

Advent Lessons & Carols and Holy Eucharist

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025 • 9:30am



Welcome!

It is our hope and prayer you will find our worship to be a place to encounter the God who loves you unconditionally. If you are visiting, we are especially delighted you have joined us for worship. No matter where you are in your journey of faith, there is a place for you here.

There are coloring materials and children's books in the entryway. The restroom is located in the Parish Hall, straight ahead of you as you depart the Sanctuary.

After the service, please join us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall.

The Word of the Lord

Prelude

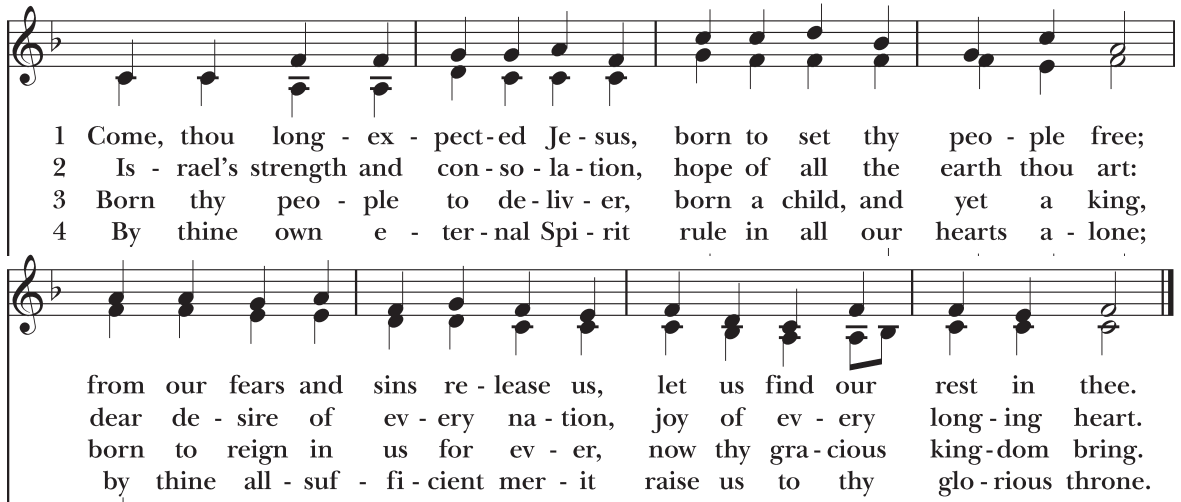
Be Comforted, My People

Lani Smith (1934-2015)

Processional Hymn *Please stand in body or in spirit.*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

The Hymnal 1982 #66



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,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

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.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: Stuttgart, melody from Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against God until the glorious redemption brought to us by God's holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of Jesus' birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of God's whole world, for peace and justice on earth, and for the Church in this and every place, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

And because Jesus particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely

and afraid, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know the love of God.

Finally, let us remember before God his holy Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:1-15

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden

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."

Choir Anthem

Creator of the Stars of Night

arr. Allan Mahnke (b. 1944)

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Holy One

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Choir Anthem

Creation Will Be at Peace

words by J. Paul Williams (1937-2010)
music by Anna Laura Page (b. 1943)

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

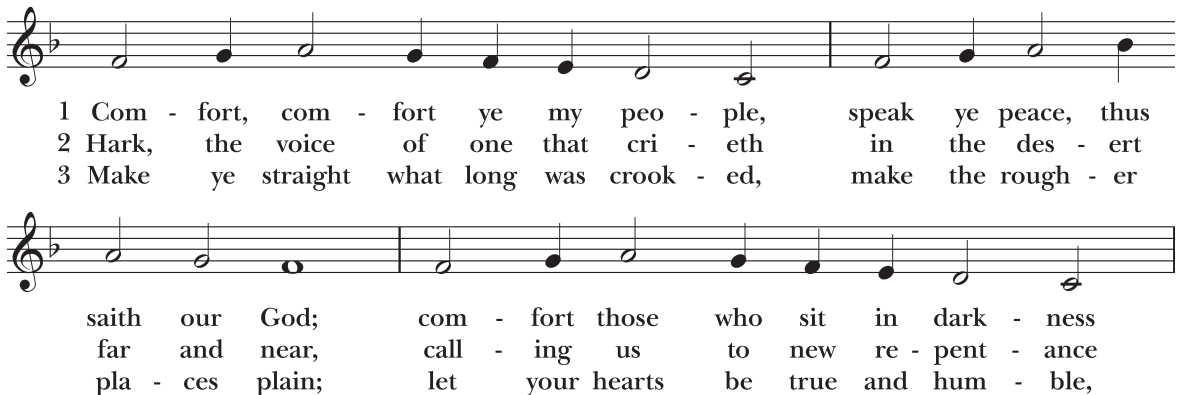
A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall 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 grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Hymn *Please stand in body or in spirit.*

Comfort, comfort ye my people

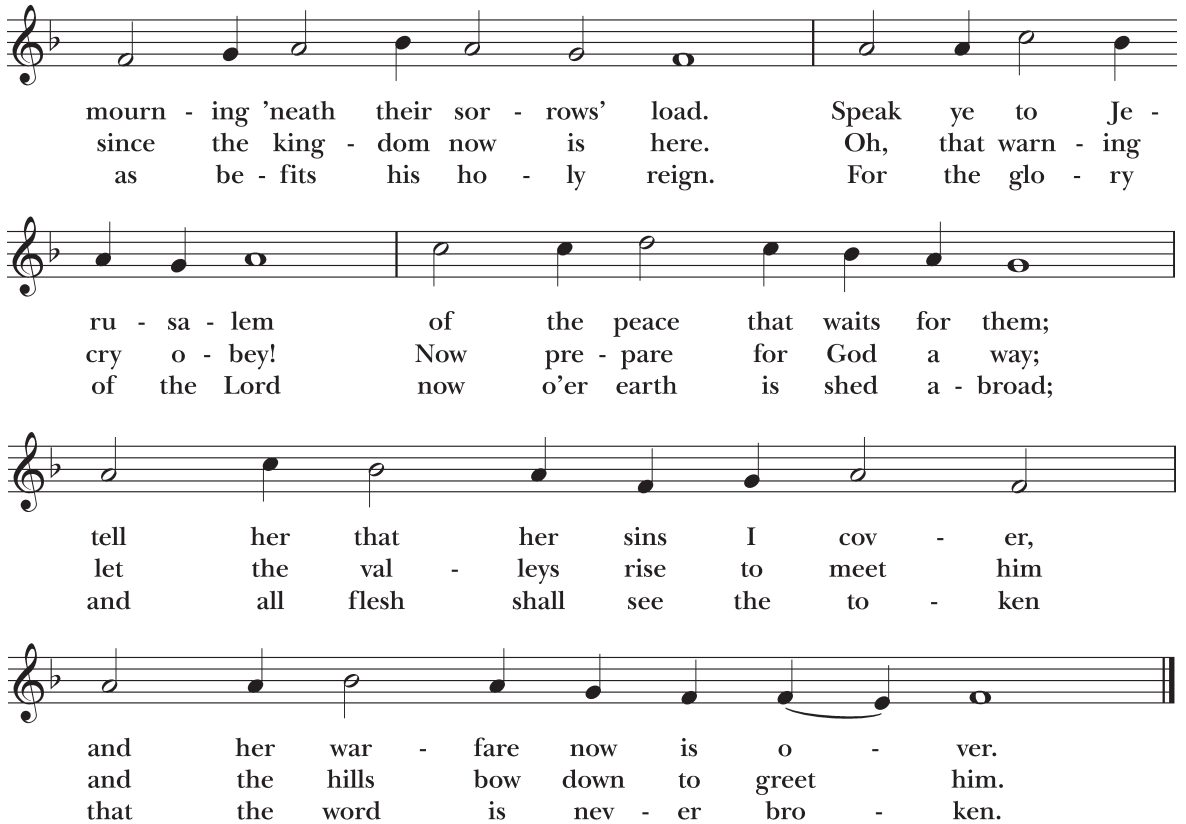
The Hymnal 1982 #67



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,

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: Psalm 42, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. Hymnal 1982.



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.

The Fourth Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A new covenant

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.

Choir Anthem

Savior of the Nations, Come

arr. Carl Smith (b. 1949)

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

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

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.

Choir Anthem

Gabriel's Message

Melody from Piae Cantiones, 1582
harm. Richard Runciman Terry (1865-1938)

Reception of New Members to Church of the Advent

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

All we have and all we are is of God. We give to the Church in thanksgiving to God for all God has given us. Your offering supports the ministry of the Church of the Advent as we seek to be bearers of God's love and light. You can place your offering in the offertory plate; set up recurring electronic payments through your bank; make a secure donation online by texting ADVENTMEDFIELD to 73256 followed by the gift amount; or go to adventmedfield.org and click Give at the top right.

Offertory Anthem

Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

The Antiphon at the Offertory *Please stand as you are able.*

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

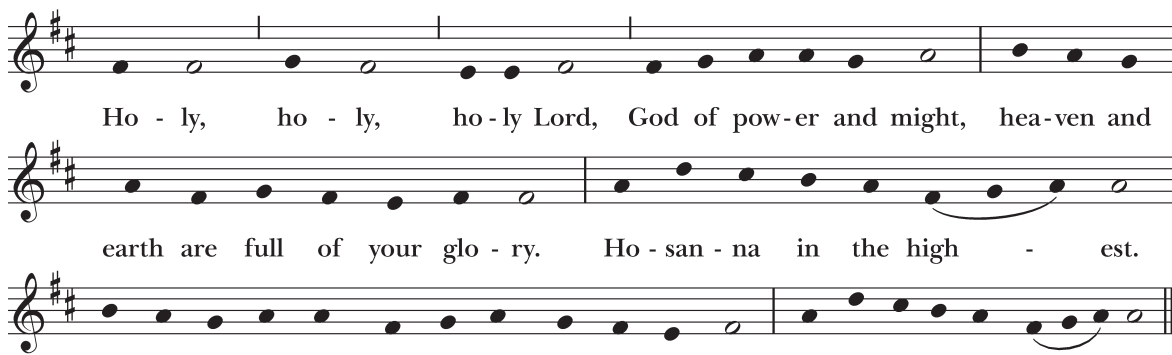
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God 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, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

The Sanctus

The Hymnal 1982 #S-124



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:

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

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.

People **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

All **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.

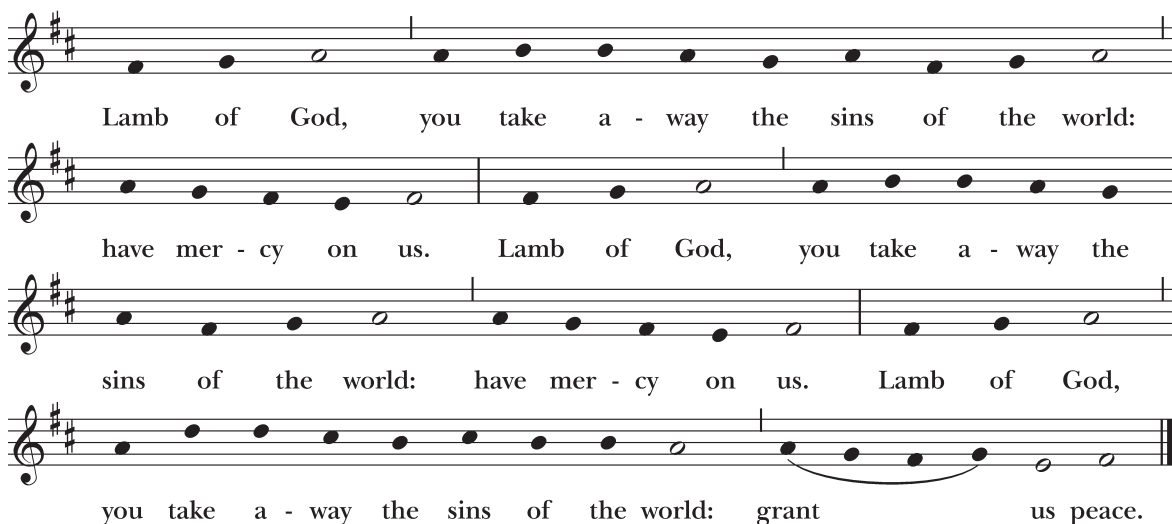
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread *The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

The Fraction Anthem

The Hymnal 1982 #S-161



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ was born, lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion

All who seek Christ or a deeper knowledge of Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Please come forward to the altar rail, filling in on the sides, and stand or kneel to receive Communion. Cup your hands to receive the bread. You may receive the wine by guiding the cup to your lips or by dipping the bread in the wine. If you do not want to receive from the chalice, you may touch the chalice and say "Amen" when the Eucharistic Minister says "The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation." Gluten-free wafers are available. If you desire a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest and the priest will offer a blessing. If you need Communion brought to you, please notify the usher.

The Communion Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel

The Hymnal 1982 #56

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: Veni, veni, Emmanuel, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



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
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



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

Post Communion Prayer *Please stand in body or in spirit.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Loving God, we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image**

and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth a people,
forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life
of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing *The Celebrant says the blessing. The people respond Amen.*

The Recessional Hymn

Prepare the way, O Zion

The Hymnal 1982 #65



- 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.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: Bereden väg för Herran, melody from Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697; harm. Korallbok för Svenska Kyrkan, 1939, alt.

The Dismissal (*Church of the Advent Purpose Statement*)

Celebrant We are a vibrant and authentic faith community
that boldly proclaims that God is Love.

People **Inspired by the example of Jesus' expansive and unconditional love,
we open wide our doors for joyful worship and deepening of relationships
as we grow together in the knowledge and love of God.**

Celebrant Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we go forth gladly to serve the world,
loving others as God loves us.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Toccata on "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)

A heartfelt thank you to Eric and our choir!

Participants

Celebrant and Preacher

Organist

Lectors

Lay Eucharistic Minister

Altar Guild

Flower Guild

Vestry Person of the Day

Counter

Coffee Hour Hosts

The Rev. Lynn M. Campbell

Eric Bouwman-Wozencraft

Christine Babson, Bernice Winthrop, Tim Davis,

Rob Babson, Kristen Palson

Lisa Davis

Gwen Centore

Pam Heide

Jennifer Cavan

Nancy Miller

Don and Nancy Miller

Announcements

Welcome!

If you're visiting or new to Advent, please fill out a Welcome Card in your pew. You can place it in the offertory plate or hand it to the clergy after the service. We'd love to connect with you!

Christmas Pageant December 24th

This year's Christmas Pageant will be at the 4pm service on Christmas Eve. We will need narrators that will read the Christmas story and many children willing to play the parts of the holy family, Gabriel, kings, shepherds, animals, and angels. Rehearsals will be December 14th after church and December 20th at 9am. For more information or to sign up, contact Lucy Bullock-Sieger.

Christmas Flowers

Help decorate the church for Christmas and remember or give thanks for loved ones. The names will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. The suggested donation is \$40, but any amount is gratefully received.

Send names to the church office (note whether you're honoring or remembering) by end of day Tuesday, December 16th. You can pay online, with cash, or by check with "Christmas flowers" in the memo line.



Mitten Tree

Each Advent, parishioners and friends decorate our Mitten Tree in the Parish Hall with warm, new, store-bought mittens, hats, gloves, scarves, and white socks, to be donated to people experiencing homelessness. Bring a warm item to hang from our tree and take a Mitten Message of inspiration from our Creation Care Ministry. Donations accepted till December 31st.

“Sustainable” Yankee Swap and Pot Luck Dinner

We are looking for volunteers to help plan this event that is scheduled to take place at the church on January 10, 2026. More information and a link to sign up for the planning group can be found in the weekly email (also accessible via the church website).

Advent and Christmas Schedule:

December 20, 10am: Greening of the Church

All are welcome to bring evergreens and/or help decorate the church for Christmas! We'll begin around 9:30am; you can drop off greens before.

December 21, 9:30am: Advent 4 Holy Eucharist

We celebrate a service of Holy Eucharist on the last Sunday of Advent.

December 24, 4pm: Christmas Eve Family Holy Eucharist

Join us for our family-friendly service of Holy Eucharist as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

December 24, 6:30pm: Christmas Eve Festive Holy Eucharist

Join us for a Festive Holy Eucharist as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

December 28, 9:30am: Christmas Lessons and Carols

We celebrate Jesus' birth in a beautiful service of scripture and beloved carols.