

A Liturgy for Sundays

adapted from a liturgy written by the Right Reverend Deon K. Johnson

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

You are invited to prepare a sacred space before worship.

You may want to include: a cross, a bible, candles,

an Advent wreath, or any other additional

prayer aids (prayer beads, icons, etc.).

Prelude

Welcome from the Vicar

Gathering: Liturgy of the Word

The people of God gather together.

A bell rings out. Silence is kept.

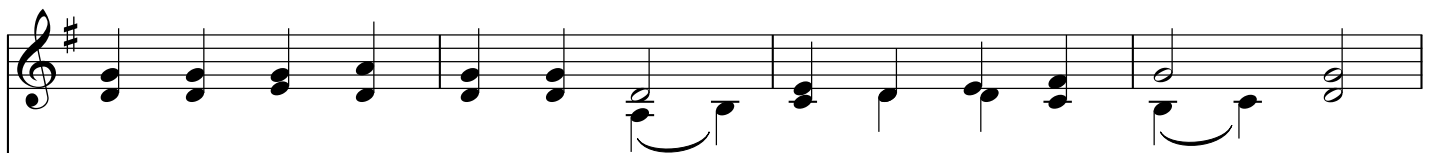
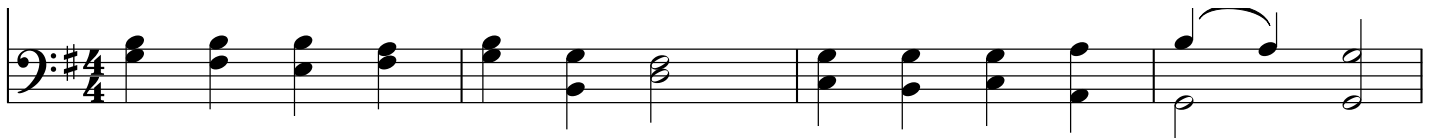
Opening Hymn

Mary, When the Angel's Voice

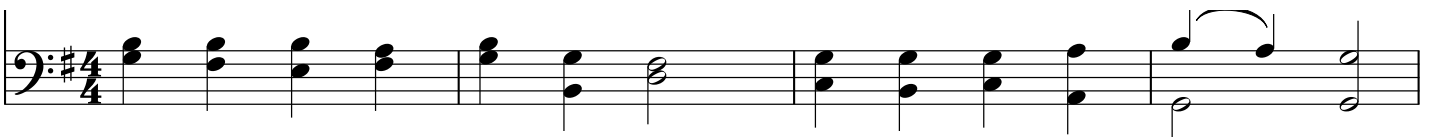
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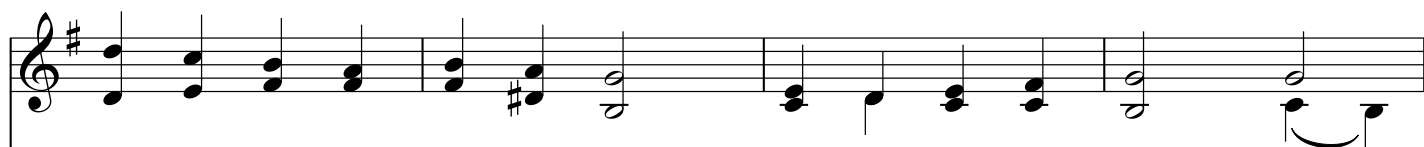


Ma - ry, when the an - gel's voice called you high - ly fa - vored,
Jo - seph, in your dark - est night, an - gel mes - sage hear - ing,
Old and sage E - liz - a - beth, birth an - ti - ci - pat - ing,
God whose name we mag - ni - fy, all your chil - dren mat - ter.

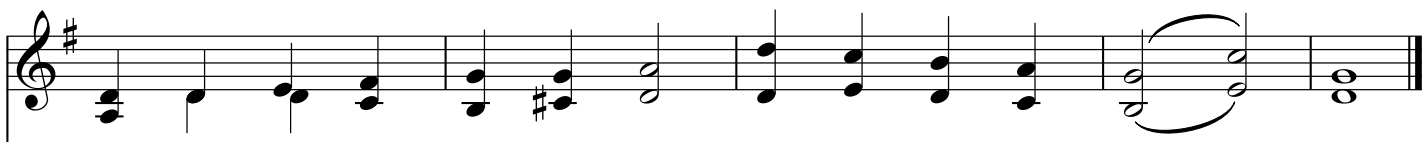


dread and joy in your heart mixed, pon - dered there and sa - vored.
you cast not your love a - side, scorn and an - ger fear - ing.
nur - tur - ing your cous - in's will, you taught hope - ful wait - ing.
From op - press - ion raise the poor; proud and might - y scat - ter.





May we learn to wel - c ome all that our life is bring - ing,
When a loved one brings us grief, rips our world a - sun - der,
So, as wo - men long have done, may we ne - ver fal - ter
Seeds be - neath the win - ter snow live, 'tho all seems bar - ren.



e - ven when in pain we feel birth with - in us spring - ing.
dream - er, may we have your heart, o - pen to God's won - der.
to ex - tend a gen - tle touch, fears to cour age al - ter.
Lift a ca - rol, sing of hope for the Rose of Sha - ron.



Opening Rite: Liturgy of Light

All stand, and the officiant greets the people with these words.

Officiant: Dear friends in the risen Christ, we gather today to celebrate the Lord's day, and for a time to be united in prayer and praise with each other and those who have gone before us. Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because it was on this day that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. As we gather, let us be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.

Officiant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation — the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Corinthians 4:5-6

The Advent candles are lit in our homes and in our church as we listen to the song "Light One Candle."

Light one candle for hope,
one bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev'ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace,
one bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev'ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for joy,
one bright candle for joy,
He brings joy to ev'ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace,
one bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev'ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

The Confession

As we worship we ask God's forgiveness for things done and things left undone and things done on our behalf so that we are reconciled to God and each other.

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is kept for a time.

Officiant: 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.

People: **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.**

Officiant: For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

People: **That we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant: 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.**

Opening Acclamation

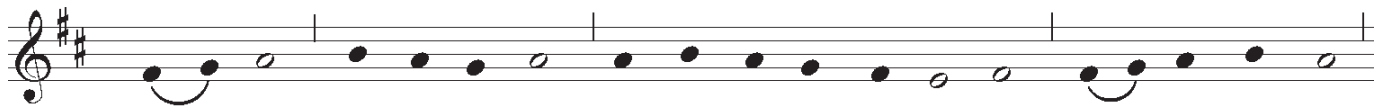
Officiant: Our Savior now draws near.

People: **Come, let us adore him.**

Officiant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



1. Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



2. Lord God, hea-ven-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you,



we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



4. you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us;



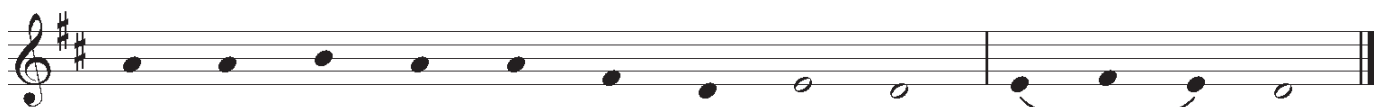
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant: God is with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Officiant continues with the prayer appointed for the day called the collect. The collect is written to go along with both the season of the church year and the readings of the day. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scripture of the day.

Officiant: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

We hear the stories of the experience of God from our spiritual ancestors. Reading and commenting on scripture goes back to the earliest services of Christianity. Following the pattern of Jewish synagogue worship, readings follow a set pattern for what will be read when. One or two Lessons, as appointed, are read.

Reader: A reading from the second book of Samuel.

7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

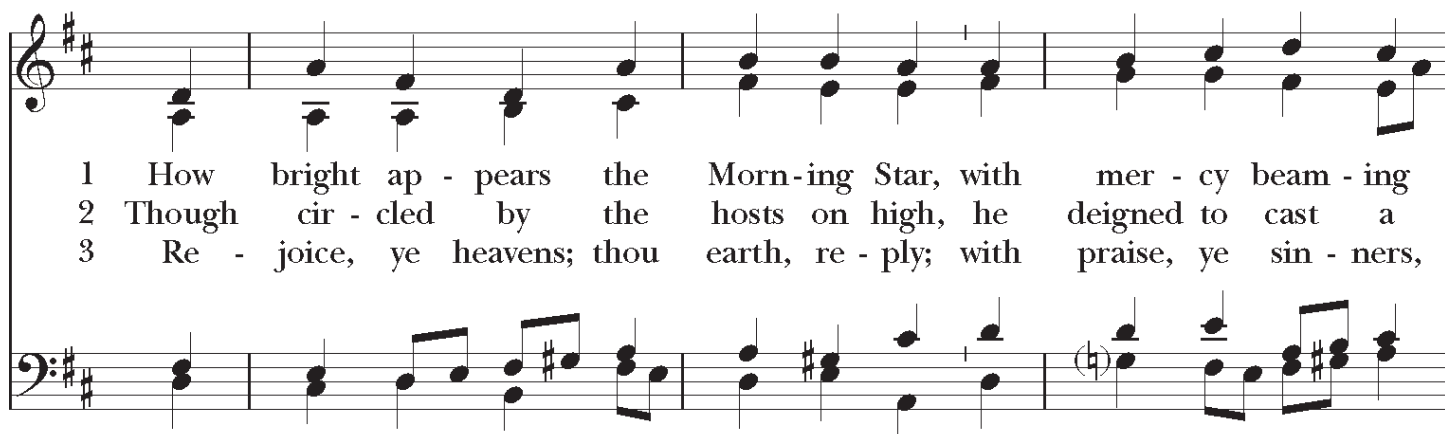
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Reading

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans. Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! **Amen.**

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**



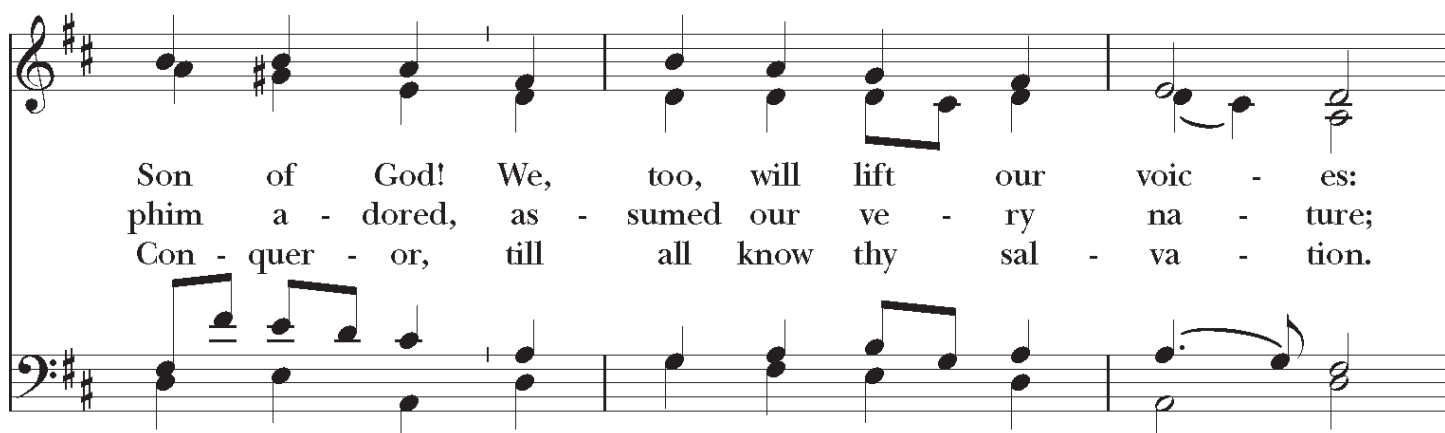
1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing
2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a
3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,



from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;
pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;
fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.



O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and
the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -
In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great



Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:
phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;
Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

The Gospel

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Luke 1:26-38

People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Laurie Anzilotti

Having someone comment on the Scriptures goes back to the earliest days of Christianity and to the Jewish Synagogue worship which preceded it.

Affirmation of Faith

Originally the entire service was viewed as our confession of faith. However, since the Sixth Century, the church has recited either the Nicene Creed or the Apostle's Creed at the Eucharist. The word creed comes from the Latin credo for "I believe" or "I lend my heart to."

Officiant: Let us affirm our faith.

People: Do you believe in God?
We believe in God the Father the almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Officiant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
People: **We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Officiant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
People: **We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Prayer changes people. Prayer is not about changing God but about changing us more into the likeness of God. Collectively and individually we offer the hopes and desires of our hearts to God.

Officiant: In hopefulness as we await the coming of Christ, let us offer our thanksgivings and biddings to God, saying: Shine in our hearts.

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to our humble calling to be the church of Christ in the world. Empower all bishops, priests and deacons to proclaim justice and truth as they care for your holy people. We pray for the people and ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove, and Sally and Warren, their interim priests, and Kevin their deacon; and for Emmanuel Parish, Lui, South Sudan, and Archdeacon Sylvester. Christ our hope;
People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the needs and wants of the nations of the world. Enlighten the leaders of the nations to attend to the needs of the lowest and the least, the last and the left-out, that justice and peace may be our strength and equity our common good. Christ our hope;
People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the needs of the sick and suffering. Embolden our love that we may care with compassion for those in need especially Noel, Roger, Ernie, Rosie, Paul, Mary, Max, Ann, the McCart family, and Skip. May they know of the healing love and power of Jesus. Christ our hope;
People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the needs of friends and strangers. Energize this community of faith to reach out with compassion to transform our neighborhoods and communities to reflect the beloved community of peace. We remember those who have asked for our prayers, Linda Rose, Fr. Al and Deacon Dayna, Melissa, Tony, Glenn and Marie, Sally, Virginia, Steve, Todd, the Franek family, Wayne, Akemie, Will, Cindy, Jessica, Jean, and Shirley. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to those who mourn, those who grieve and those who are despondent or depressed. Enable us to be Christ's hands of healing and wholeness that we may be agents of comfort and hope. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: Keep us awake and alert to the shortness of our time. Enfold those who have ended their course on earth and have joined the martyrs and saints in the region of light, especially Cyndie Crawford. May we, in our own time, come to the joys of your eternal reign. Christ our hope;

People: **Shine in our hearts.**

Intercessor: At this time, I bid your intercessions and prayers of thanksgiving, either silently or aloud.

For all who are viewing virtually, you will be "unmuted" at this time to offer your biddings of joy, concern, or thanksgiving. If you are viewing on Facebook, please considering entering them in the comments.

Officiant: O God, 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.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: Let us pray in the way that Christ taught us.

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant: God of all creation, rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

People: **Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the face of Christ in the people with whom we live. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God; that we who have celebrated Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

Officiant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of God With Us, the Christ.

Announcements

Closing Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emanuel

H56

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
7 hearts of all hu man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The Sending

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

People: **Amen.**

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Lists

Our homebound parishioner: Noel

Our parishioners: Roger, Ernie, Rosie, Paul, Mary, Max, Ann, McCart family, and Skip

For those who have asked for prayers: For Linda Rose, Fr. Al & Deacon Dayna, Melissa, Tony, Glenn and Marie, Sally, Virginia, Steve, Todd, the Franek family, Wayne, Akemie, Will, Cindy, Jessica, Jean, and Shirley; first responders, healthcare professionals, and educators who continue to work during this pandemic; medical researchers searching for a vaccine for COVID-19

For those who have died and those who mourn: For Cyndie Crawford, friend of Barb Sacco, who died December 7; for those who have suffered loss from natural disasters across our country; for the law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty in 2020 and their families; and for the youth in St. Louis who have suffered directly from gun violence this year and those whose lives were lost and their families

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: For the people and ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove, and Sally and Warren, their interim priests, and Kevin, their deacon

Companion Diocese of Lui, South Sudan: For Emmanuel Parish, Lui, and Archdeacon Sylvester

For those committed to our ongoing prayers: Deaconess Anne House interns; those discerning a call to ordained ministry; the ministry of the chaplains, staff, volunteers at Episcopal City Mission, and the youth in detention and their families; patients, families, & communities affected by substance use disorders; those suffering from untreated & undertreated pain and chronic diseases; those who serve in our military; those who are affected by COVID-19

Today's Ministers of Worship

Presider	The Rev. Laurie Anzilotti
Deacon	The Ven. Rebecca Barger
Musician	Cheryl Foster
Hymn Leader	Suzanne Jones
Lector	Kathleen McDonald
Intercessor	Janet Houseman
Livestream	Paul Jokerst and Jackie Selle

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