hancock<br>Dianne Wasmuth | Jay Wyman<br>Susan Fuller<br>Linda Brown |
| Greeters                                | Volunteer                                       | Volunteer                                |
| Flower Guild                            | Joyce Lake                                      | Cate McMahon                             |
| Flower Delivery                         | Danielle Pierpont                               | Arlene Salzgeber                         |
| Counting<br>@ 10am                      | 12/5<br>Deb Hoyt<br>Dianne Wasmuth              | <b>12/12</b><br>Deb Hoyt<br>Bill Woodard |

# POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE BY

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**<sup>TH</sup>. Email allsaints@metrocast.net or drop slip in the plate or at the office.

**About All Saints'** ~ We welcome you to a church that is clear about the Christian faith that stands in the rich tradition of Christian worship that encourages people to grow in the faith they profess, that believes we ought to live so as to make a difference in the world. If you are looking for such a church, then All Saints' Episcopal Church is for you - we invite you into our community of faith.

**How to use this Worship Bulletin** ~ We follow the order of worship from The Book of Common Prayer as it is printed in this bulletin. Leader parts are in regular print; the congregation parts are in **bold** print. Notes and directions are printed in *italics*. Hymn numbers are noted in this bulletin and can be found in The Hymnal 1982 found in the pew racks.

#### All are invited to receive Communion in this church.

**The Common Cup** *as an Option* Following guidance from Bishop +Rob to clergy and discussion with our Worship and Music Team and Vestry, we will offer the option of receiving wine by common cup as we offer the option of gluten free bread during Holy Communion. The Eucharistic Ministers will continue to distribute wine via individual cups and if you desire the common cup\*, please ask Pastor Bill (just as you would for gluten free).

**\*Note:** For sanitation concerns and at the direction of our bishop, we will no longer offer the opportunity for Intinction (the dipping of the bread/wafer into the wine. The common cup is only available for drinking from.

**Facility Information** ~ Handicap accessible restrooms are located downstairs in the hallways exiting the Parish Hall and upstairs in the hallway exiting the sanctuary. A small restroom is located off the narthex lobby at the rear of the worship space. We welcome children in worship, but should you (or they) need, an unstaffed nursery area is located off the narthex lobby.

**Seeking a Church Home?** ~ If you would like additional information about All Saints', are seeking a faith community to call home, or interested in exploring your faith, please speak with the rector.

**Masks are not required** in the building at the present time. However, if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, then you are encouraged to do so.

**Sharing of the peace** will be done from your seat only.

**Offering plates** are available at entrances to the worship space or giving online @ wolfesaints.com.

Ministers: All the People of All Saints' Bishop: The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld Rector: The Rev. William "Bill" Petersen Priest Associate: The Rev. Elizabeth Preysner Minister of Music: Holly Simons Sunday School Teacher: Danielle Pierpont Parish Administrator: Debra Hoyt Sexton: Mark McLaughlin

We continue to livestream for those unable to worship in person.

All Saints' Episcopal Church, Wolfeboro PO Box 359, 258 South Main Street, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 (603) 569-3453 www.wolfesaints.com / email: <u>allsaints@meterocast.net</u>