

St. Peter's Anglican Church

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"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

Zoom into

Advent

Bible Study

With
Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft

EXODUS

December 1st-8th-15th-22nd 7PM

No experience required!

No matter where in the world you are, we welcome you.

Advent Bible Study – Week 1
Hope and Renewal in Times of Change:
Four Exodus Liturgies – “Home”
Tuesday, December 1, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Welcome: The Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft

Call to Worship:

Leader: The Lord says: When the time comes,

***All:* I will answer the prayers of my people.**

Leader: I will betroth you to myself forever,

***All:* With Integrity and justice, with tenderness and love.**

Leader: I will betroth you to myself with faithfulness,

***All:* And you will come to know me.**

Leader: I will say: You are my people,

***All:* And you will answer: You are our God.**

Leader: For once you were outside mercy,

***All:* But now you have been given mercy.**

***All:* This is our hope, our living hope, we shall be glad.**

Reading: Genesis 18: 1-8

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, ‘My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.’ So they said, ‘Do as you have said.’ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, ‘Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.’ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

***All:* Thanks be to God.**

Presenting the Symbols of Home

Silence

A Time of Reflection

All: May the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our hearts be acceptable to you, god our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

Blessing and Repentance:

Leader: Strong, sheltering God, we bless you for all the beautiful things of home; warmth and shelter when the wind outside is bitter food, food for the body and for the soul, treasured gifts and treasured memories, stability, acceptance, care. We bless you for the chance to be ourselves, for the tasks that weave the pattern of our days, for the sweet, familiar round of ordinary things.

All: Blessed are you, strong, sheltering God.

Leader: But if we have forced unfair expectations on others, taken their care for granted, helped to make of a safe place a battleground or used our belonging to shut others out:

All: Have mercy on us, God of friend and stranger. Disturb our complacency, shake our circles of contentment. Sweep through our hearts and our houses with the new broom of your spirit, until love is our only refuge. Amen.

Prayers of Concern

- *For those who homes are places of unhappiness, threat or insecurity*
- *For all whose homes have been broken by family breakdown or by dispossession*
- *For all who have no home*
- *Other...*

All: Listen Lord, listen Lord, not to our words but to our prayers. You alone, you alone, understand and care.

Closing Responses:

Leader: On our hearts and our houses,

All: The Blessing of God.

Leader: In our coming and going,

All: The Peace of God.

Leader: In our life and believing,

All: The Love of God.

Leader: At our end and new beginning,

All: The arms of God to welcome us and bring us home. Amen.

Christmas Calendar

Be sure to mark your calendar in December for the following events:

Sunday, November 29th - *The First Sunday of Advent, 9:30 am*

Tuesday, December 1st - *Advent Bible Study via Zoom (Week 1), 7:00 pm*

Sunday, December 6th - *The Second Sunday of Advent, 9:30 am*

Tuesday, December 8th - *Advent Bible Study via Zoom (Week 2), 7:00 pm*

Sunday, December 13th - *The Third Sunday of Advent, 9:30 am*

Tuesday, December 15th - *Advent Bible Study via Zoom (Week 3), 7:00 pm*

Wednesday, December 16th - *Blue Christmas Service, 7:00 pm*

Sunday, December 20th - *The Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:30 am*

Tuesday, December 22nd - *Advent Bible Study via Zoom (Week 4), 7:00 pm*

Thursday, December 24th - *Christmas Eve Service, 7:30 pm*

Friday, December 25th - *Christmas Day Service, 9:30 am*

Sunday, December 27th - *The First Sunday after Christmas, 9:30 am*

