

**December 10, 2023  
10:00 AM**

**The Second 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](http://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.**



# WORD OF GOD

## Opening Hymn:

### On Jordan's Bank

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

H #76

WINCHESTER NEW  
from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690

1. On Jor-dan's bank the Bap-tist's cry an - noun-ces that the Lord is nigh;  
2. Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make straight the way for God with - in,  
3. For thou art our sal - va - tion Lord, our re - fuge, and our great re - ward;

a - wake and heark-en for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings.  
and let each heart pre - pare a home where such a migh - ty guest may come.  
with - out thy grace we waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.

## Opening Acclamation

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

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

## 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.

## *Kyrie*

Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.

Christ have mer-cy up - on us. Christ have mer-cy up - on us. Christ have mer-cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.

Healy Wilan (1880-1968), fr. *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*

## *Collect of the Day*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Wild God of the wastes, whose gospel begins with a cry and a summons: take us to a pathless place where we can start again to taste creation's gifts anew and await the Spirit's touch; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

## *The Lessons*

### *First Reading*

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

***Psalm:***

***Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13***

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

***Second Reading***

***2 Peter 3:8-15a***

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

***All:***      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## **Gospel Gradual:**

### **When the Silence Takes a Voice**

Michael Hudson, 2004

Songs for the Cycle, p. 64

NUN KOM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

fr. *Erfurt Wnchiridia*, 1524

1. When the si - lence takes a voice it may not be soft and mild:  
2. John came like a storm from God, and a crowd was drawn to hear  
3. Near us now, though sens - es strain, strain to re - cog nize the form  
4. But our hearts search out\_ that form, through the ad - vent of the years,

aft - er years of mu - ted\_ peace words may thun - der, fierce and wild.  
what the si - lence had pre - pared: "Turn to God for God is near!"  
God may take and man - i - fest in the si - lence and\_ the storm.  
as we turn and turn a - gain and a - gain know God is near.

## **Gospel Reading**

**Mark 1:1-8**

**Celebrant:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a

leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*All:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## *Sermon*

*The Rev. Karen Cuffie*

## *Nicene 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:  
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.**

### ***Prayers of the People***

**Leader:** As we heed the call to prepare the way of the Lord, let us prepare our hearts in prayer, saying,

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Leader:** We pray for those who work to prepare the way of the Lord, especially those in the Church. We pray for our Presiding Bishop, Michael, for our Bishop, Lucinda, for our parish clergy and lay leaders, and for all those who serve God's people. In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for all who work for social justice; Our Daily Bread/Sunnyvale; Loaves and Fishes/Paso Robles; The Thomas Karman Food Pantry; The Food Closet/Palo Alto; Tending Our Flock/Santa Clara; Santa Maria Urban Ministry/San Jose; Peninsula Interfaith Action; I-HELP/Monterey County; COPA/Pacific Grove; Christian Social Concerns/Pacific Grove; PACT/San Jose. May your Church strive to be a vessel of peace, O God, and hear our prayer:

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Leader:** We pray for our President, Joe Biden, for Congress and the Supreme Court, for our Governor, Gavin Newsom and our Mayor, Matt Mahan; we pray for all those in positions of power, that they may seek to work for justice and peace in every place, leveling mountains of fear and raising valleys of hopelessness, that your will may be known on earth. May you guide and govern us, O God, and hear our prayer:

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Leader:** We pray for nations torn by war, strife, and violence. We pray for all those in harm's way. We pray for those who hunger and those who suffer for the sake of conscience. We pray for those who seek refuge far from home. May they find consolation and strength in the face of your Son Jesus, O God, and hear our prayer:

***People:* Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Leader:* We pray for all those who struggle and suffer. We pray for the poor, the sick, the oppressed and those in prison. We pray for all victims of violent crimes and their families. We pray for those who mourn and for those who have known bitterness. We pray all those with any need we name now, silently or aloud...

*Silence*

Shine the light of your Christ into our broken world, O God, and hear our prayer:

***People:* Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Leader:* We pray for this community of faith, that, like John the Baptizer, we may bear witness that God is coming into the world in our own lives. Give us hope and strength, O God, and hear our prayer:

***People:* Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Leader:* We praise you for the manifold gifts of our lives. We give thanks for all the blessings of our lives, including those that you would like to name now, silently or aloud...

*Silence*

We pray that you may fill us with your grace, that we may be truly thankful, O God, and hear our prayer:

***People:* Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Leader:* We pray for those who have died. We pray that we may join with them, with the blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John the Baptizer, and all the saints in the fellowship of the Church Triumphant.

O God, hear our prayer:

***People:* Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Celebrant:* Loving God, your Advent people look expectantly for the coming of Christ: As the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, nurture our prayers and the thoughts of our hearts, that we may receive with joy the goodness of your strength and live in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

***People:* Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*(There will be a moment of silence)*

*People:* **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**

### ***Absolution***

*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 Peace***

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

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

*Exchange peace.*



## Offertory:

### People Look East

Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

Wonder, Love and Praise, #734

BESANCON CAROL

1. Peo - ple look East. the time is near of the crown-ing of the year.  
2. Fur - rows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed there:  
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,

Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the  
give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may  
shi - ning be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -

ta - ble. Peo-ple look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.  
flour - ish. Peo-ple look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.  
geth - er. Peo-ple look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.



## Doxology (Old 100<sup>th</sup>):

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*

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:

## Holy, Holy, Holy Lord *Sanctus*

S130

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,\_\_\_

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,\_\_\_

hea - ven and earth are full,\_\_\_ full\_\_\_ of your glo - ry. Ho-

san - na in the high - est. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 pray,

*People and Celebrant*

**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*

*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.

## ***Communion Hymns:***

### **There's a Voice in the Wilderness**

James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961)

H #75

ASCENSION

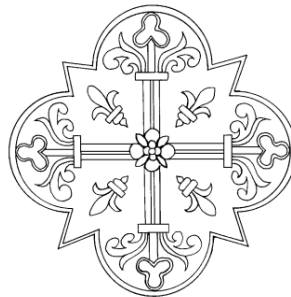
Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988)

1. There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a\_\_ call from the ways un - trod: Pre -  
2. O\_\_ Zi - on that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee up to the heights and sing! Pro -  
3. but the world of our god\_\_ en - dur - eth, the\_\_ arm of the Lord is strong; he\_\_

pare in the des - ert a high - way, a high - way for\_\_ our God! The\_\_  
claim to a des - o - late peo - ple the com - ing of\_\_ their King. Like the  
stands in the midst of na - tions, and he will right\_\_ the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the lof - ty\_\_ hills brought low; make  
flowers of the field they\_\_ per - ish, like grass our\_\_ works de - cay, the  
feed his\_\_ flock like a shep - herd, the lambs he'll\_\_ gent - ly hold; to

straight all the crook - ed pla - ces where the Lord our\_\_ God\_\_ may go!  
power and\_\_ pomp\_\_ of na - tions shall\_\_ pass like a dream a - way;  
pas - tures of peace\_\_ he'll lead\_\_ them, and\_\_ bring them\_\_ safe to his fold.





# Lord of All Being

Hymns of Glory, Songs of Praise #125

MARYTON

Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)

Henry Percy Smith (1825-1898)

1. Lord of all be - ing, throned a - far, thy glo - ry flames from sun\_ and star,  
2. Sun of our life, thy quick-ening ray sheds on our path the glow\_ of day;  
3. Our mid night is thy smile withdrawn, our noon - tide is thy gra - cious dawn,  
4. Lord of all life, be - low, a - bove, whose light is truth, whose warmth is love,  
5. Grant us thy truth to make us free, and kind - ling hearts that burn\_ for thee,

cen - ter and soul of ev - ery sphere, yet to each lov - ing heart\_ how near!  
Star of our hope, thy soft - ened light cheers the long watch - es of\_ the night.  
our rain - bow arch thy mer - cy's sign; all, save the clouds of sin,\_ are thine.  
be - fore thy ev - er - blaz - ing throne we ask no lus - ter of\_ our own.  
till all thy liv - ing al - tars claim one ho - ly light, one heav - enly flame.

## *Post Communion Prayer*

*Please stand*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

## ***Announcements***

### ***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.

### ***Blessing***

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. ***Amen.***

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. ***Amen.***

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. ***Amen.***

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. ***Amen.***

## Mission Song:

### Prepare the Way, O Zion

Franz Mikael Franzen (1772-1847)

H #65

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERREN

Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697

$\text{♩} = 52$

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/4. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the piano accompaniment in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1. Pre-prepare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near! Let  
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on, your Sa - vior's rule em- brace. His

ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear. Greet  
ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place. All

One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
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.

## The Dismissal

**Celebrant:** As we await our coming Savior, go in the peace of Christ.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **Mark your calendar**

- Wednesday Book Group, every Wednesday morning at St. John's, 11am
- Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Lessons and Carols at St. John's, 10am
- Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist and Pageant at St. Stephen's, 4:30pm

## **Vestry Members**

Susan Zaballos, *Senior Warden* • Rob van der Molen, *Junior Warden* • Andy Lief, *Treasurer/Finance* • Jill Vaughn, *Clerk* • Rowena Dizon-Burger • Anthony Francis • Jessica Dickinson Goodman • Janet Thorsrud