



St. Francis' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Season of Advent takes its name from the Latin word adventus, meaning "coming" or "visit." Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. For Christians Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year. During Advent we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of our Jewish ancestors for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation, and new beginning.

PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMN

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

H 56

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
show, and teach us in her ways to go.
save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

THE ADVENT BIDDING

Presider Light and peace in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

Presider Dear friends in Christ, as we travel towards Bethlehem in this journey of Advent, we come together in the midst of a busy season to take a breath. To slow down as we anticipate Jesus' coming once more into the world. We are invited for a time to breathe in together the life that God gives us; to listen for the beating of God's heart and the blessings and lessons this season brings. As we gather for this time of worshipful anticipation let us in the silence rest in God's presence.

A prolonged silence is kept.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Presider May Christ, the One whose coming we await, fill our homes and hearts with joyful anticipation as we journey to the manger. Amen.

The candle of this first week of Advent is a candle of HOPE. Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the hope that came to this world when Jesus was born and his presence with us. Jesus said "I came so that everyone would have life, life in all its fullness."

Once the candle is lit, the Presider continues.

Presider You called the patriarchs and matriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfillment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Amen.

THE GREETING

Presider Blessed be the Holy One whose coming we await,

People **And blessed be the One who comes to set all people free. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider 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, so that we may truly love you, and worthily praise your holy name; through our Savior Jesus Christ.

People **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept for a time.

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.

Presider Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

People Amen.

THE COLLECT

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to turn from the works of darkness, and to clothe ourselves in light; that in the last day, when your Son Jesus shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to everlasting life; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Presider Amen.

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST READING

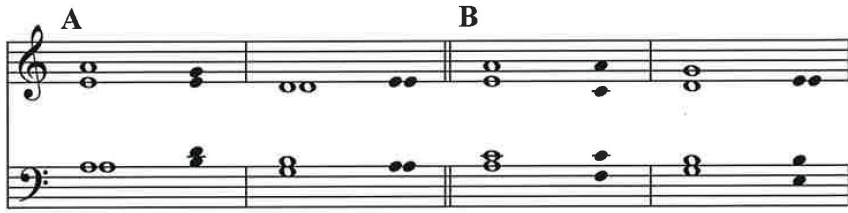
Reader A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



- A 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my / soul;
my God, I put my / trust in you;
- A let me not be hu/miliated,
nor let my enemies triumph / over me.
- B 2 Let none who look to you be put to / shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their / schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O / Lord,
and teach me your / paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and / teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day / long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and / love,
for they are from ever/lasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my trans/gressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O / Lord.
- A 7 Gracious and upright is the /Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in his / way.
- A 8 He guides the humble in doing / right
and teaches his way to the / lowly.
- B 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and / faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and his / testimonies.

THE SECOND READING

Reader A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians.

3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

For he alone is worthy,
For he alone is worthy,
For he alone is worthy, Christ, the Lord.

THE GOSPEL

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

v21:25-36

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

DAVID LUCKES

THE ADVENT CREED

Our Advent Creed seeks to affirm our trust in God found in Jesus Christ.

Presider Let us stand and affirm our hope in the light of Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God?

People **We believe in God, eternal, almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

People **We believe in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of all, the Only Begotten One; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, lived and loved among us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; who descended to the dead, and on the third day rose again; Jesus, Our Savior, ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the loving God, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Presider Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

People **We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presider O God whose Messiah's coming we await, keep us awake and alert to watch for the signs of your coming. As the fig tree puts forth its leaves and the portents of the new day dawns, keep us awake and alert for the second advent of Christ our Savior.

People's response **Shine in our hearts.**

The Presider offers to concluding prayer.

Presider Shine forth O God of Hosts, encourage, embolden and energize your people to keep awake and alert to the coming of Jesus the Christ, that he, at his second Advent, may find us ready to greet him and eager to serve those in need; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We invite you to extend the peace of God to those in the congregation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

Presider O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, Doris and Bob, that they may continue to faithfully love, honor, and cherish each other in patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Presider God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting.

People Amen.

OFFERTORY

CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT

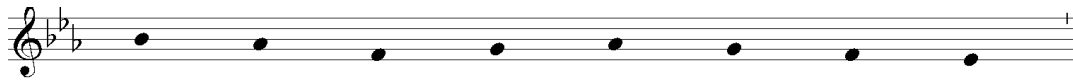
H 60



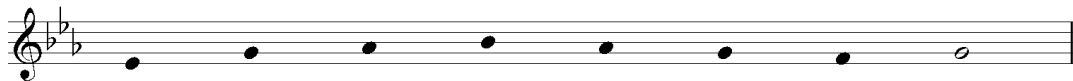
Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
In sor - row that the an - cient curse
When this old world drew on toward night,
At your great Name, O Je - sus, now



your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:



O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
not as a mon - arch, but the child
all things on earth with one ac - cord,



we pray you hear us when we call.
your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956) Copyright ©1984, Bruce Neswick. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

EUCHARIST

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thank to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God 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:

LEVAS 255

The musical score is written for a choir or ensemble, featuring a soprano line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 Presider is to hold it or lay a hand upon it.

Presider 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,

Presider and People

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

Presider 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 Blessed Virgin Mary 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 Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People **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

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then the Presider and people sing:

LEVAS 261

A - - men, A - - men,
A - - men, A - - men,
A - - men, A - - men, A - - men.

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST CRY

H 76

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose
1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther
1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.
Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

After all have received communion the Presider says

Presider God is with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

People Eternal God, for whom we await, you have fed us with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation: keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING FOR ALL OF ADVENT

Presider Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of the One, Holy, Undivided Trinity be with you and remain with you always.

People Amen.

SENDING HYMN

LO! HE COMES, WITH CLOUD DESCENDING

H 57



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

ADVENT DISMISSAL

Presider Our worship is ended, our service in the world begins. As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

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Worship Leaders

Preacher		David Luckes
Presider		The Rev. Laurie Anzilotti
Altar Guild		Kathleen O'Reilly
Acolytes	8:00	Tatum McCart
	10:30	Jeff Veenstra
Lectors	8:00	Sheila McCart
	10:30	Kathleen and Joe O'Reilly
Intercessor	8:00	Kathleen McDonald
	10:30	Mike Rohan
Greeter		Ellen Ogier
Usher		Nathan Whaley
Tellers		Joe O'Reilly and Brenda Russell
Bread Baker		Sally Hader
Livestream		Paul Jokerst
Godly Play Leader		Barb Sacco