



St. Francis' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

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

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL ARR. HEATHER SORENSON

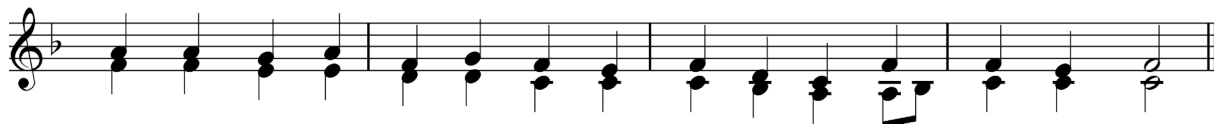
GATHERING HYMN 10:30am

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 *Psalmody Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

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 CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon Let us confess our sins to 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.**

KYRIE ELEISON *At 8:30am, spoken; at 10:30am, sung.*

Presider Lord, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Presider Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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 *Sit*

THE FIRST LESSON

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

At 8:30, all spoken. At 10:30, the congregation sings the antiphon one time through before the sung verses.



I rejoiced when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. *R.*

Jerusalem is built as a city
bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD. *R.*

As it is decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the
LORD.

There were set the thrones for judgment,

the thrones of the house of David. *R.*

For the peace of Jerusalem pray,
"May they prosper, those who love
you."

May peace abide in your walls,
and security be in your towers. *R.*

For the sake of my family and friends,
let me say, "Peace upon you."

For the sake of the house of the LORD,
our God,

I will seek good things for you. *R.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Reader

A reading from the letter to the Romans.

13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

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 A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

24:36-44

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

Deacon Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL ANTIPHON *At 10:30, sing gospel antiphon above again.*

SERMON *Sit*

THE REV. LAURIE ANZILOTTI

THE NICENE CREED *Stand*

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 human.

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.***"

After each prayer, please respond "Shine in our hearts."

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.

People **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 *Sit*

St. Francis' Episcopal Church is grateful for the generosity of all visitors and parishioners who contribute as part of the weekly offertory. If you wish, please place your contribution in the collection plate or use the QR code to give online. These gifts are used to support our parish in addition to parishioners' annual commitments.

THE LITURGY OF THE 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. Representatives of the congregation bring these to the common Eucharistic table.

OFFERTORY 10:30am

SIGNS OF ENDINGS ALL AROUND US

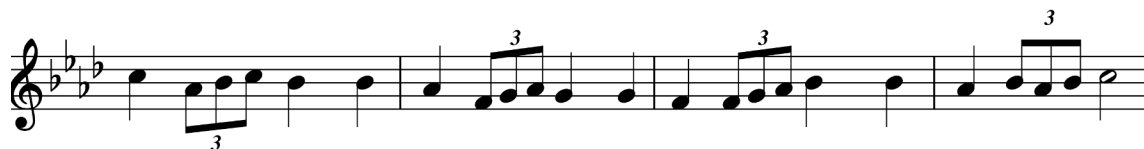
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1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us—dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?
3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.



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.

DOXOLOGY *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 8:30am:

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.

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.

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."

Therefore, according to his command,

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 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 Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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-friendly. 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.

Verses



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



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



Breath of God Most High.
 ho - ly arm and law.
 words for all to hear.
 life in you be - gins.

Ma-ra -

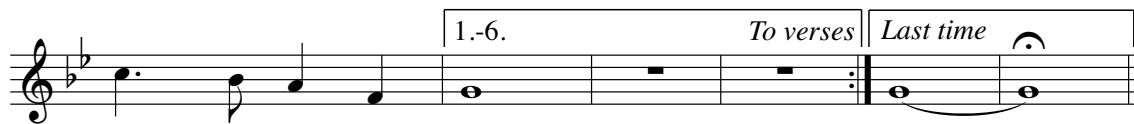
Refrain



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.**



- 1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
 4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,



- 1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
 4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end-ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935).

DISMISSAL

Deacon As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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." Throughout our liturgy we sing of our expectant waiting for God.

AN ADVENT POEM FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER

A Blessing for Advent

by Jan Richardson

from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*

Strange how one word
will so hollow you out.
But this word
has been in the wilderness
for months.
Years.
This word is what remained
after everything else
was worn away
by sand and stone.
It is what withstood
the glaring of sun by day,
the weeping loneliness of
the moon at night.
Now it comes to you
racing out of the wild,
eyes blazing
and waving its arms,
its voice ragged with desert
but piercing and loud

as it speaks itself
again and again:
Prepare, prepare.
It may feel like
the word is leveling you,
emptying you
as it asks you
to give up
what you have known.
It is impolite
and hardly tame,
but when it falls
upon your lips
you will wonder
at the sweetness,
like honey
that finds its way
into the hunger
you had not known
was there.