



# St. Francis' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024

*The Season of Advent takes its name from the Latin word adventus, meaning "coming" or "visits." Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve .*

*For Christians, Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year. 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 forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning.*

**PRELUDE** 10:30am only

**O COME, O COME EMMANUEL**

**ARR. MARK HAYES**

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*At 10:30am, the lighting of the wreath begins with the congregation singing.*



Leader	Advent is a time of reflection and renewal.
People	<b>God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.</b>
Leader	Advent is a time of self-examination.
People	<b>God of light, shine in our hearts and strengthen our resolve.</b>
Leader	Advent is a time of joyful expectation.
People	<b>God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our faith.</b>
Leader	Advent is a time of service and searching.
People	<b>God of light, shine in our hearts and ignite our compassion.</b>

*The congregation listens as a prayer is offered and the candles are lit.*

Leader	Today we light the first candle—the candle of hope—reminding us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. Hope for a world free from war and pain, hope for a sense of purpose and belonging, and hope for peace and prosperity for our children and children’s children. When Christ came, he brought us the Light of Lights. Light that fills us with hope, illuminates our lives, and shines in our hearts.
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*All join in singing the music of Light of Light on the previous page. Then, the Presider offers a closing prayer.*

Presider	God of light, we pray today that you will fill us with hopeful expectation, and that you will cause us to become your children of light. Help us to spread your light into the world around us. Help us to recognize our opportunities to brighten the lives of others. Help us to live each day as beacons of love filled with joy, peace, and hope.
People	<b>Amen.</b>

## **THE GREETING**

Presider	Blessed be the Holy One whose coming we await,
People	<b>And blessed be the One who comes to set all people free. Amen.</b>

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon 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 OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

## WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES *Seated*

### THE FIRST LESSON

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.

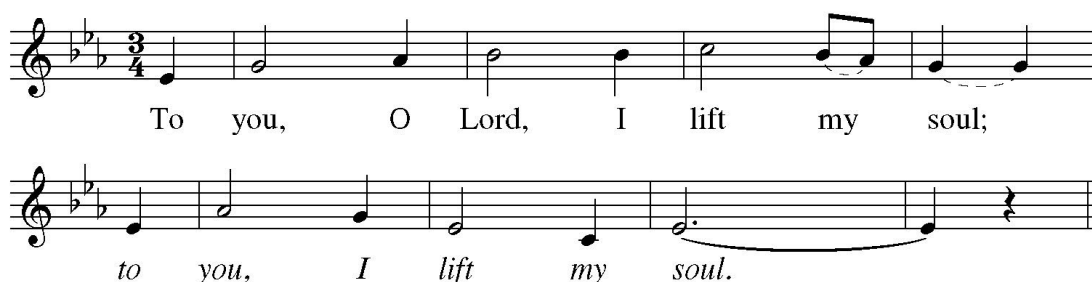
People **Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM OF THE DAY

## PSALM 25

*At 8am, spoken. At 10:30, cantor sings antiphon one time through and then congregation joins.*

**Antiphon:**



Lord, make me know your ways, teach me your paths,  
and keep me in the way of your truth, for you are God, my Savior. **ANTIPHON**

For the Lord is good and righteous, revealing the way to those who wander,  
gently leading the poor and the humble. **ANTIPHON**

To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to God's word, who live God's love,  
God will always be near, and will show them mercy. **ANTIPHON**

## THE SECOND LESSON

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.**

## GOSPEL SEQUENCE *Stand* O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!*

## THE GOSPEL

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

21:25-36

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.**

## GOSPEL SEQUENCE *Stand* O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!*

## SERMON

THE REV. LAURIE ANZILOTTI

*After the sermon, silence is kept for a time.*

## THE NICENE CREED

Deacon We affirm our faith in the One, Holy and Living God.

People **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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon           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. "May the Light of Christ; *shine in our hearts.*"

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

*The Presider offers a 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.

## THE PEACE

Presider            The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People             **And also with you.**

Presider            Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *Seated*

## BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Presider            Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

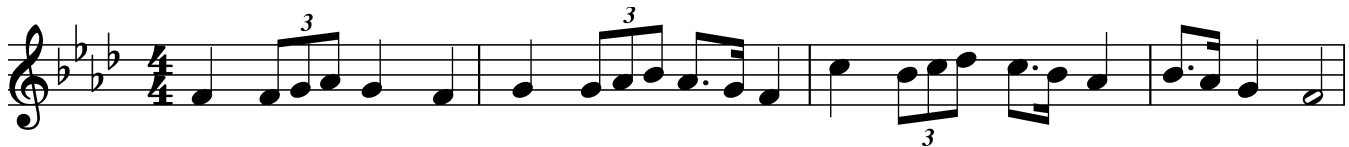
People             **Amen.**

## GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

*We return with thanksgiving the gifts God has given us. This includes bread and wine of the earth and financial offerings from our labor.*

## MEDITATION HYMN *8:00am*

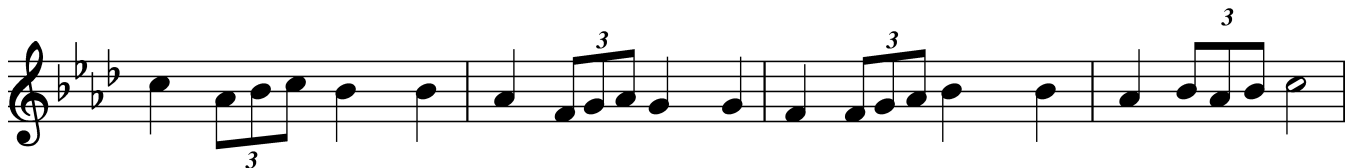
**MARANATHA, LORD MESSIAH**  
**KATHY POWELL**



1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us—dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?
3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.



shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.  
 Life from death, and from our rend - ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?  
 Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.



Come, O Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.  
 Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:  
 Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through - out the earth;



Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.  
 Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.  
 your do - min - ion bring now near us; we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

*As the gifts are brought forward, the congregation stands.*

Presider Everything comes from you, O God,

1 Chronicles 29: 14

People and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Stand*

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 thanks 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 proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Say at 8am:*

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

**SANCTUS** 10:30am

**S 125**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider

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. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from 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."

People

Therefore, according to his command,

**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 St. Francis, St. Clare, 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.

**AMEN**



*A - men.*

## 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

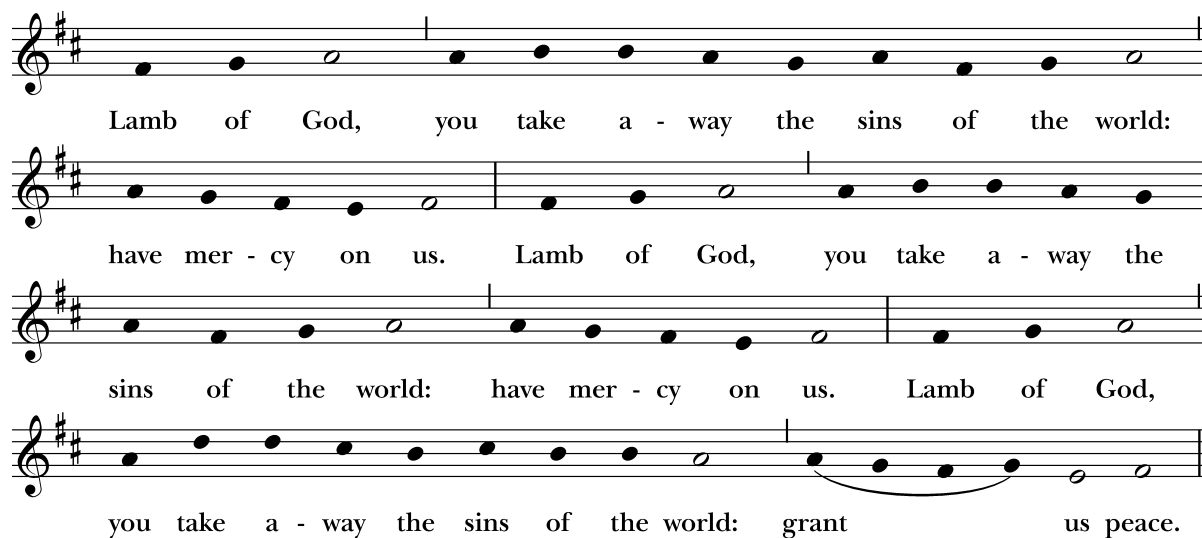
*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

## FRACTION ANTHEM *At 8am, spoken*

S 161



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*This is Christ's table and all are welcome and all are fed. For gluten free wafer, please indicate as you walk forward to receive. This Eucharistic table does not belong to the Episcopal Church or to St. Francis'. This is God's table, and all are welcome. In the Episcopal Church, we receive both the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus. If you choose not to receive communion, please come forward and cross your arms over your heart to receive a blessing.*



1. Gra - cious God of Wis - dom, who hears your peo - ple's  
 2. Might - y Voice of Si - nai, whom Mos - es heard in  
 3. Fra - grant Bud of Jes - se, whose bloom - ing Kings re -  
 4. Da - vid's Key of Heav - en, un - lock us from our  
 5. Blaz - ing Sun of Jus - tice, the flame of East - ern  
 6. Sov - ereign of all Na - tions, our cor - ner-stone of  
 7. Je - sus, be God with us, Em - man - u - el fore -



cry, teach us ways of pru - dence, O  
 awe, Ad - o - nai, now lead us with  
 vere, root your words with - in us, God's  
 sins. Freed from er - ror's pris - on, our  
 dawn, scat - ter cling - ing shad - ows, that  
 trust, de - liv - er, in your mer - cy, your  
 told. Feed us like a shep - herd, in



Breath of God Most High.  
 ho - ly arm and law.  
 words for all to hear.  
 life in you be - gins.  
 gloom of death be gone.  
 crea - tures made from dust.  
 safe - ly gath - ered fold.

All:

Ma-ra -

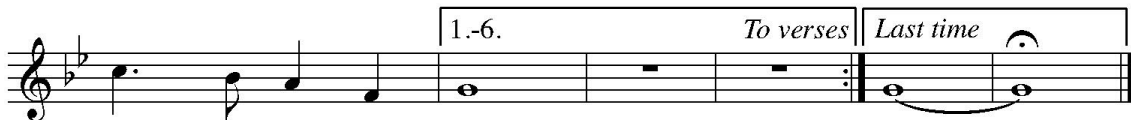
## Refrain



na - tha, Lord Mes - si - ah, long a - wait - ed from a -



far. Come and make your home a - mong us. Let us



see your birth - ing star.

star.

## 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, 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

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 ...

People **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

### STAY AWAKE BE READY

*Sing 3 times.*

The musical notation is written on three staves in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics 'Stay a-wake, be read-y. You do not know the hour when the'. Above the staff, there is a '(clap)' instruction with two 'x' marks indicating claps on the second and third measures. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'Lord is com-ing. Stay a-wake, be read-y. The Lord is com-ing'. The third staff concludes the hymn with lyrics 'soon! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! The Lord is com-ing soon.' and ends with a double bar line.

## 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!**

## POSTLUDE *10:30am only*

## THINGS TO NOTICE IN ADVENT

*There are several significant shifts to notice in the four liturgies of Advent.*

### COLOR

Because the Episcopal Church's roots are in the Church of England, we follow the old English tradition of using blue as the color of Advent. Blue is the color of Blessed Mary, and Advent is all about Mary as we await with her the arrival of the Incarnate God. Blue is the color of hope, expectation, confidence, and anticipation. These are all adjectives which describe the season of Advent.

### SEATING

Advent is a penitential season, a time of expressing sorrow and regret for having done wrong. Therefore, in our seating, we face one another to confess our need for God and the ways in which we have not loved God and our neighbors with our whole hearts.

### LITURGY

The liturgy also highlights that Advent is a penitential season. We confess that we have "sinned against God in thought, word and deed" at the beginning of our liturgy. We do not sing the Gloria nor do we say "Alleluia." We open our liturgy singing of our expectant waiting for God.

### LECTIONARY READINGS

*The Advent readings, and what they say to us, are well explained in this excerpt from "Naming Where We Are" by Debie Thomas.*

"Like some of you, I didn't grow up observing Advent. Since my childhood church didn't follow the liturgical calendar, my family went straight from Thanksgiving turkeys and pumpkin pies to Christmas trees and 'Jingle Bells' — one consumer feeding frenzy pressing hard into the next. It's only in the past few years that I have come to value what Nora Gallagher calls the "counterweight" of liturgical time. "One time set against another." It's only recently that I have embraced the stark, hard-edged gifts Advent provides. As ever, I believe we need these gifts desperately.

According to the week's readings, we enter this first season of the Christian New Year — if we dare enter it at all — in lamentation. Eschewing all forms of denial, polite piety, and cheap cheer, we allow the radical honesty of Scripture to make us honest, too. "How long will you be angry with your people's prayers?" asks the Psalmist in desperation. "Because you hid yourself, we transgressed," cries Isaiah. During Advent, we stop posturing and pretending. We quit trying to make God's hiddenness okay. We shed our greeting card assumptions about the Divine. We get real.

## **LECTIONARY READINGS, CONTINUED**

"Our world is not okay," is what these Advent readings declare in stark, unflinching terms. God's apparent absence is not fine — it hurts. It hurts so much we can barely breathe from the agony of it. We are surrounded by evil and suffering, we're not sure our faith can endure what our eyes reluctantly witness each day, and though we long for a Savior to rend the heavens and come down, the very ferocity of that longing is wearying our souls. Hope itself has become a grind.

The first gift of Advent is the permission to tell the truth, even if that truth is laced with sorrow. We are invited to describe life "on earth as it is," and not as we mistakenly assume our religion requires us to render it. Into our surrounding cultures of denial and spin, apathy and hedonism, we are called to speak the whole truth: we need God. We need God to show up. We need God to stay. We need God to love, hold, deliver, and restore us. We were created for intimacy with a just, gracious, and profoundly compassionate Savior, and when that intimacy is missing, we suffer.