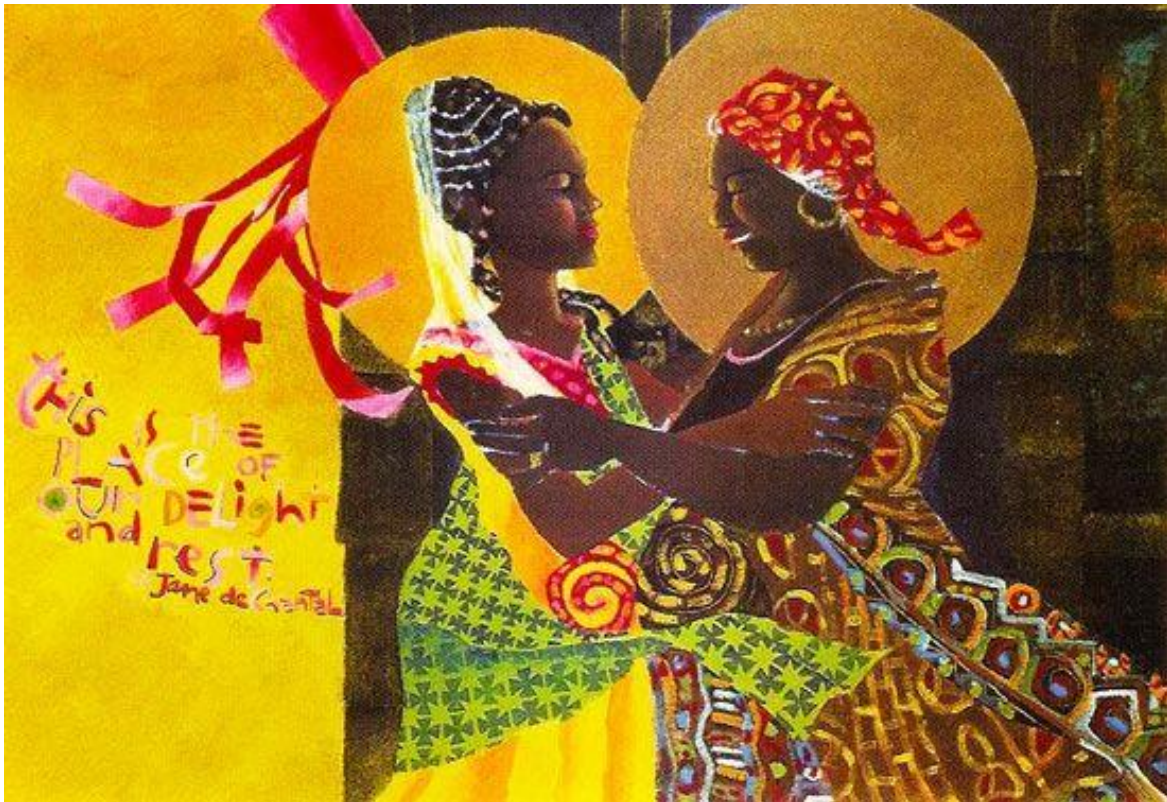


# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

Meeting ID 715 310 766

Password 014954



**Introit**      *Sleeper's Wake*

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

*Celebrant and people*

Grant us, O God, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of your beloved kingdom, where dwells the true and never-failing light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Celebrant**      Blessed by God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier  
*People*      And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

## An Invitation to Repentance

*The Celebrant says:*  
We repent the wrongs we have done:

*Celebrant and people:*

Loving God, you have made each of us in the image of your creative, life-giving spirit, and yet we fail to reflect your love and justice. We do not always treat each other as a precious reflection of you. We see only our own needs; acknowledge only our own hurts; pursue our own agendas. Forgive us for our lack of concern and respect for those you place around us, and for all of your creation. Open our eyes so that we may recognize you in everyone we meet, and help us to love, serve and protect all those whom you send our way. Amen

*Celebrant:*

Listen to what I have to say! Our past is behind us. We are free to live new lives, to be a new people, to try again to be who God intends for us to be. Let us hear this word of God, embodied in the loving heart of Jesus Christ, who proclaims God's forgiveness to all. Amen.

## **The Collect of the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

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 forever. Amen.

## **The Lessons**

### **A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures**

**2 Samuel 7: 1 – 11, 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.

*The Reader may say*

Lord, oil the hinges of my heart's door

*People: That it may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming.*

### **Canticle 15** *The Song of Mary*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. *Amen.*

### **A Reading from the Epistles of the Early Church**

#### **Romans 16: 25 - 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.

*The Reader may say*

In the former days, God spoke to us through the prophets

*People: But in these last days, God speaks to us through a Son.*

**Gradual**     *O come, O come Emmanuel*

#### **The Holy Gospel**

*Then the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (1: 26 - 38)

*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.

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**The Sermon**          The Rev. Ken Phelps, Jr.

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

You astounded Mary with her invitation to bear your Son. Surprise us with your delight in us, with your invitation to do your will, with the light of Christ growing within us. Surprise us Lord, again and again.

We are your children. Increase the faith in us, day by day. Empower us to seek and do your will. Especially we pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Eugene and Robert, our Bishops; Ken, our priest; Lisa, our deacon; Betsy, our deacon emeritus; Kip, Patrick, Tom, Deb and Barbara, our wardens; Steve, our treasurer; our vestry and all the people; our brother and sisters who serve the Gospel at Resurrection, Baltimore; St Mary the Virgin, Baltimore; St Paul's, Baltimore; and, for Kirk E. DeVore, Matthew A. Rogers, Robert J. Frederick and Rock H. Schuler. Cause us to surprise ourselves by opening up our hearts to find that you are always there.          *Surprise us, Lord.*

We pray that the leaders of all the nations demonstrate wisdom and a heart for the good of their people and peace between neighbors. Especially we pray

for Donald our President; Joe, our President-elect; Larry, our Governor; the Congress and the courts of this land.     *Surprise us, Lord.*

We pray that the people of all the nations realize freedom and an end to hunger and poverty. Enable a spirit of generosity to flow through your world. *Surprise us, Lord.*

We pray for our neighbors with whom we work and live. Open our eyes to see you in each person we meet. Open our hearts and hands to each need we encounter. We remember those who have contracted the COVID-19 virus, those who suffer hardship from its impact, and especially those who risk their safety to ease suffering. We remember those whose lives have been forever altered by racial violence and all injustices spawned by the sin of racism. We pray for those suffering from natural disasters, from unjust economies, from hunger and want. Surprise us with what can be accomplished when we strive together for the common good.     *Surprise us, Lord.*

We pray for healing for those with troubled spirits, who suffer from addiction, loneliness and despair. We ask for healing for those who struggle with the consequences of illness or recovery from surgery. We pray for those we know by name:

*(The congregation is invited to offer their intercessions either silently or aloud)*

Reveal to us how to join in your saving and healing work through the power of your Spirit.     *Surprise us, Lord.*

We pray for those who have died and now rest in your eternal embrace, especially Michael Moore, Gerald Noonan, Mike Gurwitz, Bobby Moats and Karen Ward. May the light of your love surround them and comfort those who grieve their deaths. Surprise them with the sure and certain hope of your resurrection.     *Surprise us, Lord.*

We are your people. Increase the faith in us day by day. Surprise us with your loving, liberating, and life-giving presence.     *Surprise us, Lord, again and again.*

*The celebrant concludes*

Remind us, loving God, that in darkness or in light, you are present. Bless us with vision enough to see your future and grant us the things we need to

hasten the day of its coming. In the name of your Son Jesus Christ, we pray.  
*Amen*

### **The Peace**

The peace of Christ be always with you  
*People And also with you*

### **Announcements**

## **The Holy Communion**

The Offertory     *Where are you, Christmas*     M. Carey, J. Horner and W. Jennings

Celebrant:     Blessed be God, for the gifts which are given to us.  
People:         *May we, by God's grace, share with all who wait upon  
                         the Lord..*

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

Celebrant:         God 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 God.  
People:             *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

*The Celebrant continues*

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Christ Jesus and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. You sent your son to redeem from sin and death, and to make us inheritors of your kingdom of Love.

Therefore, joining angels and archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we offer our thanks and praise:

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Blessed are you gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own creative 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 to 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 healing 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 human 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 Jesus was betrayed, he sat at supper with his disciples. He took bread, said a blessing, broke it and gave it to them with the words, "Take. Eat. This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me."

Later, he took a cup of wine, saying, "This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Drink from it, all of you, to remember me."

Therefore we acclaim you, O Christ, as we await your coming to us:

*Celebrant and People:*

This is the death we celebrate. This is the new life we proclaim. This is the vision we live.

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 your Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting



heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints past, present and yet to come, we may praise your name forever.

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. Amen.

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

*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: We are one people; one body in Christ, for we eat of  
one loaf and drink from one cup.

*People: Thank you, gracious God, for the food that makes us one with  
you, and one with each other*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church,  
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you  
praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your  
resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you  
today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come  
spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord  
Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in  
me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen

### **Benediction**

**Closing Hymn**     *People, look East*

### **All Saints Staff**

The Rev. Ken Phelps, Jr., Rector  
The Rev. Lisa Siciliano, Regional Deacon  
The Rev. Margaret Van Auker, Deacon Emeritus  
Tamara Timmermann, Parish Administrator  
Deborah Watson, Music Director

### **Officers and Vestry**

Kip AtLee, Senior Warden	410 474-3008
Patrick Herlihy, Junior Warden	443-964-6470
Tom Hyde, Property Warden	410-257-6173
Deb Shupe, Program Warden	410-231-8150
Barbara Brown, Prayer Warden	610-869-4456
Steven Watson, Treasurer	301-801-0961

Bryan Dowell (2023) 410-257-5527	Nate Pope (2022) 301-855-0251
Tom Hyde (2021) 410-257-6173	David Shupe (2023) 202-669-7463
Patrick Herlihy (2021) 443-964-6470	Lissi Mojica (2023) 443-362-0479
Sherrill Munn (2022) 404-443-7560	Barbara Brown (2021) 610-869-4456
Deb Watson (2022) 301-801-0960	

### **All Saints Commissions and Committees**

#### **Worship Commission**

Deb Watson 301-801-0960  
Dennis Laurie 410-714-2533

#### **Parish Family Commission**

Hope Sayles 301-855-0251 or  
301-467-1467

#### **Christian Formation Commission**

Paul Dickson 410-257-3893  
Erryn Fleming 764-913-4042

#### **Living Our Values Commission**

Sherrill Munn 443-404-7560

#### **Giving Back Commission**

Patti At Lee 202-669-5594

#### **Finance Commission**

Patrick Herlihy 202-603-3273

#### **Connections Commission**

Deb Shupe 410-231-8150  
Lisa Herlihy 410-610-1084

#### **Property Committee**

Tom Hyde 443-684-4583

#### **Planned Giving Board**

Carl Bucheister 301-855-4687

#### **Episcopal Church Women**

Cindy Overstrom 410-474-  
0086

#### **Calvert Arts Festival**

Lisa Herlihy 410-610-1084

#### **Cemetery Committee**

Bryan Dowell 410-257-5449