

# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

## All Saints Parish

December 21, 2025

8am



### The Liturgy of the Word

Welcome The Ven. Jennifer McKenzie

*An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,  
“Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife...for the child conceived in her  
is from the Holy Spirit.”*

Matthew 1:20

*Celebrant*

On this fourth Sunday of Advent we remember God’s promise fulfilled in surprising ways.

Through the prophets, God promised a Messiah.

Through Mary and Joseph, God entered fully into human life.

In the birth of Jesus, God chose vulnerability over power and closeness over distance.

The promise of Emmanuel – God with us – was made flesh.

Today we relight the candles on our Advent wreath. (*The first, second and third candles are relit*) Their light reminds us that God has not abandoned the world, but meets us in courage, trust and love. (*The fourth candle is lit*) The flame of this fourth candle proclaims God’s faithfulness and strengthens us to live as people of promise.

*As you are able, please stand or adopt a posture of reverent prayer*

*Celebrant* We wait in hope for the coming of your Christ;

*People* Your promise is sure.

*Celebrant* We rejoice in the nearness of Emmanuel;

*People* God is with us.

*Celebrant* Let us pray together, saying:

All Faithful God, you kept your promise through Mary and Joseph and entered the world in love and humility. As we draw near to the birth of Christ, strengthen our trust, deepen our hope and make us signs of your presence in the world you so love. *Amen*

**Trisagion** (*recite three times*)

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.

## **The Lessons**

### **A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 7:10-16**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

### **Canticle 15 – The Song of Mary** (*recite in unison*)

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 for ever.

*All*

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

## **The Epistle**

### **A Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 1:1-7**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord    *Thanks be to God*

*As you are able, please stand or adopt a posture of reverent prayer*

### **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 1:18-25**

*Glory to you, Lord Christ*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.     *Praise to you, Lord Christ*

## **The Sermon** The Rev. Chip Tucker

*As you are able, please stand, or adopt a posture of reverent prayer*

### **The 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.**

## The Prayers of the People

*written by Emily Williams Guffrey*

Creator of the stars of night, which keep watch when our own faith is dim:  
Awaken hope and kindle our longing for your return.

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free:  
Release us from our sins and fears,  
that we may live in your light and truth.

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

O come, Desire of nations: bind in one the hearts of humankind.  
Dissolve our sad divisions, and strengthen us to work for peace.

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Comfort all who sit in the darkness of illness, grief, or distress,  
especially those we now name:

*(all are invited to offer, aloud or silently, names of those in need)*

Speak to them your peace, which passes all understanding.

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Welcome into your glory those we love but see no longer,  
especially those we now name:

*(all are invited to offer, aloud or silently, names of those who have died)*

May light perpetual shine upon them, bright as sun and moon together.

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

With the angels who announce your coming with shouts of joy,  
let us name the blessings of our lives:

*(all are invited to offer, aloud or silently, prayers of thanksgiving)*

You have lifted up our lowliness in many marvelous ways.

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

*Celebrant* Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people,  
who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy  
of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign,  
one God for ever and ever. ***Amen***

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and 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.

*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 the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

## **Announcements**

## **The Offertory**

*As the gifts of bread, wine and money are carried forward to the altar, the congregation stands.*

## **The Holy Eucharist**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings or says*

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 God thanks and praise.

*Then the Celebrant proceeds*

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:

*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.

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 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. 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, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

These are the gifts of God and we are the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Please be seated. If you wish to accept the invitation to communion,  
the ushers will direct you to the altar rail.*

**COMMUNION IS OPEN TO EVERYONE**  
**All are welcome to receive Holy Communion here.**

Please note that the wine we use in communion contains alcohol.  
If you prefer, you are welcome to receive communion in one kind – that is,  
bread only. There are also gluten-free wafers available upon request.

If you would prefer a blessing in lieu of communion,  
please indicate by folding your arms across your chest.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people, saying:*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray

*As you are able, please stand or adopt a posture of reverent praise*

*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 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

## **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*

**Dismissal** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.





allsaints1692.org

## All Saints Parish

*An Episcopal Community Serving Calvert County & the World*

### All Saints Staff

The Rev. Chip Tucker, Deacon

The Rev. Lisa Siciliano, Regional Deacon

The Rev. Margaret Van Auken, Deacon Emeritus

Tamara Timmermann, Parish Administrator [allsaints1692@allsaints1692.org](mailto:allsaints1692@allsaints1692.org)

Deborah Watson, Music Director [dewatson94@comcast.net](mailto:dewatson94@comcast.net)

Church Office: 410-257-6306 Mailing address: P.O. Box 40, Sunderland, MD 20689

### Officers and Vestry

Adriane Hope Sayles, Senior Warden	301-467-1467
Ken McKenzie, Junior Warden	703-675-4476
Filo Blake, Property Warden	443-684-1536
Barbara Brown, Prayer Warden	610-869-4456
Steven Watson, Treasurer	301-801-0961

### Vestry

Katlin Bagdovitz (2028) 410-474-5508	David Lippe (2027) 202-365-3924
Barbara Buck (2027) 540-239-5928	Elizabeth Aune (2028) 925-953-3061
Jill Dowell (2026) 443-610-5294	Julia Schardt (2027) 209-986-3029
Eileen Everhart (2028) 941-284-2570	Deb Shupe (2026) 410-231-8150
Deborah Watson (2026) 301-801-0960	

(Note: The years given above reflect the anticipated last full calendar year of service by the Elected Vestry Person; however, Vestry persons' terms continue until the Annual Parish Meeting of the following year when successors are elected.)

### All Saints Commissions and Committees

#### Worship & Music Commission

Deb Watson 301-801-0960

#### Parish Family Commission

Malane Silver 443-624-4691

#### Christian Formation

Ben Reist 240-721-0529

#### ECW Christmas Market

Elizabeth Aune & Eileen Everhart

#### Outreach Commission

Patti At Lee 202-669-5594

#### Finance Commission

Ken McKenzie 703-675-4476

#### Planned Giving Board

Dale Everhart 941-284-6352

#### Connections Commission

Deb Shupe 410-231-8150

#### Property Committee

Glenn Iona 443-684-1353

#### Episcopal Church Women

Jill Dowell 443-610-5294

#### Calvert Arts Festival

Pat Lineberry 907-654-4655

#### Cemetery Committee

Bryan Dowell 410-257-5449

#### Diocesan Convention Delegate:

Kip At Lee (2026)

*Alternate Delegate: Deborah Watson  
(2026)*

#### Calvert Concept for Reconciliation and Housing

Chair, Kip At Lee (410) 474-3008

**If you are new to All Saints, welcome! We're glad you're here!**

*Please fill out a leaflet found on the back of the pew and place it  
in the Offering plate, or hand it to an usher.*

***Ushers 8am:*** Mary Ballard, Julie Schardt, Nate Pope, Abigail Peterson

***10:30am:*** Katlin Bagdovitz, Valentine Garcia, Matt Schatz, Charles Sadler

***Worship Leaders 8am:*** Sarah Kinch & Lloyd Kinch

***10:30am:*** Mary Benson, Malane Silver & Cheryl Thompson

**During the 10:30 service a staffed Nursery for young children  
is available in the Parish Hall.**

**\*Restrooms are located in the Parish Hall\***