



# The Season of Advent

St. George's Church ☩ Glenn Dale, Maryland  
The Episcopal Diocese of Washington

*The Third Sunday of Advent*  
**December 13, 2020**

Welcome to St. George's! We are glad to see you this morning, whether in person or virtually. This service booklet has everything you need to fully participate in today's worship service, including scripture readings as well as prayers and music.

This Sunday morning we welcome back the Rev. Todd Thomas as our preacher and celebrant. Todd is the Missioner for Revitalization and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese. Thanks for being with us and helping out at St. George's!

**Prelude: *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Thomas Keesecker (b. 1956)**

**Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #66 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Words: Charles Wesley. Music: *Stuttgart* from *Psalmodia Sacra* adapted by William Henry Havergal. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Come, thou long ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, born a child, and yet a King,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it 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.

**Celebrant:** Blessed are you, holy and living One.

**People:** You come to your people and set them free.

**All pray together:** 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 perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord, Levas # 11

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Pre-*pare* ye the way of the Lord. Pre-*pare* ye the way of the Lord.



Make straight in the des-ert a highway for our God.  
Say to all peo-ple, here is your God.

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray together the Collect of the day: **God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Prayer for Our Country

O God, we pray for your presence with our country and with our leaders, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves. To all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties. To those who make our laws give courage and wisdom; to our courts and judges give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and true justice served. May our leaders be trustworthy and act for the well-being of our society; that all may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name. **Amen.**

### Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 *Read by David Warn*

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. **The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God**

## **Canticle 15: Magnificat**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord: **my spirit rejoices in God my savior,**  
for you Lord have looked with favor on your lowly servant:

**and from this day all generations will call me blessed.**

You O Most Mighty have done great things for me: **and holy is your name.**

You have mercy on those who hold you in awe: **from generation to generation.**

You have shown the strength of your arm: **you have scattered the proud in their conceit.**

You have cast down the mighty from their thrones: **and have lifted up the lowly.**

You have filled the hungry with good things: **and the rich you have sent away empty.**

You have come to the help of your people:

**for you have remembered your promise of mercy,**

the promise you made to our forbears: **to Abraham and his children forever.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Mark. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### **John 1:6-8, 19-28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon:      The Rev. Todd Thomas**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

**We trust in God, Spirit of life, Creator of all that is and all that is to come;  
who surrounds us and fills us; who speaks the Word of life in us; and so we listen.**

**We listen to Jesus, Revealer of God, our brother and teacher;  
who lived in prayer and in love.**

**Listening to God's voice and doing God's will, he gave his life in love;  
but God raised him to life that is eternal; and so we follow him.**

**We follow in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
God alive in us, for the sake of the healing of the world.  
We trust in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection,  
the gift of the universal Church as the body of Christ,  
and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

*Led by Mary Rogers*

We pray this day, mindful that we have at times been a people who walked in darkness; and yet we are confident that we will walk in the light with the coming of Christ.

As our days appear to be shorter and the nights seem to grow longer, we pray in gratitude for the changing seasons that reflect the beauty of creation. We pray for your wisdom and courage to care for your creation and preserve its resources for future generations.

We pray: **Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

We pray this day and throughout the whole season of Advent that the God of John the Baptist will continue to raise up prophets to tell the good news of salvation and call us to repentance and reformation. We pray for the church, for Michael our presiding bishop, Mariann our bishop, Connie our rector, and the community of St. George's. We pray: **Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

We pray for our rector, Connie as she recuperates from her surgery. We raise up her family and friends who give her comfort. Give Connie confidence and peace as her healing proceeds with the reassurance that God's presence surrounds her as she takes each step toward wholeness.

We pray: **Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

In our civil society, we give thanks for leaders who truly care for your people. We ask that all leaders of nations, including our own, may speak the truth, lead with compassion, and act with justice. We honor those who are working for racial justice in our country. We pray that all who are held captive by any form of oppression may find liberation and know new freedom for their hearts. We pray: **Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

We pray this day for any who are in need and cry out for the presence of God. We pray for the children and families of Gaywood Elementary School, for the homeless guests of the Warm Nights program, and for all those in need, especially those who are poor, those who are hungry, and those who are out of work. We pray: **Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

We pray, O God, for your healing presence, especially as the Covid-19 pandemic rages across our country, our community, and the world. We honor especially the front-line health-care workers who serve those who suffer from the virus. We raise up parents and teachers as they care for children in this time of stress. Grace us all with resilience to endure the challenges that face us and strengthen us to reach out to one another. Extend your healing touch to all who suffer in mind, body and spirit. We pray: **Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

We pray, God who gives comfort, for those who have died. We grieve for the more than 268,000 lives lost to the pandemic in our country and for those around the globe who have died, now in excess of 1.4 million. Bring peace for all who mourn. We pray: **Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

We pray in thanksgiving to the God who brings joy for all the blessings of our lives. We pray especially for those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week. For all the blessings of our lives, we pray: **Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

We pray in confidence and hope that as the new light of Christ comes into our world we will sing songs of peace and joy in this world. We pray in the name of the one who has always been with us, and who continually comes anew into our midst. Amen.

## **The Confession and Absolution**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God. *Silence is kept*  
**God of all mercy, we know that we have fallen short: We turn our backs when we could embrace; we remain silent when we could speak; we speak when we could listen. When we could fling the door open, instead we close it; when we could be openhearted, instead we judge. Forgive us O God, and strengthen us to grow into the people you created us to be, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, the will for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **Announcements and Blessings for Birthdays & Anniversaries**

*A St. George's warden or vestry member makes any necessary announcements.*

*The celebrant offers the following prayer for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries:*

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) *N.* and anyone celebrating their birthday or anniversary this week as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Offertory**

*The Celebrant says*

Do good works and share what you have, for these are the sacrifices pleasing to God.

*Traditionally this would be the time for the basket to be passed to receive financial donations from those worshipping in person. For safety reasons, that practice has changed. We encourage you to give electronically wherever possible. You can use your phone to text stgeodragon to 72356. Or just use your web browser to go to [www.onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/Give](http://www.onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/Give).*

*If your bank offers Zelle, you can use your banking app to send a donation via Zelle to [donations@stgeo.comcastbiz.net](mailto:donations@stgeo.comcastbiz.net). There are also baskets at the entrance and exit doors of the Sanctuary for donations of checks or cash. Many thanks for your financial support of St. George's.*



## Offertory Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #438 *Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord*

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith. Music: *Woodlands*, Walter Greatorex. © 1962 Hope Publishing Company.  
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Tell out, my soul the great - ness of the Lord! Un - num - bered  
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his name! Make known his  
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his might! Powers and do-  
Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word! Firm is his



bles - sings give my spi - rit voice; ten - der to me the prom - ise of his  
might, the deeds his arm has done; his mer - cy sure, from age to age the  
- min - ions lay their glo - ry by. Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to  
pro - mise, and his mer - cy sure. Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the



word; in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.  
same; his ho - ly name— the Lord, the Migh - ty One.  
flight, the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
Lord to chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more!

### The Great Thanksgiving

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues*

It is right to give unceasing thanks and boundless praise to you, Holy God, ruler of the universe and giver of life. We thank you for opening our eyes to see your starlit beauty and for offering your word to take our mortal flesh in Jesus, your Son.

He was promised by those who shared your dream of peace; John the Baptist cleared his way with words of desert fire; Mary and Joseph accepted his coming with tenderness and faith; and we know that he draws near again to show us who we really are with honesty and love. And so we take up the song of hope that we might awaken to his coming among us, as we sing:

## ***Holy, holy, holy Lord WLP # 585***

Amerian folk melody Arr. Marcia Power. © Church Pension Fund. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

The musical score is written on four staves in a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line.

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

*The Celebrant continues:*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. Your word of peace has been active from the beginning; your justice has sought incarnation in every age. In the fullness of time you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive your Son through the power of your Holy Spirit.

Expecting his birth she sang of your purpose: The mighty shall be cast down and the humble lifted up; the promise of mercy to Abraham and all his children shall be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

**Glory to you, holy and living God. Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.**

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He pronounced the blessedness of peacemakers, all those who are willing to seek first your Kingdom and your righteousness. Jesus yearned to draw all the world to himself, yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. We returned violence for his friendship, crucifixion for his self-offering. Yet even this you turned to blessing, and transformed his unjust death into the means of salvation.

**Glory to you, holy and living God. Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.**

We remember that on the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise, this memorial of our redemption. Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts and let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. Send your Spirit upon us also, and grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness. Through the abiding presence of Christ, empower us to live the gospel of peace and bring reconciliation to the world in his Name.

**Glory to you, holy and living God. Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.**

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Celebrant: And now in the Spirit of Christ, we pray,

**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. 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 Celebrant says*

Mindful that not all are present physically to receive the sacrament, we pray with those who receive spiritual Holy Communion this day:

**Lord Jesus, in union with your faithful people, we offer to you our praise and thanks. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we pray that you come spiritually into our hearts. Strengthen us with your grace, O Lord, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**



## The Breaking of the Bread

*The bread is broken and silence is kept*

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## The Communion

*Wherever you are on your journey, whatever you believe or don't believe, know that you are welcome at this table. For this is Christ's table, and all are welcome.*



### Communion Hymn: LEVAS #152 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Traditional Spiritual arranged by Carl Haywood from The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals, © 1992  
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Let us break bread to- geth-er on our knees Let us break bread to- geth-er on our knees  
Let us drink wine to- geth-er on our knees. Let us drink wine to- geth-er on our knees



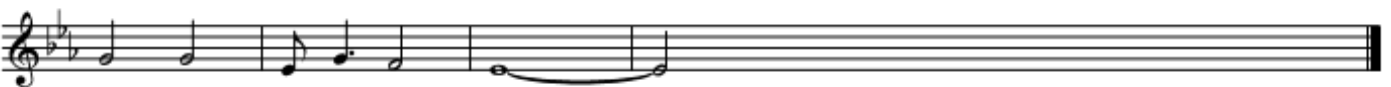
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris-ing sun, Oh Lord, have mer-cy on me.



Let us praise God to- geth-er on our knees. Let us praise God to- geth - er on



our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris-ing sun, Oh



Lord, have mer-cy on me.

## The Prayer of Thanksgiving

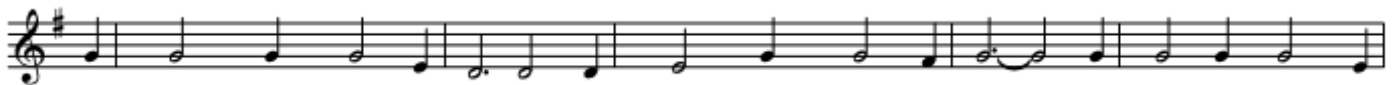
Let us pray: **God of new beginnings, we thank you for drawing near to us in word and sacrament to strengthen us with your love and to renew us for your service. Kindle in us the fire of your Spirit, that your light would so shine through us that all may welcome your Son at his coming. This we ask in the name of Jesus Emmanuel, who was and is and is to come. Amen.**

## The Blessing

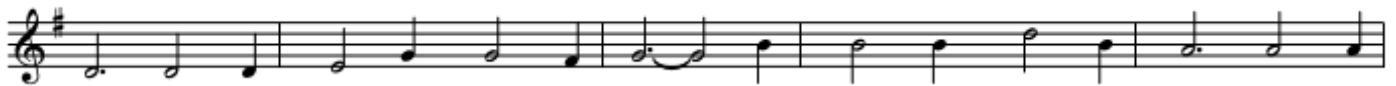
May the God who brings heaven close to earth give truth to our judgment and flame to our longing, that our hearts might be ready to be born again in love; and may the blessing of God Almighty, God who created us, Christ Jesus who gives us new life, and the Holy Spirit who guides and sustains us, be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Dismissal Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #65 *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen. Music: *Bereden vug for Herran* from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Pre - pare the way, O Zi-on, your Christ is draw-ing near! Let ev - ery hill and  
He brings God's rule, O Zi-on; he comes from heaven a - bove. His rule is peace and  
Fling wide your gates, O Zi-on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace. His tid-ings of sal-



val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear. Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-  
free-dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for  
- va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place. All lands will bow be - fore him, their



- told in sa - cred sto - ry  
grace and joy a - bound-ing Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.  
voic - es will a - dore him.

## Dismissal

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People:* Thanks be to God!

**Postlude: *The Quiet Center* by Thomas Keesecker**