



SAINT LUKE'S PARISH
1864 Post Road, Darien, Connecticut 06820

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 2020
5:00 P.M. COME AS YOU ARE EUCHARIST

PREACHER: *The Reverend Susan C. Wyper*
CELEBRANT: *The Reverend Derek J. Stefanovsky*

PRELUDE "HOLY SPIRIT"

RECTOR'S GREETING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

OPENING PRAYER

"WE ADORE YOU"

Holy child, Emmanuel
Hope of all the ages
And the cry of every heart
Bowing down, we lift You up
You're the one we worship
You're the one we love

We adore You, we adore You
We adore You, Jesus
We adore You, we adore You
We adore You, Jesus

Holy child, Emmanuel
Hope of all the ages
And the cry of every heart
Bowing down, we lift You up
You're the one we worship
You're the one we love

We adore You, we adore You
We adore You, Jesus
We adore You, we adore You
We adore You, Jesus

We lift You up, we lift You up

We adore You, we adore You
We adore You, Jesus
We adore You, we adore You
We adore You, Jesus

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

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."

Welcome to visitors and members alike. Our church's motto is: "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" and we hope you find this a most hospitable place to worship, to grow, and to be.

The order for our service is from the **Book of Common Prayer**. The order is called the liturgy, which means "work of the people." It is responsive and participatory because your contribution to worship is what truly makes us a worshipping community.

"Way Maker"
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The Lectionary: The choice of readings comes from the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of readings covering the whole Bible that we share with other major Christian denominations.

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 Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

"OUT OF THE DARKNESS"

I could live a thousand years
Never earn a moment of Your grace
Even in my darkest day
You shine on me
You shine on me

[CHORUS]:
And out of the darkness
You brought me into Your glorious light
Saved from the death I was facing
Rejoicing in the future, a hope that is mine

The greatest of all gifts
From the greatest of all givers
Jesus there upon the cross
True love displayed for all to see

[CHORUS]

And your grace runs after me
Runs after me
Everyday of my life
And your mercies they never fail
They never fail
Everyday of my life
[CHORUS]

The Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

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

"Out of the Darkness"
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There is always a **Gospel** reading and it is proclaimed by the deacon or priest from among the people. The gospel is the story of Jesus Christ among us, but it is also our story, the good news of our faith.

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.

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

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Susan C. Wyper

“LORD, I GIVE YOU MY HEART”

This is my desire, to honour You
Lord with all my heart I worship You
all I have within me
I give You praise
all that I adore is in You

Chorus:
Lord I give You my heart
I give You my soul
I live for You alone
Every breath that I take
Every moment I'm awake
Lord have Your way in me

“Lord, I Give You My
Heart”
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. ***Amen.***

Rooted in an awareness of God's love and forgiveness, we honestly confess that we have sinned (which comes from a Greek word meaning "missed the target") in thought, word and deed. The Celebrant pronounces the forgiveness of sins in Christ's name, and having been reconciled with God and one another, we exchange the Peace.

The **Peace** has been exchanged at the Eucharist since the time of the Apostles. It is both the proper response to the Word, and our expression of reconciliation with one another before we come to the altar to be reconciled with God.

The **Offertory** is where we bring our gifts of bread, wine, money, and our very selves to present to the Lord as our initial act of Thanksgiving, which is what Eucharist means.

For Episcopalians, the **Eucharist**, rather than the sermon, is the principle act of Christian worship. The Eucharistic prayer always entails a full proclamation of the heart of the Gospel.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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.

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

At the Offertory, we gratefully offer back to God a portion of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. To make a gift today, please either visit www.saintlukesdarien.org/give or scan the QR code below with your phone.

Thank you for your generosity.



OFFERTORY "MARY, DID YOU KNOW?"

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

All stand.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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 the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;*

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 the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Luke, and 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,

*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

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!
The Gifts of God for the people of God.

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

In union, dear God, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my self, my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive

The **Lord's Prayer** is the prayer that Jesus gave to his followers when they asked him to teach them to pray. It is a form on which we can model our prayers.

The Eucharist, or **Communion**, is reminiscent of the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his death. Now he shares it with us and invites all of us to share symbolically in his life, death, and resurrection, through it. It should remind us that we are Christ's body in our time.

you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I tie myself to you and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live, now and forever, in your love. Amen.

“PRAISE THE FATHER, PRAISE THE SON”

O sov'reign God, O matchless King
The saints adore, the angels sing
And fall before the throne of grace
To You belongs the highest praise

These sufferings, this passing tide
Under Your wings I will abide
And every enemy shall flee
You are my hope and victory

Chorus:

Praise the Father, Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, Three in One
Clothed in power and in grace
The name above all other names

To the valley, for my soul
Thy great descent has made me whole
Your word my heart has welcomed home
Now peace like water ever flows

Chorus

Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the power
Yours is the glory forever
(x2)

Chorus

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE MUSIC

“Praise the Father, Praise the Son”
By Chris Tomlin & Ed Cash
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The Post-Communion Prayer concludes the Eucharist. In it we always say “thank you” to God for the gift of Christ, the Spirit, and the community of the Church.

One of the roles of the priest is to declare the eternal truth of God’s ever-present **blessing** to God’s people.

The **Dismissal** is an important part of the service. Having heard the gospel and been served at the table of Christ, we are sent out into the world to proclaim the good news and be Christ’s hands and feet on earth.

Welcome to Saint Luke's!

We are a vibrant community of faith that welcomes everyone—regardless of where you are on your faith journey—to hear God's word, to be fed at God's table, and to experience the love of community, so that you will be strengthened to serve God in the world.

To begin receiving our weekly e-newsletter, join our mailing list by visiting www.saintlukesdarien.org. To learn more about getting more involved or becoming a member of Saint Luke's Parish, please contact Cindy Scam in the Parish Offices.

*cindy.scam@saintlukesdarien.org
(203) 655.1456.*

We thank the band for their leadership in our worship service.

Vocals, Violin:	Anna Jacobson
Guitar, Vocals:	Tod Baharian
Piano, Vocals:	Bob Leinbach
Lay Readers:	Bill Bowman
	Brian Van Elslander

Parish Intercessions

We encourage parishioners to pray throughout the week for these members of our parish family:

For those who are ill: Sheila, Janetta, Charlie, Chris, Pam, Jessica, Karen, Verna, Rob, Bridgette, Pat, John, Peter, Andrea, Jeff, Deedee, Michelle, Jim, Cecilia, Douglas, Courtney, and Francesco

For those with special needs: Allison, Aldin, Zeke, Simon, Elizabeth, Lilia, Jack, and Michael

If you or someone you know is in need....

If you or someone you know is facing an illness, hospitalization, death in the family or any other stressful life situation, please consider a visit or call from one of our clergy or trained lay volunteers. Please call the parish office at 203.655.1456. We can also place your name on the list of people who receive prayers during our worship service.



Saint Luke's Parish
1864 Post Road
Darien, CT 06820
www.saintlukesdarien.org

Welcome to *Come as You Are* at Saint Luke's. We're delighted you're with us. Please take a minute to fill out this contact form so that we can get to know you, and further connect you to Saint Luke's.

At the time of the Offering, please tear this section away from the Service bulletin and place it in the collection plate, and a clergy or parishioner will contact you during the week.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____