



The Third Sunday of Advent

St. George's Church
Glenn Dale Parish
The Episcopal Diocese of Washington
December 17, 2023

Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #56 *O come, Emmanuel*, verses 1, 4-6

Words: Latin 9th century. Music: *Veni, veni Emmanuel*, Plainsong Mode I *Processionale* adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)
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O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest all things might - i - ly;
O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny
O come thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh;



that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
to us the path of know - ledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
that trust thy might - y power to save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.



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

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

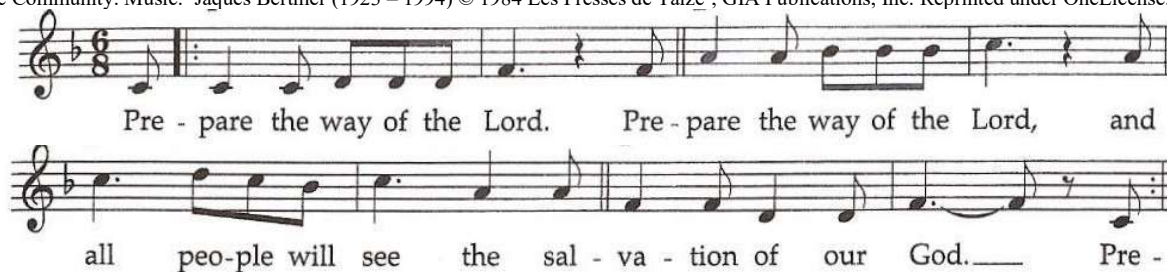
People: You come to your people and set them free.

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.



Gloria: MHSO #61 *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Words: Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier (1923 – 1994) © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and
all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. — Pre -

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together the Collect of the Day:

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 people may be seated

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15: *Magnificat*

And Mary said, My soul proclaims the greatness of our God
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
who has looked with favor on this lowly servant.

*My beloved has noticed me and loved me,
a nobody from among the powerless poor.*

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

*For Love has drawn me from the shadows:
wonderful indeed is the name of our God.*

You O God have done great things for me,
and holy is your Name.

You have mercy on those who hold you in awe
in every generation.

*Your loving-kindness embraces those who are awestruck
with wonder and love, held in eternity's moment in time.*

You have shown the strength of your arm,
and have scattered the proud in their conceit.

*Your gentleness has shown great strength;
the proud have been scattered in the fantasies of their minds.*

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

*Those drunk with imperial power
have fallen from their arrogant thrones.*

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

*The dispossessed on the scrapheap
have been empowered one with another.*

The homeless and the hungry have been fed their share of the harvest.

*The greedy who hold on to their wealth
have seen it all crumble and vanish.*

You have come to the help of your servant Israel,
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,

*Just and compassionate God, giving a new name
to the deprived and invisible,
you fulfill your covenants of promise.*

The promise you made to our ancestors,
To Abraham and Sarah and their children forever.



Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of this people:

it seemed to us like a dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter:

and our tongues uttered shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations:

“The Lord has done great things for them.”

Great things indeed the Lord has done for us:

and therefore we are glad.

Restore again our fortunes O Lord:

as when streams refresh the southern dry-lands.

Those who sow in tears:

shall reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping with seed for sowing:

shall come back in gladness bringing their sheaves with them.

At the conclusion of the psalm, all say together

Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Gospel Hymn: Wonder, Love and Praise #722 *The Desert Shall Rejoice* (Verses 1, 4-6)

Words: Gracia Grindal (b.1943). Music: *Sterling*. Joy F. Patterson (b. 1931). © 1983 Hope Publishing Company.

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The musical notation is written on two staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a time signature of 6/8. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The des - ert shall re - joice and blos - som as a rose:

It shall blos - som a - bun - dant - ly and re - joice with praise and sing - ing.
For the ground will be - come a pool and the dry land springs of wa - ter.
as the ran - somed re - turn to God and come sing - ing back to Zi - on.
un - to Zi - on we come with joy, for our God has come to save us.



Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon: The Rev. Connie Reinhardt

The Creed: Wonder, Love and Praise #768 *I believe in God almighty*

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993) © 1991 GIA Publications. Music: *Domhnach Trionoide* Gaelic melody © 1991 GIA Publications
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I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that
I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -
I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with -
be, Ma - ker of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and
- fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied - True Life there had tru - ly
- in one church cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from
sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for us both Lord and
died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was raised up from the
sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion for the break - ing of death's
Christ, of the Spir - it and of Ma - ry born to bring a - bun - dant life.
grave, then as - cend - ed to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.
chain gives the light that's ev - er - last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

The Prayers of the People

In this season of preparation for your birth, Lord Jesus, we wait for that time your prophet will say, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Stir up your might and come to save us as we look forward to your holy restoration. We pray, saying **Come O Come Emmanuel**.

In these waning days of autumn, we pray in gratitude for the changing seasons that reflect the beauty of creation. For your wisdom and courage to care for your creation and preserve its resources for future generations, we pray: **Come O Come Emmanuel**.

In this season when we remember the challenging words of John the Baptist, we pray that you will continue to raise up prophets to tell the good news of salvation and call us to repentance and reformation. 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**.

In our civil society, we give thanks for leaders who take seriously their call to serve. We ask that all leaders of nations speak the truth, lead with compassion, and act with justice. That all who are held captive by any form of oppression may find liberation, we pray: **Come, O Come Emmanuel**.

In this land of plenty, we pray for those who lack the basic necessities of life. For the children and families of Gaywood Elementary School and the guests of the Warm Nights program, for those served by the Bowie Food Pantry and the International Students Office, for all in need, especially those who are poor, those who are hungry, and those who are out of work, we pray:
Come, O Come Emmanuel.

In a time when so many need healing, we pray for your wholeness, O God. Grace us all with resilience to endure the challenges we face and strengthen us to reach out to one another. For those who suffer, those who are sick, for those on our parish prayer list and those we remember in our hearts. *The people may add their own petitions.* We pray: **Come, O Come Emmanuel**.

In the midst of life, we also face the realities of death. O God who gives comfort, we pray for those who have died, that they find their eternal home with you. *The people may add their own petitions.* For the departed and for all who mourn, we pray: **Come, O Come Emmanuel**.

We pray in thanksgiving to you O God, bringer of joy, 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 to you, O Christ, as we await your birth with anticipation and joy. Come Lord Jesus! **Amen**.

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Now let us confess our sins to God. *Silence is kept.*

Jesus, you came to call us to repentance: **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to share your life abundant: **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come again in glory to renew the whole creation: **Lord, have mercy.**

God for whom we wait and watch, we ask you to forgive us the wrongs we have done, and help us turn again to you, that we may serve you with whole hearts as we wait for your coming in Christ Jesus, our Redeemer. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Blessings for Birthdays & Anniversaries

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) 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

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering holy and acceptable to God.

Offertory Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #438 *Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord*

Words: Timothy Dudley Smith (b. 1926) based on the *Song of Mary*. © 1962 Hope Publishing Company

Music: *Woodlands*, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949) Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



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!

Although St. George's no longer physically "passes the basket" everyone is invited and encouraged to make a financial offering to express your gratitude to God for the gifts we are given and in support of our mission and ministries. We encourage you to give electronically; you can text stgeodragon to 72356. (Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.) Or just use your web browser to go to www.onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/Give. You may also donate via Zelle to donations@stgeorgesglennedale.org. or Cash App to send your donation to \$StGeorgesGlennDale

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.**

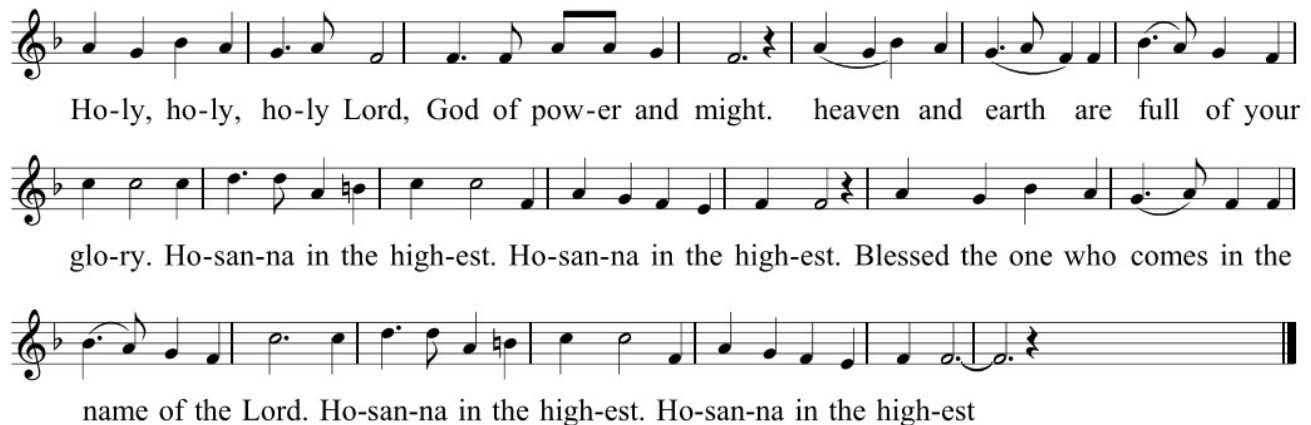
It is right to give unceasing thanks and boundless praise to you, Holy God, ruler of the universe and giver of life. We thank you for opening our eyes to see your starlit beauty and for offering your word to take our mortal flesh in Jesus, your Son.

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:

Sanctus: Hymnal 1982 #S125

Setting: Richard Proulx (b. 1937) from *A Community Mass*. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



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 the one who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is your son, Jesus Christ. For he is the Word that brought order to chaos, by bringing all things into being and breathing Spirit into the dust.

Christ is the Light that overcame the darkness, shining from the dawn of creation to the daybreak of your eternal realm.

Christ is the Water that quenches our thirst, flowing from the hearts of believers and springing up into eternal life.

Christ is the Bread that rises from the earth, feeding the poor and hungry, giving us wisdom and strength for each day.

Christ is the Vine that connects all creation, binding us together in the unity of the Spirit, causing us to bear fruit for the world.

Christ is the Life that death could not destroy, who gave his life in love for the world, who lives and reigns forever.

And so in thanksgiving for all that Christ Jesus has been, is and will be, we remember that on the night before he was betrayed, Jesus was at table with his friends. Looking at them, Jesus loved them; and then he took bread, blessed it and gave it to them saying "Take; eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup, blessed it and gave it to them saying, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for all. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we give thanks to you O God for your creation and for this bread and this wine as we sing praises to you:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ and send us out to be Christ's body for the world.

Hasten the coming of the day when the wolf shall live in peace with the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: The Living Christ is in our midst, and so with Christ we pray:

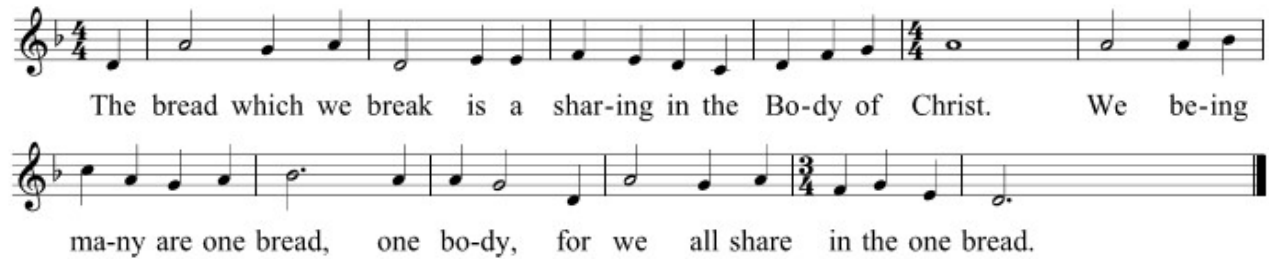
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The bread is broken. After a time of silence, all sing together

Fraction Hymn: Wonder, Love and Praise # 867 *The bread which we break*

Setting: Carl Haywood (b. 1949) from Fraction Anthems, Canticles and Chants © 1997 Carl Haywood. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



The bread which we break is a shar-ing in the Bo-dy of Christ. We be-ing
ma-ny are one bread, one bo-dy, for we all share in the one bread.

Celebrant: 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.

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.

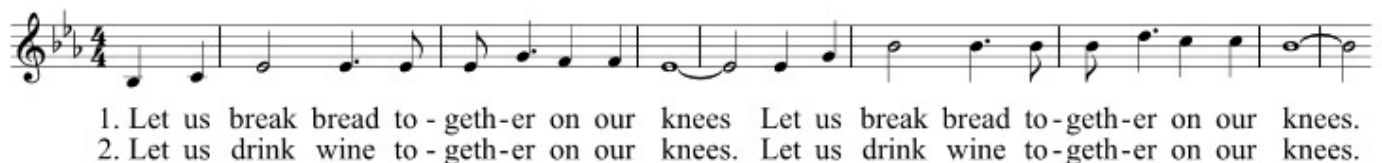
The Communion

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.

If you would like to receive a blessing rather than the bread and wine, please indicate this to the Celebrant by crossing your arms in front of your chest.

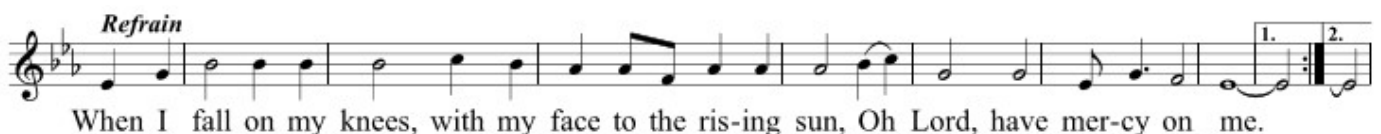
Communion Hymn 1: LEVAS #152 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Traditional Spiritual Arr. Carl Haywood from *The Haywood Collection* © 1992 Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



1. Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees Let us break bread to-geth-er on our knees.
2. Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees. Let us drink wine to-geth-er on our knees.

Refrain



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

3. Let us praise God to-gether on our knees. Let us praise God to-gether on our knees.

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

Communion Hymn 2: LEVAS #103 *Steal Away*

Words and Music: Traditional Spiritual Arranged by Edward C. Deas. © Sunday School Publishing Board.
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Steal a - way, steal a - way, steal a - way to Je - sus!

Steal a - way, steal a - way home, I ain't got long to stay here!

My Lord calls me, He calls me by the thun - der.
Green trees are bend - ing, Poor sin - ner stands a - tremb - ling;
Tomb - stones are burst - ing, Poor sin - ner stands a - tremb - ling;
My Lord calls me, He calls me by the light - ning.

D.C.

The trum-pet sounds with-in-a my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray: **Gracious God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, we thank you for feeding us at this your table of life and hope. Help us who have shared in the joy of this Eucharist to know the Lord deep within us, and grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Announcements

The Blessing

Celebrant: May God be with you as you keep watch for the One whose Advent is promised. **Amen.**
May God embolden your witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way. **Amen.**
May you be found ready at Christ's return, at peace in body, mind and spirit. **Amen.**
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: Wonder, Love, and Praise #724 *People Look East*

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) © 1957 Eleanor Farjeon; Harold Ober Associates, Inc.

Music: *Bescancon Carol* harmony by John L. Hooker (b. 1944) © 1997 John L. Hooker Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Peo - ple look East, The time is near of the crown - ing of the year.
Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed there:
Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.



Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may flour-ish.
E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.



Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the guest is on the way.
Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the rose is on the way.
Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the bird is on the way.
Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the star is on the way.
Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the Lord is on the way.

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Christmas Services at St. George's

Sunday, December 24: 5 p.m. Family Service with Pageant

This service includes the Christmas pageant followed by Holy Communion, a wonderful celebration of the magic and mystery of Christmas Eve.

Sunday, December 24: 9:00 pm Festive Eucharist

This service of Holy Communion begins with special music by the choir. Come and celebrate Jesus' birth with word and song, bread and wine. Joy to the world!

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day 9:00 a.m. Eucharist

We continue the celebration of the Incarnation
with a service of Holy Communion on Christmas Day.

Sunday, December 31: The First Sunday of Christmas 8 & 10 am

8:00 am Quiet Eucharist

10:00 am Christmas Lessons and Carols: a service

with scripture readings, poetry, and Christmas hymns, with Holy Communion.