

**November 28, 2021
10:00 AM**

**The First Sunday
of Advent**

Holy Eucharist



St. Stephen's in-the-Field Episcopal Church

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard
San Jose, CA 95139
(408) 629-1836
www.ssitf.org

*We the people of Saint Stephen's in-the-Field
seek to know Christ, to share Christ, and to serve Christ,
recognizing his presence in all people,
and reaching out in love to each other and to the world around us.*

***“Whoever and wherever you are on your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here!”***

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn:

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

Samuel Stennett (1727-1795)

Lift Every Voice and Sing #9

PROMISED LAND
American melody

1. On Jor-dan's storm-y banks I stand, and cast a wish- ful eye
2. O'er all those wide ex-tend-ed plains shines on e- ter - nal day;
4. Filled with de-light my rap-tured soul would here no lon - ger stay;

to Ca-naan's fair and hap-py land, where my pos-ses-sions lie.
there God the Son for ev-er reigns and scat-ters night a-way.
though Jor-dan's waves a-round me roll, fear-less I'd launch a-way.

I am bound for the pro-mised land, I am bound for the pro-mised land;

O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the pro-mised land.

Advent Wreath Blessing

Presider: Holy One, we praise you for your son Jesus Christ, who is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, the wisdom that teaches and guides us, the Savior of every nation. Let your blessing come upon us as we light this wreath. May it be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly, and not delay.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Advent Candle Lighting

Presider: Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. This first candle is HOPE.

The candle is lit.

Leader: We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. (Psalm 33.20)

All: **Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen.**

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

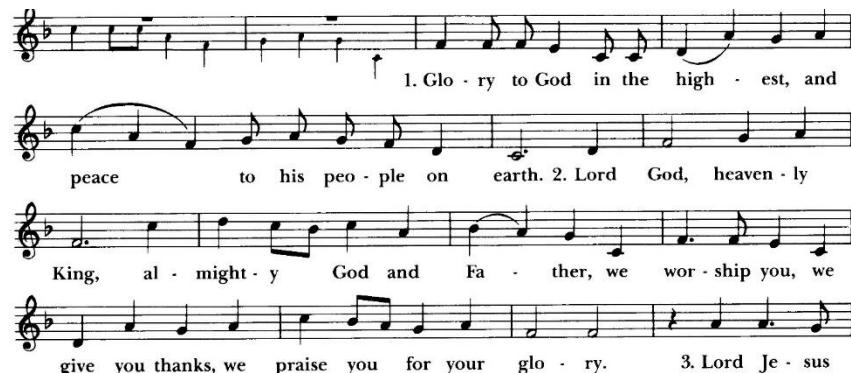
People: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Collect for Purity

All

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

Gloria



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Urgent God, breaking through the static to speak to our hearts: disarm our love of control and shake the silent heavens to reveal your dawning glory, judging all in the light of love; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Gradual:

Though the Fig Tree Does Not Blossom

MERTON

Michael Hudson, 2004

Songs for the Cycle, p. 121

William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

1. Though the fig tree does not blos - som and the spring brings
2. Though the o -ceans seethe and threat - en and the waves tear
3. Though the sun sets cold and sul - len and the moon comes
4. Though the ci -ties surge with cha - os and ap - pall - ing
5. Though the na -tions clash and wran - gle and re - li - gions

fire and snow, still will I hope for a fu - ture
at the land, still will I pray for a fu - ture
dull and red, still will I trust in a fu - ture
deeds are dared, still will I look for a fu - ture
spar and strive, still will I look for a fu - ture

where the fruit of God yet grows.
where the oaks of God yet stand.
where the light of God yet spreads.
where the peace of God is shared.
where the love of God yet thrives.

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and

great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Savior.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Karen Cuffie

Creed

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Today in the hope which Advent brings for the creation of new visions, expectations and possibilities for us and our world.

People: **Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.**

Leader: In our wildest, most daring dreams of peace in the world, we pray for the welfare and safety of all your people, nations and religions, living with tolerance, respect and equality of freedom for all.

People: **Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.**

Leader: For Emmanuel Parish, those whose efforts sustain this church, our clergy, Bishop, and all churches of God throughout the world, we pray for your guidance and blessings.

People: **Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.**

Leader: In our daily life, we thank you for nourishing our soul, energizing our mind and feeding our body, so that we may do your work and serve others in your name. We thank you for giving us each unique talent to use with loving purpose, as taught by your son Jesus Christ.

People: **Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.**

Leader: We pray for healing as you know is needed, for those in unbearable circumstances, the homeless, the prisoners, the fearful, those who are threatened or captive.

People: **Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.**

Leader: We pray for those who have died, those we hold in our hearts, and those who have gone before us to your heavenly joy.

People: **Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.**

Leader: We thank you Lord for your constant presence in our lives and hearts. Help us make time for receiving your abundant guidance and blessings as we go along our day. Keep us, not on our agenda, but on yours, as that is the joy we seek.

People: **Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.**

Presider: Today our hearts open to this new advent, this new beginning, this new opportunity to give in to your will, Lord, and feel as a new child, the purity, the peace and the presence of your unconditional love. We thank you in the name of our savior, Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

(There will be a moment of silence)

People: **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.

Absolution

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

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Exchange peace.

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Birthday Blessing: Watch over your birthday *children*, O Lord; as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Blessing: O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory:

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Greek
tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925)

H #73

ST. STEPHEN
William Jones (1726-1800)

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 but crown'd with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
 O haste the ris - ing of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;

Doxology (Old 100th)

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;
 praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord *Sanctus*

S130

Setting from *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert, arr. Richard Proulx

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus over to our humanity, through which he enters our life to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and gives himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Celebrant continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with the Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed St. Stephen and St. John, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant continues

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

People and Celebrant

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

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

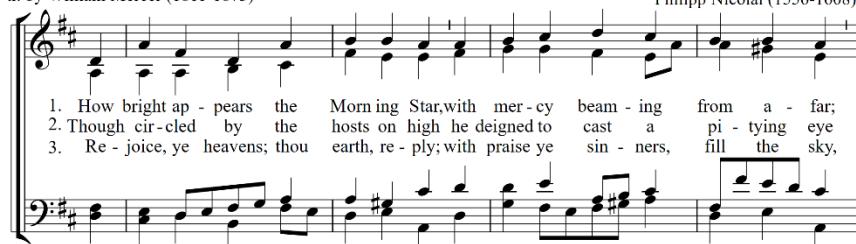
Communion Hymn:

How Bright Appears the Morning Star

tr. by William Mercer (1811-1873)

H #497

WIE SCHON LEUCHTET
Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)



1. How bright ap - pears the Morn ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing from a - far;
2. Though cir - cled by the hosts on high he deigned to cast a pi - tying eye
3. Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise ye sin - ners, fill the sky,

the host of heaven re - joic - es; O rightous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod!
 up on his help - less crea - ture; the whole crea - a - tion's Head and Lord,
 for this his In - car - na - tion. In - car-nate god, put forth thy power,

Thou Son of Man and Son of God! We, too, will lift our voi - ces;
 by high-est ser - a - phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;
 ride on, ride on, great Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly ho - ly, yet most low - ly,
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy me - rit, to in - he - rit
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

Post Communion Prayer

Please stand

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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. 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

Mission Song:

Hark! the Glad Sound!

Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

♩ = 72

H #71 (alternate tune)

ST. ANNE

att. William Croft (1678-1727)

The musical score consists of three staves of music. The top staff is in G major, the middle staff is in F major, and the bottom staff is in C major. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior prom - ised
2. He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing soul to -
3. Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come shall pro -

long: let ev - ery heart pre - pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
cure; and with the trea-sures of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Reminder: Next week's service is at 9:30am at **St. John's**.
(There is plenty of room for parishioners from both churches to attend the in-person services.)

All are welcome!