



ST. FRANCIS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
& DAY SCHOOL

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2025

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM



*Welcome to St. Francis Episcopal Church.
You are invited to participate throughout the service.
May God bless you this and every day.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

SECOND CANDLE - THE CANDLE OF PEACE

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

The Porter Family

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Peace.

We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Savior would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace". They told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

The Second Advent Candle is lit.

Leader: Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide. We ask that as we wait for you to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Please stand, sung by all.

OPENING HYMN: *Prepare the way, O Zion*

Hymn 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.



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. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

Please remain standing.

THE WORD OF GOD

BCP p355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Ho-ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal

One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,

Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have

mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945). Copyright © 1982 Oxford University Press.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah:

A shoot shall come out from the stump 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.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations
shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sung by all

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19



- 1 Give the King your justice, O / God *
and your righteousness / to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people / righteously *
and the / poor with justice.
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the / people, *
and the little / hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the / people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush / the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and / moon endure, *
from one generation / to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the / mown field, *
like showers that / water the earth
- 7 In his time shall the righteous / flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the / moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the LORD God, the God of / Israel, *
who a/lone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for / ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. / Amen. Amen

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

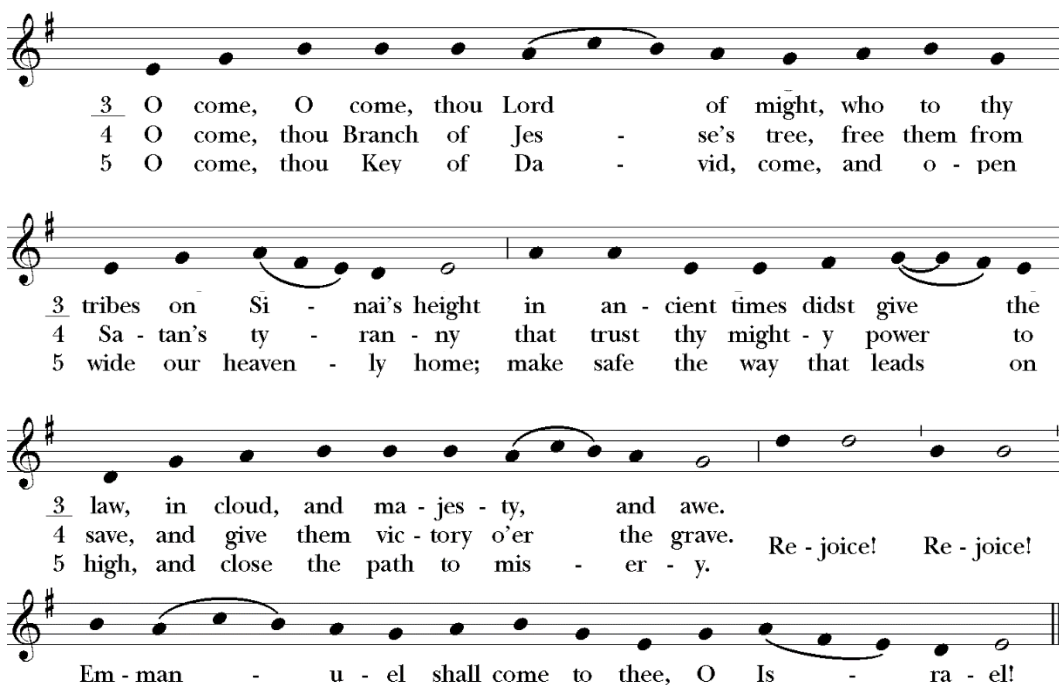
Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand, sung by all.

GRADUAL HYMN 56 (VERSES 3-5)

O come, O come, Emmanuel



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
5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen

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

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. Re - joice! Re - joice!

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

Please stand.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Very Rev. Milton C. Williams, Jr.

Please stand.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP p358

Celebrant and People:

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 – ADVENT 2

Intercessor: In joy at the nearness of the Christ, let us offer our prayers to God saying: Lord, have mercy:

Intercessor: May the power of God's holy presence clear a path through the rubble of broken lives and hearts to make our world and all of us a new creation. For this let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: May our gracious God be always for us a shepherd to console and comfort us, to nourish all our deep hungers, and to make us live in peace forever. For this let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: May we come to find in the desert of our lives the gift of forgiveness and the waters of a new Jordan that bring cleansing refreshment. For this let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: May the God of John the Baptist and our God continue to raise up holy prophets in our midst who will tell the good news of saving rescue for all people. For this let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: May the God who is our comfort hear the cries of all in need.

People: [pause for silent prayer]

Intercessor: For this let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: May the God who is our future in the gifts of Jesus Christ hold us always in the embrace of faithful love and bring us to new heavens and a new earth. For this let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: May those who have died in the hope of the resurrection and for all the departed, let us pray to the lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: We give thanks for the altar flowers in the church given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her son Peter, given by Sheila Lee.
(silence)

Intercessor: Let us pray to the lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Recall us to our baptism, O Lord, and hear our cries for ourselves and for the whole world, for we pray in the name of the one who came, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP p360

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Veiled in Darkness

Glenn Rudolph

Veiled in darkness Judah lay, Waiting for the promised day,
While across the shadowy night Streamed a flood of glorious light.
Heavenly voices chanted then “Peace on earth, goodwill to men.”

Still the earth in darkness lies, Up from death’s dark vale arise
Voices of a world in grief, Prayers of men who seek relief.
Now our darkness pierce again, “Peace on earth, goodwill to men.”

Light of light, we humbly pray, Shine upon Thy world today;
Break the gloom of our dark night, Fill our souls with love and light,
Send thy blessed word again, “Peace on earth, goodwill to men.”

Please stand.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP p367

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with 'Celebrant' and 'People' labels above the respective parts.

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. 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.

SANCTUS

Hymnal S128

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven 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.

Please kneel.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B CONTINUES

BCP p368

Celebrant: ...Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

Celebrant: ...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.

All: AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p364

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Sung by all.

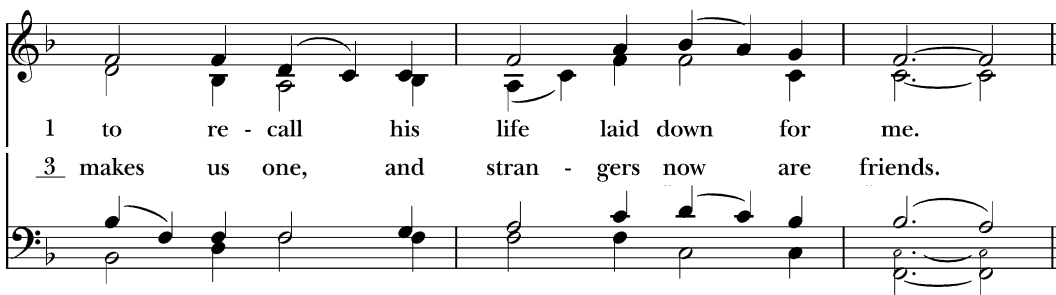
FRACTION: *I come with joy to meet my Lord*

Hymnal 304 vs. 1 and 3

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us



Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt. Copyright © 1971 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk melody; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983).

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive bread only, place one palm of the hand in the other and the clergy will offer the Body of Christ to you. If you would like to receive bread and wine keep your hands by your side, and the clergy will intinct the body into the wine and place the body and blood on your tongue. To receive a blessing in lieu of communion, cross your arms over your chest and the clergy will give you a blessing.

Please be seated.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: 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

Celebrant: May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand, sung by all.

CLOSING HYMN: *There's a voice in the wilderness crying*

Hymn 75



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a____
2 O____ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
3 but the word of our God____ en - du - reth, the____



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst____ of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The____
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
flowers of the field they____ per - ish, like
feed his____ flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass our works de - cay; the power and pomp of
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our____ God____ may go!
na - tions shall____ pass like a dream____ a - way;
lead them, and____ bring them____ safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988). Copyright © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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THE VESTRY

Senior Warden: Janice Sund, **Junior Warden:** Teresa Schrader,
Clerk: Laura Kilmartin, **Treasurer:** Rick Saunders

Thu Bray, Pat Brookshire, Donna Ehinger, Rachel Gallagher,
Beverly Grier, Tom Porter, Pat Russell, Lynn Sandlin, David Smith

Vestry may be contacted at: vestry2025@stfrancisgreensboro.org