



Our mission is to equip people to grow their faith  
by connecting to God and others  
while reaching out with love

First Sunday of Advent  
November 29, 2020

Liturgy of the Word

*A bell will be rung three times to begin our worship*

### Opening Song

### *Signs of Ending All Around Us*

1 Signs of \_\_\_ end - ings all a - round us: dark - ness, \_\_\_ death, and win - ter days  
2 Can it \_\_\_ be that from our \_\_\_ end - ings, new be - gin - nings you \_\_\_ cre - ate?  
3 Speak, O \_\_\_ God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren \_\_\_ lives \_\_\_ your pres - ence fill.

shroud our \_\_\_ lives in fear and \_\_\_ sad - ness, numb - ing \_\_\_ mouths that long \_\_\_ to praise.  
Life from \_\_\_ death, and from our \_\_\_ rend - ings, realms of \_\_\_ whole - ness gen - er - ate?  
Swell our \_\_\_ hearts with songs of \_\_\_ glad - ness, ter - rors \_\_\_ calm \_\_\_ fore - bod - ings still.

Come, O \_\_\_ Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our \_\_\_ cries, come set us \_\_\_ free.  
Take our \_\_\_ fears, then, Lord, and \_\_\_ turn them in - to \_\_\_ hopes for life a - new:  
Let your \_\_\_ prom - ised realm of \_\_\_ jus - tice blos - som \_\_\_ now through - out the \_\_\_ earth;

Give us \_\_\_ hope and faith and \_\_\_ glad - ness. Show us \_\_\_ what \_\_\_ there yet \_\_\_ can be.  
Fad - ing \_\_\_ light and dy - ing \_\_\_ sea - sons sing their \_\_\_ Glo - ri - as \_\_\_ to you.  
your do - min - ion bring now \_\_\_ near - us; we a - wait \_\_\_ the sav - ing birth.

### Opening Acclamation

*Presider* Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
*All* You come to your people and set them free.

## Blessing of the Advent Wreath

*Presider* Praise to you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You sent your Son to be the light of the world and to spread his light of love to all: Bless us and this wreath of light made from our hands. May its ever-increasing brightness be a sign to us of the approaching nearness of your Son, that we might prepare with joy for his humble birth in a manger and be ready to receive him at his coming again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*All join in singing as the first candle is lighted.*

### Trisagion S 102

Alexander Archangelsky

*Sung three times*



Ho - ly God, — Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

*Presider* May God be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Presider* Let us pray.

### The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Ministry of the Word

### First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

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**

1. Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \* shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2. **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \* stir up your strength and come to help us.**
3. Restore us, O God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4. **O Lord God of hosts, \* how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**
5. You have fed them with the bread of tears; \* you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6. **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \* and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
7. Restore us, O God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
8. **Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \* the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**
9. And so will we never turn away from you; \* give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
10. **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

### **Second Reading**

### **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

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.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

***People*** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual Hymn***Our darkness is never darkness**Taizé*


Our dark-ness is nev-er dark-ness in your sight; the deep-est night is clear as the day - light.

**The Gospel****Mark 13:24-37**

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "But 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."

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon** The Rev. Liz Tichenor

*You are invited to join in a time of silence and reflection following the homily.*

Hymn 662

*Abide with me*

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;  
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;  
 3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
 4 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

**Affirmation of Faith**    *The Nicene Creed*                      *standing*

**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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**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 and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.**

**The Prayers of the People**    *standing*

*Presider*        As the birth of Jesus came once to overcome the brokenness of the world, let us pray  
for Christ to come again into our world.

*Leader*        Come, Lord Jesus. Come to the Church, that as your Body we may find you anew and  
reveal your transforming presence as we strive to live as you would have us love.

*Please pray for the Church, aloud or silently.*

*Leader*        Come, Lord Jesus. Come to those who bear the authority of government, who hold the  
means of finance, and who wield all forms of power over others, that they may  
transcend divisions and seek the greater good for those whose lives they influence by  
their words and deeds. We pray especially for those living in immigration detention  
centers, prisons, and mental health facilities.

*Please pray for leaders of the world, aloud or silently.*

*Leader* Come, Lord Jesus. Come to all those in need of your peace, those whose lives have been shattered by war, natural disasters, gun violence, poverty, addiction, and other causes where hope seems futile, that your abundant grace may lead to new communities of love and care. We pray for all those uprooted from their lives and seeking refuge.

*Please pray for all those who suffer, aloud or silently.*

*Leader* Come, Lord Jesus. Be present in our community and knit us together in the building up of your realm. This day, we pray especially for Cammy, Abby and Caleb; Sharon, Robyn, Steven and Katie; Rita; Greg and Karin; Carol and Philip, members of our parish family.

*Please pray for this community, aloud or silently.*

*Leader* Come, Lord Jesus. Come with your healing grace to all those who suffer, especially from Covid-19. We pray for all who are on our parish prayer list, that your wholeness may come upon them and all those who surround them.

*Please pray for those in need of prayer, aloud or silently.*

*Leader* Come, Lord Jesus. Come to carry into your everlasting arms those who have died, especially Steve Green, The Rev. Dr. Richard Aurel Henshaw, Norman Wheeler, that all who mourn may know comfort through the hope of new and unending life in you.

*Please pray for those who have died, aloud or silently.*

**All** **God of hope, hear our humble prayer that we may serve you in holiness and faith and give voice to your presence among us until the day of the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Confession**

*Presider* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

*Presider* Almighty God, source of all being, has in great mercy promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn away from sin: have mercy on you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and by the power of the Holy Spirit bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Presider* May the peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## The Offertory

*Presider* Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances...  
—1 Thessalonians 5:16–18a

### Offertory Music

### *Dona nobis pacem*

1  
Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

2  
Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

3  
Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

*Grant us peace.*

*While we are physically separated, your financial support of the church is still appreciated and important! If you would like to make a gift online, you can securely do so through [PayPal here](#). You can also mail checks to the church at 399 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill CA, 94523. Thank you!*



## The Great Thanksgiving

*standing*

*Presider* All things come of you, O God,  
*People* and of your own have we given you.

*Presider* May God be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Presider continues*

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

## Sanctus & Benedictus

*Missa Emmanuel, Richard Proulx*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and God of might: heav - en and  
earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high -  
est, ho - san - na in the high - est. Blest is the One who comes in the Name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Presider continues*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All**            **Christ has died.**  
                  **Christ is risen.**  
                  **Christ will come again.**

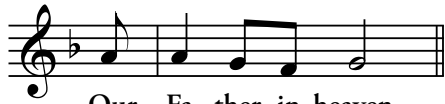
*The Presider continues*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Mary the Godbearer and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

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

*Cantor:*



Our Fa - ther in heaven,

*All:*

hal - lowed be your Name. Your king - dom come.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-

give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us.

Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from ev - il. For the

king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Presider breaks the Bread, and says:

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

### A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people who long to gather at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist has been celebrated, and, we pray, will be celebrated again soon, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

### Announcements

#### Birthdays, Anniversaries and Milestones

#### The Hands of God

To - day, to - mor-row and al - ways we re - joice in the hands of God. May God's  
pow - er - ful hands sup - port you, May God's guid - ing hands lead you, May God's  
lov - ing hands en - fold you. We re - joice in the hands of God.

### Final Blessing

Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind; and the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 686

Come thou fount

1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my  
 2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,  
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly

heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er  
 by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good  
 I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a

ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by  
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering  
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to

flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me  
 from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from  
 leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and

on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.  
 dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Dismissal

*Presider* Let us bless the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

*A special thank you to our guest musician today, Jesse Tichenor!*

## Prayer List

Leonard	Robyn
Mike & Veronique	Skip
Diane & Jared	Rev. Steve
Tarah & baby	Sasha
Julie	Pat
John & family	Rick
Sandy	Bob
Betsy	Teresa
Nancy	Paula
Altrina	Jeff
Phyllis I.	Grace
Klaus	Joy
Sally & Cary	Amy
Glenn	Kathie
Jennifer M.	John
Jim	Shelly
Jake & family	Julie
Carl	Matthew
Becky	Dave
Karen	Pat
Mark	John
Mary Lou	Rosella
Kenny	John
Len	Kris' family
Peggy	Betty
Pauline	Bev
Eloise	Mike
Katherine	Amy
Violaine	Meg
Jennifer	Rick
Pam	Chaz
Mary Pat	Marcos
Chris	Jim
Carmel	Jordan
Cammy	Dick

### **Please Pray for those in the Armed Services**

Tristan, David, Katie, Kris, Devin, Adam, Jason, John

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