



**December 5, 2021**

**Advent Festival  
of  
Lessons and Music**

## Welcome to the Church of the Holy Comforter

### At the Procession

Standing

*O come, O come Emmanuel*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - - - - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from



1 cap - tive Is - - - - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - - - ile  
2 all things might - - i - ly; to us the path of know - - - ledge  
3 tribes on Si - - - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
4 Sa - tan's ty - - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - - - - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - - - ra - ell!

*Remain standing for the Bidding Prayer*

## The Bidding Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in our country and our community.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.  
*(Intercessions are offered here.)*

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.  
*Amen.*

*(Congregation is seated)*

## The First Lesson

**Genesis 3:1-22**

**Reader: Carol Kane**

*“Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden, but God still clothes them with God’s care and love.”*

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will

not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing, in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken, you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them. Then the LORD God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

*(Congregation is seated)*

## **Choir Anthem: I Hear the Prophet Callin'**

### **The Second Lesson**

**Isaiah 40: 1-11**

**Reader: Shannon Recupero**

*“God comforts His people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.”*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up and do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!” See the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.”

**The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.**

## Congregational Hymn: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -  
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - - er,  
let the val - leys rise to meet - him  
and all flesh shall see the to - - ken



and her war - fare now is o - - ver.  
and the hills bow down to greet - him.  
that the word is nev - er bro - - ken.

**Reader: Emily Milburn**

*“A new covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts.”*

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah:

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God*

**The Mission of Holy Comforter**

**Love God, Love Others**

**Serve God, Serve Others**

## Congregational Hymn: What Child is This

*Unison or harmony*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
2 Why lies he in such mean estate where,  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - them sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to



*(Congregation is seated)*

## The Fourth Lesson

**Isaiah 6:1-11**

**Reader: Tab Carter**

*“God reveals His glory to the prophet and calls him to be His messenger.”*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” And he said, “Go and say to this people: ‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.’ Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed.” Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said: Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate.

**The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God**

## Congregational Hymn: Here I Am, Lord

### Verses

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I have heard my  
I will tend the  
people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.

My hand will save.  
My hand will save.  
I who made the  
Fin-est bread I

stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright. Who will bear my  
will pro-vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my  
light to them? Whom shall I send?  
life to them. Whom shall I send?

### Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you  
call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

**Reader: Linda Bargeron**

*“The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us.”*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.**

## Congregational Hymn: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea; there's a  
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sure of our mind; and the  
3 Oh so gen - tly would he gath - er as the hen be-neath her wings calls her  
4 "And my love is at your wak - ing when your day is at its start. All day



kind - ness in God's jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty. There is  
heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our  
young to nes - tle clo - ser, so our Lord, to call us, sings: "See a  
long, in joy or ach - ing, and your name is on my heart. I'll be



wel - come for the sin - ner, and more grac - es for the good! There is  
love were but more sim - ple, we should rest up - on God's word; and our  
mo - ther hold her in - fant soft for sleep, yet strong to shield, so I  
with you in the eve - ning, and then when the light is gone I will



mer - cy with the Sav - ior, there is heal - ing in his blood.  
lives would be il - lu - mined by the pre - sence of our Lord.  
hold you ev - ery in - stant ten - der - ly, and will not yield.  
watch you 'til the morn - ing and I'll wake you in the dawn."

*(Congregation is seated)*

**Reader: Barry Paschal**

*“The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look East because salvation is at hand.”*

A Reading for the Book of Baruch:

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God. Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, “Righteous Peace, Godly Glory.” Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God’s command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The Word of the Lord  
*Thanks be to God.*

## Congregational Hymn: Prepare the Way, O Zion



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

*Refrain*



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

## The Seventh Lesson

Zephaniah 3: 14-18

Reader: Hannah Liebel

*“The prophet reminds us that God is present among us and that is cause of rejoicing. “*

A reading from the book of Zephaniah:

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your

hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

The Word of the Lord  
*Thanks be to God.*

**Choir Anthem: Advent Alleluia**

**The Eighth Lesson**

**Luke 1:26-38**

**Reader: The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor**

*“The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.”*

A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke:

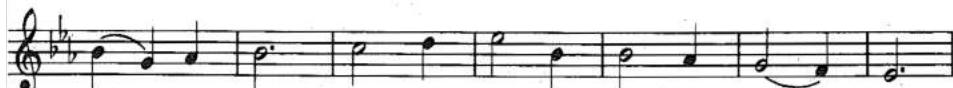
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord  
*Thanks be to God.*

## Congregational Hymn: Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,  
3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



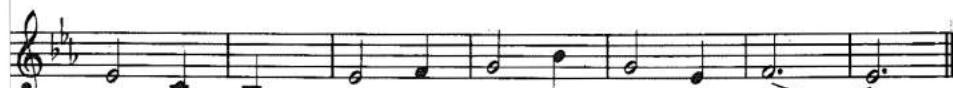
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,  
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have \_\_\_\_\_ been, and that fu - ture  
world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_

## Concluding Collect

Celebrant: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

## The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you

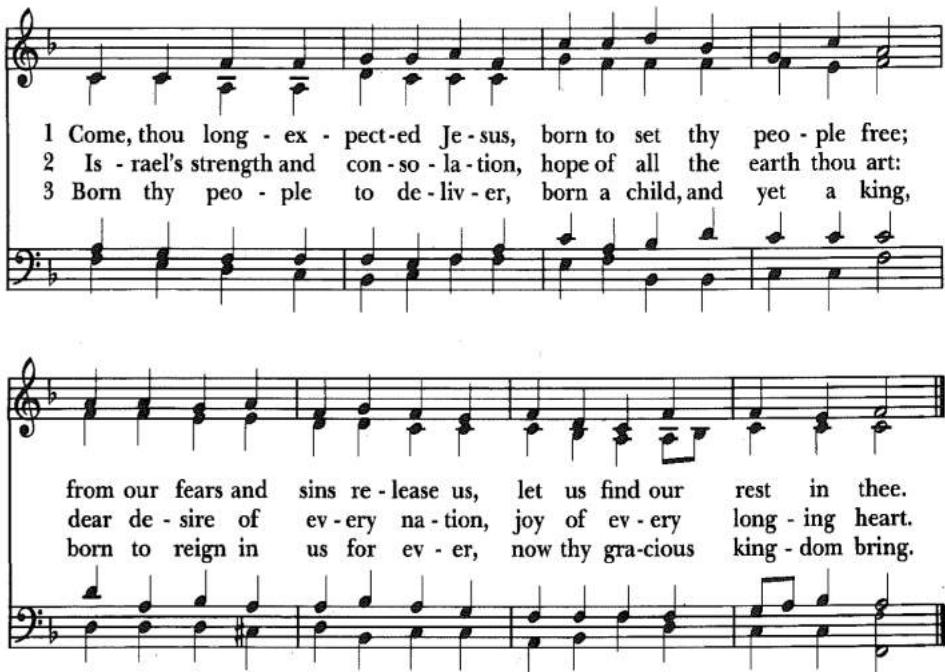
People: *And also with you..*

## Offertory Anthem

*Mary did you know*

## Offertory Hymn

*Come thou long expected Jesus*



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
  
from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

## *An Acclamation of Thanksgiving for God's Gifts*

Celebrant: All things come from you O Lord

People: *And of your own have we given you.*

**The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer B** *Also found on page 367 in The Book of Common Prayer*

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.*

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Sanctus:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly      Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est.      Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. —

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:

*We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory.*

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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. 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.*

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Receiving communion:** *At this time we are only offering altar bread, not wine.*

**Gluten Free Communion Bread:** *If you have a dietary restrictions and need gluten free communion bread, just ask the server for Gluten Free bread when you come to receive.*

## Communion Song

*There is a redeemer*



1. There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,  
2. Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,  
3. When I stand in glo - ry I will see His face, and



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si-ah, Ho - ly One.  
pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si-ah, hope for sin - ners slain.  
there I'll serve my King for-ev-er, in that ho - ly place.



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son; and



leav - ing your Spir - it 'til the work on earth is done.

## Communion Song

*Emmanuel*



Em - man - u - el,



Em - man - u - el.



re - veal'd in us,



Em - man - u - el.

## **The Postcommunion Prayer**

*Please stand and remain standing through the closing hymn*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

*Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

## **The Blessing and the Dismissal**

Celebrant: May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you forever. *Amen.*

*(The dismissal is said after the closing hymn. Children are invited to join the clergy at the front of the church to help with the dismissal.)*

Priest: Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

**Recessional Hymn**

*Love divine, all loves excelling*

## Recessional Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling,  
 2. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er,  
 3. Fin - ish then your new cre - a - tion,

Joy of heav'n to earth come down!  
 Let us all your life re - ceive;  
 Pure and spot - less, gra - cious Lord,

Fix in us your hum - ble dwell - ing,  
 Sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,  
 Let us see your great sal - va - tion

All your faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
 Nev - er more your tem - ples leave.  
 Per - fect - ly in you re - stored.

Je - sus, source of all com - pas - sion,  
 Lord, we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

Love un - bound - ed, love all pure;  
 Serve you as your hosts a - bove,  
 Till in heav'n we take our place,

Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion,  
 Pray, and praise you with - out ceas - ing,  
 Till we sing be - fore the al - might - y

Let your love in us en - dure.  
 Glo - ry in won - der, pre - cious love.  
 Lost in won - der, and love. praise.

## **Welcome to Holy Comforter—We're Glad You're Here!**

**Our first joy** is to welcome our guests and newcomers. An usher can assist you with any questions. Like to be on our mailing list? Please sign our guest register.

**Do you want to be part of Holy Comforter?** Call the parish office (706-210-1133) and we'll be glad to help you. *Also, please make sure that we have your e-mail address to receive our weekly E-News*

### **Advent Lessons and Carols**

**This morning we mark the Second Sunday of the Advent Season** with our Lessons and Carols. The Holy Comforter Choir, led by Dr. Brad Green, along with various lectors from the parish, will, through Scripture and music, tell the story of Salvation.

### **Advent Wreath**

**Today is the Second Sunday of Advent.** This morning we light the second blue candle on our Advent wreath, which symbolizes Faith reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

### **Advent Devotionals**

**Advent is a time when we go deeper** into our relationship with Jesus. Advent devotionals are a way to assist in that. Devotionals for all are available in the foyer.

### **Daughters of the King**

The Daughters of the King will meet after church today.

### **That's a Wrap!**

**After twenty-two years at Holy Comforter** and nearly 36 years of parish ministry, The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor is retiring. Her last Sunday is January 9. Join us for a morning of celebration for this new chapter in her life and in the life of our church.

**We will have a Celebration Meal** following this service. If you would like to provide a needed dish, sign up by scanning the QR code.



## **The Book Club**

**The Book Club meets Wednesday, December 8th** at 10:00am at the church. Bring your favorite Christmas book, story or poem to share. Join us for tea, coffee, cookies and perhaps a bit of a sing-a-long. Questions about The Book Club? Contact Mary Kelly at [marykelly919@comcast.net](mailto:marykelly919@comcast.net) or 206-859-8418.

## **Holy Comforter Youth Christmas Party**

**On December 17 come to the home of youth coordinator Tab Carter, at 6:00pm, at 3313 Thread Needle Road West, Augusta.** Celebrate the holiday with your craziest Christmas sweater! We will enjoy pizza & Christmas cookies, make cards for residents at the Claiborne, share a Christmas devotional, exchange fun gifts (please bring a gift \$10 or less), warmup by the bonfire, and more! Parents are welcome to drop-off or stay for the fun! RSVP Tab Carter by December 15 at [tcarter@augusta.edu](mailto:tcarter@augusta.edu).

## **Children's Christmas Pageant Updates**

**Rehearsals will be Sunday Dec 12 and Sunday Dec 19** right after church service, as well as a quick run through/costume fitting on Dec 24 at 4:30pm prior to the Christmas Eve service. If your child is assigned to be a reader or a major character please try and be there for both rehearsals.

**On Dec 19 please bring a sack lunch** for your child. We will eat right after the service and then have a longer dress rehearsal (to include costume assignments, setting the stage, etc). Expect approximately an hour of rehearsal.

**Parent volunteers are needed for the following:**

1. Costume organization and fitting
2. Management of the cast backstage and cueing entrances for Dec. 12/19 rehearsals, as well as on Dec 24th
3. Helping with logistics during rehearsals
4. Helping to make sure everyone has lunch on Dec 19 so that we quickly eat and move onto rehearsal

**Final assignments and logistics** will be worked out on Dec 12, followed by an emailed copy of the script!

## Children's Church

**Join us next Sunday, December 12 and December 19** as we "discover" Advent. Discovering Advent is a trail that guides you through Advent and beyond. The last day of Children's Church for this year is December 19.

## Christmas Eve Services

**5:30 PM Family Service with Holy Eucharist** and a wonderful Christmas Pageant by our children plus all the familiar carols.

**10:00 PM Candlelight Holy Eucharist** with the Adult Choir.

## For All that We have Received—Thank You!

**Every Perfect Gift has been our theme for Stewardship this year.** We've been reminded of all of the way God share God's gifts with us and how we can be imitators of that grace. One way is through our financial gifts. We have 58 families making pledges for a total of \$282,320 and we are requesting that all pledges be sent in so we can



Open phone camera  
Hover over QR code  
Make your pledge

finalize our 2022 budget. Please be in prayer how you may best support Holy Comforter. Submit your pledge card through the mail or online by scanning the QR code.

## Sacrament of Holy Baptism

**If you or your child wishes to be baptized,** we will be offering the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, January 2, which is also close to the Feast of the Holy Name, when we remember the baptism of Jesus. Contact the church administrator Vivian Vaiden at 706-210-1133 for arrangements.

## Vestry Nominations

**We have two vestry positions opening** in January 2022. If you are interested in serving on our Vestry or nominating someone, contact our administrator, Vivian Vaiden at [vivian@holycomforterchurch.org](mailto:vivian@holycomforterchurch.org). Vestry positions are open to confirmed members of the church. If you are unsure of your membership status, our administrator can help you with that. Vestry nomination forms can be picked up in the foyer.

## Interim Rector Update from the Vestry

**As of 11/29/21 the Interim Rector search** is well underway. The Vestry has reviewed the names approved by the Bishop to serve as our Interim Rector after The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor retires in January 2022. Interviews have been scheduled. Throughout this process, the Vestry will be employing the practice of discernment (seeking to identify God's will and then moving with spiritual openness towards it).

## November Preliminary Financial Report

Actual Revenue as of November 30, 2021	\$303,086.62
Actual Expenses as of November 30, 2021	<u>\$313,842.23</u>
Surplus/Deficit as of November 30, 2021	-\$10,755.61

## Black Christmas

**We want to end this year in the black** and can do that with your help! Fulfill your pledge for 2021 by December 31. All gifts to Holy Comforter are tax deductible.

## Ways to Give

You can make a gift to Holy Comforter in a variety of ways:

- Use the Square Reader in the foyer for debit/credit cards
- Go to our website, click giving and use Pay Pal
- Make checks out to Holy Comforter and/or give cash and put it in the offertory plate on Sunday.
- Remember Holy Comforter in your will.
- For those with an IRA account, consider using your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) as a way to give.
- All gifts are tax deductible

## **Prayers of the People**

*Persons remain on the list for two weeks; those with chronic needs continue to be prayed for by our Prayer Chain. You may add prayer requests at the lectern in the foyer.*

**For those in need of healing:** Billy Carter, Lynn Eldridge, Melissa Haggerty, Barbara Spires, Lee and Katie Davis

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Linda Morgan, Alexander Saunders, Maddie Grigg, Fred Hoogland, and Addison Martin

**Thanksgiving for our partnership** with Martinez Elementary School, The Claiborne, 143 Ministries, and Kairos Prison Ministry.

**For those who are homebound:** Donna Garvey, Loren Waldo and Joan Jackson

**For the safety of all those** who serve abroad, including Will Liebel.

## **Missions and Prayer**

**Prayer Shawl Ministries:** Make them at home or come to church every Tuesday at 10:30am to make shawls which are given to anyone with a prayer need.

**Food Bank:** Please place non-perishable items in the red wagon by the front door. The food collected goes to Columbia County Cares. Our goal each month is to give away 500 pounds of food!

**Ministering to the needy of Columbia County.** We need toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, tooth paste, soap, detergent, feminine needs, dish wash, and shampoo. Place those items in the kitchen in the marked container. And thanks!

## Serving Today

Preacher/Celebrant  
Lay Eucharistic Ministers  
Altar Guild  
Altar Bread  
Ushers  
Vestry Person of the Day

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor  
Elizabeth Hahn  
Carole Nelson and Karen Sheppard  
Lou Ann Zimmerman  
Tab Carter and Nathan Suggs  
Pam Vanscoy

### *Staff*

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor, Pastor  
Vivian Vaiden, Church Administrator  
Lara Fort, Financial Secretary  
Dr. Brad Green, Music Director

### *Vestry*

Fred Hoogland, Dave Blake, Jr. Warden (Class of 2022)  
Mallory Halterman, Bill Liebel (Class of 2023)  
Tab Carter, Pam Vanscoy (Class of 2024)

Mailing Address: 473 Fury's Ferry Rd., Martinez, GA 30907  
Telephone: (706) 210-1133 / Fax: (706) 210-4515  
Web: [holycomforterchurch.org](http://holycomforterchurch.org)

General Email: [mailbox@holycomforterchurch.org](mailto:mailbox@holycomforterchurch.org)

*Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 2pm*

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**Find our page at “Church of the Holy Comforter”**  
and join the conversation!



**Visit our Website  
by scanning our QR code**