

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!  
Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 19, 2021  
Eucharist Service

PRELUDE

*Sing We the Virgin Mary*

John Jacob Niles  
Appalachian Traditional

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE WREATH CANDLES

The Word of God

OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Enriching Our Worship*

*Celebrant* Blessed be the One Holy and Living God.  
*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

SONG OF PRAISE

*People Look East*

Words: Eleanor Farjeon ©1957  
Music: BESANCON CAROL  
17th Century French Tune

OPENING COLLECT

*The Book of Common Prayer, p.211*

*Celebrant* God be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* 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. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

FIRST MESSAGE

Micah 5:2-5a

*Lay Leader* Let us prepare ourselves to hear the Word of God.  
*People* **Our hearts and minds are open.**

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

*Lay Leader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

GRADUAL

*Hey Mary*

Words: Malcolm & Sam Gordon

Music: ©2015 Malcolm Gordon

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

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

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

HOMILY

The Reverend Lydia Huttar-Brown

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND BAPTISMAL PROMISES

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

*Lay Leader* Please stand as you are able and join together in affirming our faith.

*People* **You, O God, are supreme and holy.**

**You create our world and give us life.**

**Your purpose overarches everything we do.**

**You have always been with us.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.**

**You came to us before we came to you.**

**You have revealed your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again.**

**You are with us now.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.**

**You empower us to be your gospel in the world.**

**You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

**You are God. We worship you.**

*Lay Leader* Please turn and face the middle aisle as we make our promises to each other and to God.

Please respond to each promise by saying, "I will with God's help."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

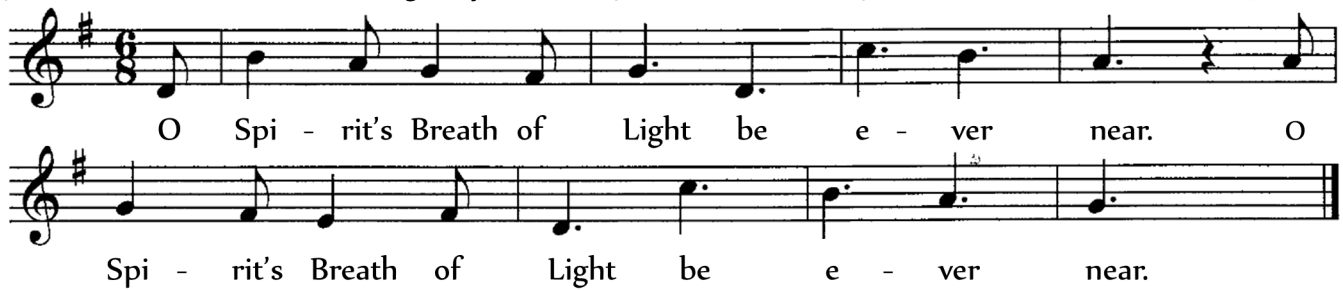
Jim Friedrich, *Episcopal Cafe*

*Lay Leader* Please respond to each prayer by humming or quietly singing:

People

**Sung response: O Spirit's Breath of Light**

Jim May



*Please be seated.*

**SAINT MARY'S COMMUNITY PRAYERS: CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS**

*Everyone is invited to offer concerns and thanksgivings.*

**Lay Leader** O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

**CONFESSION**

*Enriching Our Worship*

**Celebrant** Let us confess our sins to God.

**People** 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.**

**ABSOLUTION**

**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.**

**PEACE**

Steven Shakespeare

**Celebrant** May the peace of Christ rule our world and heal our hearts and may His peace be always with you.

**People** And also with you.

**Eucharistic Prayer**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**People** God be in my head and in my thinking.  
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.  
God be in my heart and in my loving.  
God be in my hands and in my giving. **Amen.**

*We are not passing the offering plates at this time.*

*You are welcome to place your offering in the plate at the entrance to the sanctuary or make an online offering by pressing the "contribute" button on our website, [saintmarysepiscopal.org](http://saintmarysepiscopal.org).*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*Enriching Our Worship*

*Celebrant* God be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts  
*People* **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
*Celebrant and People*  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant and People worshipping virtually*

**Gracious God, You stand at the door of our hearts and knock. You wait for us and we only can let you in. We believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill us with your presence. Nourish us with your body and unite us in your blood, that we may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*People* **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 OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.  
*People* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

*#265 – The Angel Gabriel*

Words: Basque carol; para S. Baring-Gould  
Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol

*Sing We The Virgin Mary*

John Jacob Niles  
Appalachian Traditional

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Please stand as you are able.*

Steven Shakespeare

*Celebrant* Let us pray together.  
**Eternal God, we thank you that in Christ you give yourself into our hands: may we who have tasted life proclaim the coming feast when many will come from east and west, from north and south to greet the Lord of all: we ask this in his name. Amen.**

## ADVENT BLESSING

## CLOSING SONG

*#60 – Creator of the Stars of Night*

Words: Latin, 9th cent;  
Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4

## DISMISSAL

*Deacon* <Deacon says the words of dismissal.>  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

## SOCIAL TIME