



Worship with Communion

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 10AM on December 20

go.mysjec.com/facebook or go.mysjec.com/youtube

You can watch the videos at any time after their premier.

Welcome! We're glad you chose to worship with us today!

♪ **Blest Be the King Whose Coming**

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!

For him let doors be opened, no hearts against him barred!

Not robed in royal splendor, in power and pomp comes he:

but clad as are the poorest, such his humility!

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!

By those who truly listen his voice is truly heard;

pity the proud and haughty, who have not learned to heed

the Christ, who is the Promise, who has atonement made.

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!

He only to the humble reveals the face of God.

All power is his, all glory! All things are in his hand,

all ages and all people, till time itself shall end!

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!

He offers to the burdened the rest and grace they need.

Gentle is he and humble! And light his yoke shall be,

for he would have us bear it so he can make us free!

Words: Frederick J Pagura; tr F Pratt Green ©1974 Hope Publishing. Music: *ST THEODULPH*, Melchior Teschner, 1613.

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free. **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.

People **AMEN!**

Trisagion (Thrice-Holy)

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

Trisagion, from the Greek meaning "thrice holy". Setting: version *Hymnal 1982*, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924).

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **AMEN!**

Old Testament

Reader 1 A reading of 2nd Samuel chapter 7, verses 1 through 11 and 16.

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over

my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader 1 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Unison Reading

Reader 1 Let us read in unison Canticle 15, The Song of Mary.

All My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior, for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your name. You have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit, casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly. You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. You have come to the help of your servant Israel, for you have remembered your promise of mercy, the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Epistle

Reader 2 A reading of Romans chapter 16, verses 25 through 27.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles,

according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader 2 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Luke 1. 26-38

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Nicene Creed

Celebrant Let us join in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All 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

adapted from The Episcopal Diocese of Newark

Reader 3 Stirred to keep watch and keep awake, that we may see the coming of the Lord, let us call all of God's people to watchful and wakeful prayer.

For the holy churches of God in every place, especially for Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Matt our Bishop, for all lay leaders and clergy, and for the unity of all, we pray:

All **Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

Reader 3 As we watch and wait and heed the Baptist's cry to "Prepare!", may you form us anew in this season of Advent. That we may be prepared to behold your coming at Bethlehem, in our lives, and in glory, we pray:

All **Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

Reader 3 For the world and its leaders, especially for Donald, our President, Joe, our President-elect, Tony our Governor, Justin our Mayor; and for our nation and its people, we pray:

All **Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

Reader 3 For all those who are suffering during this pandemic, for all victims of COVID-19, for all who are sick, and for those who are dying, we pray:

All **Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

Reader 3 For all those providing care at this time, for doctors, nurses, staff, technicians, social workers, counselors, therapists, first responders, and essential workers, that you may safeguard them as they work on our behalf, we pray:

All **Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

Reader 3 For research scientists and lab technicians; for all those seeking a vaccine for this virus and those seeking enhanced treatments for this illness; for healing and restoration; we pray:

All **Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

Reader 3 For all who suffer from violence and discrimination rooted in white supremacy and racial injustice; for all those who benefit from systems of oppression, whether by intention or by circumstance. That all may be called to the vision of reconciliation and love that heals wounds of division and hatred, we pray:

All **Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

Reader 3 For all victims of violence, for those in danger and need, for the oppressed; for all those who face these concerns, now magnified; for those who suffer for any reason, and for all other illnesses, we pray:

All **Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

Reader 3 For all the blessings of this life and for all those we love, we pray:

All **Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

Reader 3 For all those who mourn, for those who grieve, separated at the last hour from their loved one; for those who face death without the consolation of family at their side; for all those who have died, we pray:

All **Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

Reader 3 Come, Lord God: change us and we shall be changed. Come, increase our awareness of your presence, strengthen our love for you, and fill our hearts with holiness. Come, awaken us to be ready and watchful

for your coming. Come, Lord God: change us and we shall be changed; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All AMEN!

Reader 3 Let us confess our sins to God.

All 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!

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.

All AMEN!

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their birthdays.

All O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN!

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their anniversaries.

All O God, you teach us through the example of Jesus that love is the fulfilment of the Law; help those couples celebrating anniversaries to persevere in love, to grow in mutual understanding, and to deepen their trust in each other; that in wisdom, patience and courage, their life together may be a source of happiness to all with whom they share it. AMEN!

Celebrant To all of you celebrating milestones: May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you to guide and protect you and all those you love, today and always!

All AMEN!

Passing the Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Invitation to Communion

from the Iona Community, Scotland

Celebrant The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

♪ The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.

"All hail," said he, "Thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee.

Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. "To me be as it pleases God," she said.

"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.

And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Words: Basque carol, para Sabine Baring-Gould. Music: *GABRIEL'S MESSAGE*, Basque carol.

Offering Our Gifts

Celebrant Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church, dropped off in the church mail slot, or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate. We are grateful for your continued financial support of our ministry and mission.

Celebrant Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

People Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **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**

Setting: from A Community Mass, Richard Proulx (b 1937).

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant 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 to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give 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:

All Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Celebrant 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 your 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 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.

All Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN!

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

All 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!

Breaking Bread

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

All We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

♪ **Lamb of God**

Setting: from *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b 1950).

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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.

The Celebrant gives the invitation to spiritual communion to all participating near and far.

People In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. AMEN!

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!

Seasonal Blessing for Advent

Celebrant 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.

All **AMEN!**

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.

All **AMEN!**

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

All **AMEN!**

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

All **AMEN!**

♪ **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O Dayspring, from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Words: Latin, 12th century; trans John Mason Neale. Music: *VENI EMMANUEL*, 15th century plainsong

Sending

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!**

St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

If you have any questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please call The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector: 920.860.5152

Thank you for your support! Gifts may be mailed to the church or sent through your bank.

There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate.

December's special offering supports the Rector's Discretionary Fund—please label accordingly.

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