

THE GOOD NEWS FROM EMMANUEL

January 11, 2009 - First Sunday after the Epiphany



The illustration of this Sunday's Gospel reading is an oil on canvas painting by El Greco, 1597-1600, Museo del Prado, Madrid.

COLLECT

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING - GENESIS 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

GOSPEL - MARK 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

NEWS AND EVENTS AND STUFF

Our annual meeting will be held next Sunday after church service.

Our friends at St. James' in Higganum are hosting a concert on January 17 to benefit Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown. Pianist and vocalist Brian Gillie will perform American songbook standards. For more information, go to www.stjameshigganum.org/gillie1.htm

Bishop Smith is retiring in 2010 and has called for the election a new diocesan bishop...our fifteenth. The election will take place at the October 2009 convention with a consecration by the presiding bishop will take place April 17, 2010. If you'd like to provide some input, there's an online survey at www.ctdiocese.org.

The Good News from Emmanuel is a mostly weekly publication of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 50 Emmanuel Church Rd., Killingworth, CT. Please send your comments and suggestions to the editor at lesliejonesie@gmail.com