



St. Francis' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2022, 10:30AM

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

Silence

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the presider enters in silence, please stand. Then the choir sings.

Reader Advent is a time to praise.

People **Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

Reader During Advent we remember God's past faithfulness.

People **Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

Reader During Advent we remember God's present goodness.

People **Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

Reader During Advent we remember God's future promises.

People **Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

The congregation listens as prayer is offered.

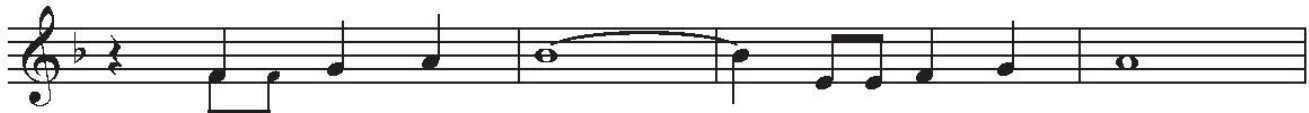
All join in singing.



(1st Sunday) We wait in
(2nd Sunday) We watch in
(3rd Sunday) We pre - pare in
(4th Sunday) We praise with
(Christmas Eve) We pro - claim with } hope _____ for the morn - ing Light,



for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate _____ the night. _____



We wait with
We watch with
We pre - pare with
We praise with
We pro - claim with } joy _____ for the Sav - ior's birth;



we wait in
we watch in
we pre - pare in
we praise with
we pro - claim with } hope for peace on earth.

Presider God in heaven, we look to you amidst a world filled with darkness. Help us to seek the light of your truth, as we remember your promises and offer our praise to you. Amen.

THE GREETING

Presider Blessed be the Holy One who we praise,

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

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, 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 OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Cleanse our conscience, Almighty God, by visiting us each moment of each day, so that when your Son Jesus Christ comes, he may find in us a mansion prepared for him; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES *Seated*

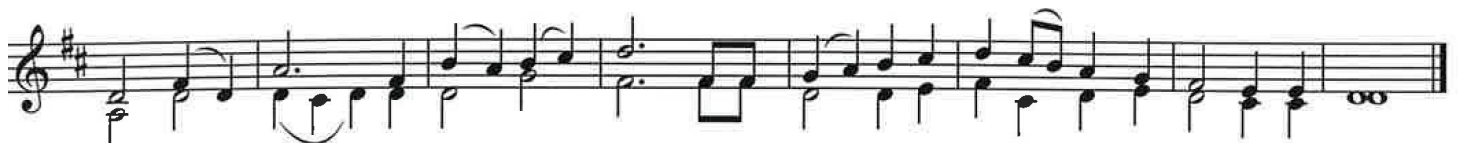
THE FIRST LESSON

Reader	A reading from the Book of 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.	
People	Thanks be to God.	

THE PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 80

Verses are read by reader. Antiphon is sung by all.



Re - store us, O God of hosts; show the light of your coun-ten-ance, and we shall be saved.

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us. **ANTIPHON**
- 4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **ANTIPHON**
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your Name. **ANTIPHON**

THE SECOND LESSON

Reader A reading from the 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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

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

THE GOSPEL

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

People **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.

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 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. "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*

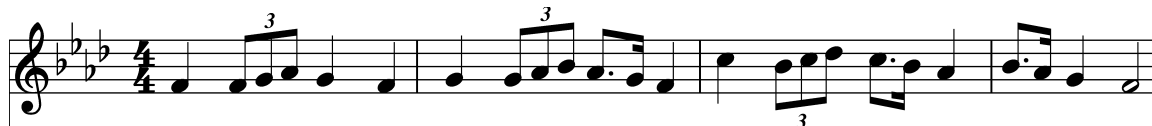
GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

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

OFFERTORY

SIGNS OF ENDINGS ALL AROUND US

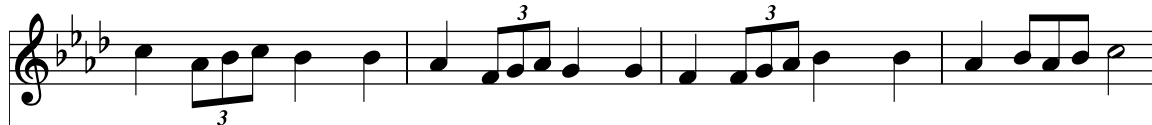
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1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us— dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?
3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.



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.

Presider All things come from you, Lord.
People And your gifts we return to you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Stand*

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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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:

SANCTUS

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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

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.

Our bread is gluten-, dairy- and nut-free. 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.



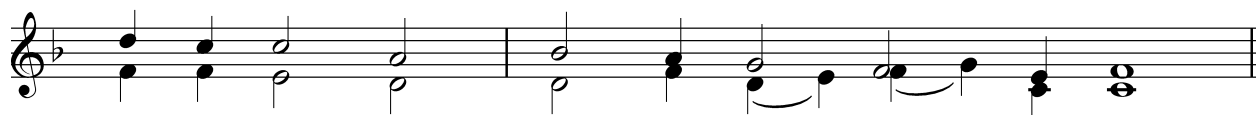
1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,



Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;



It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and



cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *Stand*

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 wait, 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

BLESSED BE THE KING WHOSE COMING

H 74



1 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
2 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
4 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of



God! For him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him
God! By those who tru - ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly
God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of
God! He of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they



barred! Not robed in roy - al splen - dor, in
heard; pi - ty the proud and haugh - ty, who
God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All
need. Gen - tle is he and hum - ble! And



power and pomp, comes he; but clad as are the
have not learned to heed the Christ who is the
things are in his hand, all a - ges and all
light his yoke shall be, for he would have us



poor - est, such his hu - mil - i - ty!
Prom - ise, who has a - tone - ment made.
peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!
bear it so he can make us free!

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