



St. Francis' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021

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

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

H 66

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

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 fourth week of Advent is a candle of LOVE. Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the love that came to this world when Jesus was born and his presence with us. Jesus said "As the God has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love."

As the candles are lit, we sing:

Light one candle for hope. One bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to every heart, He comes, He comes.

Light one candle for peace. One bright candle for peace.
He brings peace to every heart, He comes, He comes.

Light one candle for joy. One bright candle for joy.
Every nation will find salvation in Bethlehem's baby boy.

Light one candle for love. One bright candle for love.
He brings love to every heart, He comes, He comes.

Once the candles are lit, the Presider continues.

Presider Your light has shone in our shadowed world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Savior of all. 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.

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.**

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST READING

Reader A reading from the book of Micah.

5:2-5a

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.

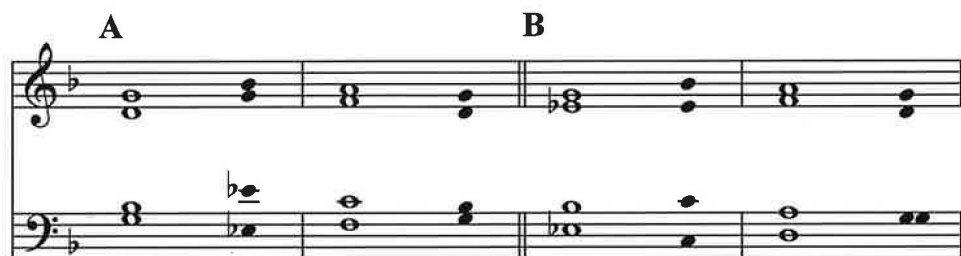
The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 80

V. 1-6



- 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 Ma/nasseh,
stir up your strength and come to / help us.
- A 4 O Lord God of / hosts,
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your / people?
- B 5 You have fed them with the bread of / tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to / drink.
- B 6 You have made us the derision of our / neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to / scorn.

THE SECOND READING

Reader A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ANTIPHON

H83

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.

1:39-45

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

Reader 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."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

THE REV. LAURIE ANZILOTTI

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. As we lift our prayers to you and in every moment of our lives may you...

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.**

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

OFFERTORY

ONCE HE CAME IN BLESSING

H53



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us
3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,
4 One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.

came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:
but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,
Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;

bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.
he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee.
let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

Words: Jan Roh (1485?-1547); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*, melody Michael Weisse (d. 1534); harm. Jack W. Burnam (b. 1946) Copyright ©1984, Jack W. Burnam. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Presider All things come from you, O Lord.
People **And of your own have we given you.**

EUCCHARIST

At 8:00am, all are invited to gather around the altar now and return to your seat after receiving Communion.

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:

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

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, 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

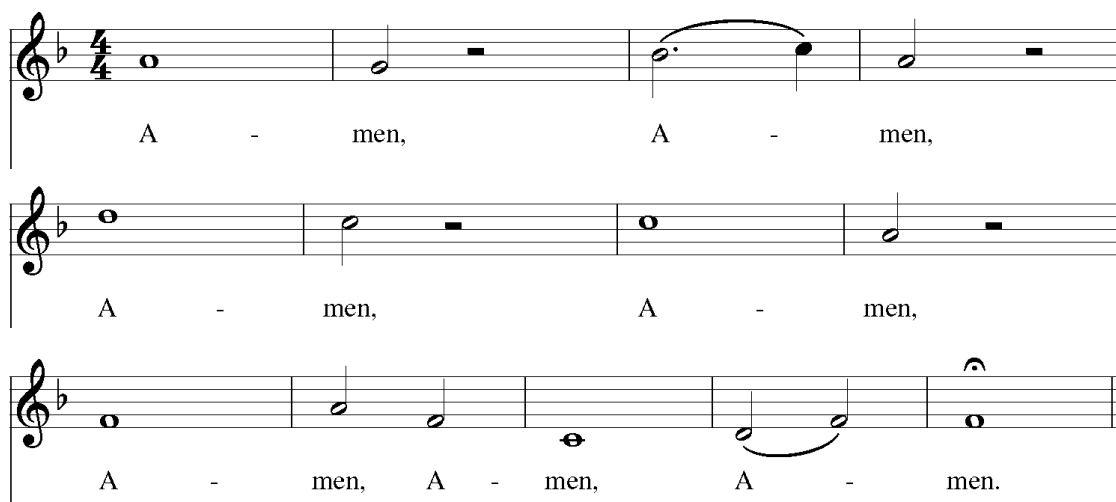
**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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.

LEVAS 261



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.

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Eucharistic bread is gluten-free 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.

1 To the Name of our sal - va - tion laud and hon - or
 2 Je - sus is the Name we trea - sure; Name be - yond what
 3 'Tis the Name that who - so preach - eth speaks like mu - sic
 4 There - fore we, in love a - dor - ing, this most bless - ed

let us pay, which for man - y a gen - er - a - tion
 words can tell; Name of glad - ness, Name of plea - sure,
 to the ear; who in prayer this Name be - seech - eth
 Name re - vere, ho - ly Je - sus, thee im - plor - ing

hid in God's fore - know - ledge lay; but with ho - ly
 ear and heart de - light - ing well; Name of sweet - ness,
 sweet - est com - fort find - eth near; who its per - fect
 so to write it in us here that here - af - ter,

ex - ul - ta - tion we may sing a - loud to - day.
 pass - ing mea - sure, sav - ing us from sin and hell.
 wis - dom reach - eth, heav - en - ly joy pos - sess - eth here.
 heaven - ward soar - ing, we may sing with an - gels there.

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861 Music: *Oriel*, Caspar Ett (1788-1847)

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

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

YE WHO CLAIM THE FAITH OF JESUS

H268



1 Ye who claim the faith of Je - sus, sing the
2 Bless - ed were the cho - sen peo - ple out of
3 There - fore let all faith - ful peo - ple sing the
4 "Mag - ni - fy, my soul, God's great - ness; in my

won - ders that were done when the love of God the
whom the Lord did come; bless - ed was the land of
hon - or of her name; let the Church, in her fore -
Sa - vior I re - joice; all the a - ges call me

Fa - ther o - ver sin the vic - tory won, when he
prom - ise fa - shioned for his earth - ly home; but more
shad - owed, part in her thanks - giv - ing claim; what Christ's
bless - ed, in his praise I lift my voice; he has

made the Vir - gin Ma - ry mo - ther of his on - ly Son.
bless - ed far the mo - ther, she who bore him in her womb.
mo - ther sang in glad - ness let Christ's peo - ple sing the same:
cast down all the might - y, and the low - ly are his choice."

Words: Sts. 1-3, Vincent Stuckey Stratton Coles (1845-1929), alt; st. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), metrical *Magnificat*
Music: *Julion*, David Hurd (b. 1950) Copyright ©1983, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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.

