



The Season of Advent

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

The Fourth Sunday of Advent **December 20, 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 The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Phillips as our preacher and celebrant. The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Phillips is the Canon for Leadership Development and Congregational Care for the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. His portfolio includes managing the ordination process and transition ministry, facilitating mediation and conflict resolution sessions, conducting retreats, strategic ministry reviews and other diocesan initiatives based upon congregational needs. He is also a member of the Task Force on Ministry to Individuals with Mental Illness Interim Body for the Office of General Convention. Prior to his diocesan position, he was Chaplain and Religion Teacher for the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys, Priest-in-Charge for Church of Our Saviour, Brookland Parish, Assistant Rector for Church of Our Saviour, Hillandale Parish, and Episcopal Chaplain for the University of Maryland. Thank you for being with us and helping out at St. George's!

Prelude: *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* arr. Thomas Keesecker (b. 1956)

Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #56 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Words: Latin 9th Century. Music: *Veni, veni Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode I adapted by Thomas Helmore Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



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;
O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the hearts of hum - man-kind;



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.
bid thou our sad di - vi - sons cease, and be thy self our King of peace.



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.

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord, Levas # 11

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Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together the Collect of the day: **Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever 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.**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Read by Karen Sharp

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

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

I will sing of your steadfast love forever O Lord:

my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness from one generation to another.

For your love is such as to endure forever:

your faithfulness is established as firm as the heavens.

You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen: **I have sworn to David my servant,**

I will establish your posterity forever: and uphold your throne for all generations."

Once in a vision to your servant you said:

"I have set the crown upon one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.

I have found David my servant: and with my holy oil I have anointed him.

My hand shall always be with him: and my arm shall give him strength.

The enemy shall never outwit him: nor the wicked bring him low.

I will beat down his foes before him: and vanquish those who hate him.

My faithfulness and constant love shall be with him:

and through my name his head shall be lifted high.

I will stretch out his hand to the Sea: and his right hand as far as the River."

He will say to me, "You are my father: my God and the rock of my salvation"

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

Luke 1:26-38

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

The Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Phillips

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 William Bultman

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 300,000 lives lost to the pandemic in our country and for those around the globe who have died, now in excess of 1.6 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. If your bank offers Zelle, you can use your banking app to send a donation via Zelle to donations@stgeo.comcastbiz.net. Many thanks for your financial support of St. George's.

Offertory Hymn: Wonder, Love & Praise #724 *People, Look East*

Words: Eleanor Farjeon © 1957 Eleanor Farjeon. Music: Besancon Carol, harm John L. Hooker © 1997 John L. Hooker

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



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



ta - ble. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
flour - ish. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
cho - sen. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
- geth - er. Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
com - ing. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

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

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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff 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.

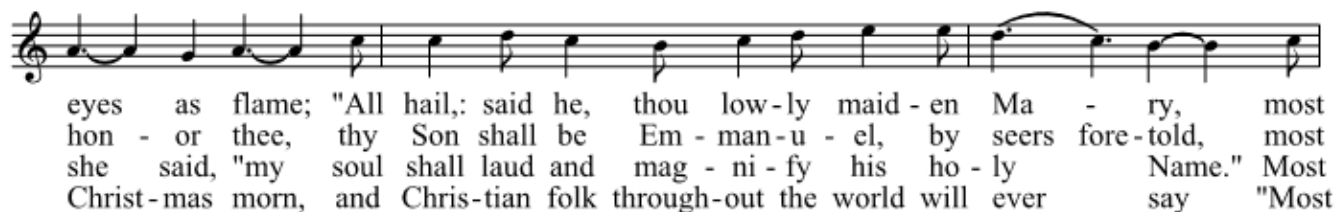
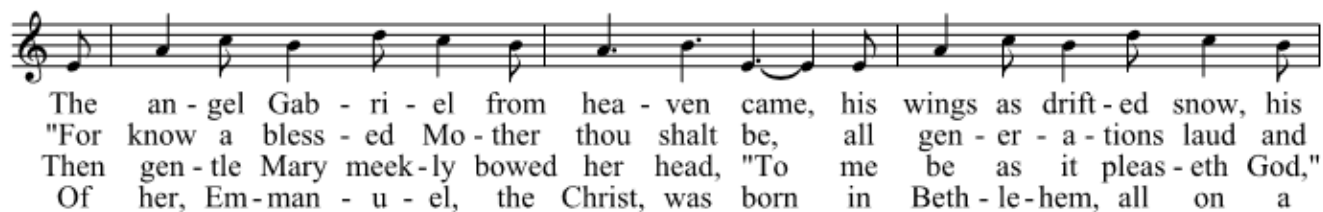
Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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: Hymnal 1982 # 265 *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

Words: Basque Carol paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould. Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



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: Gather # 485

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City of God

Text & Tune: Dan Schutte, b. 1947;
acc. by Robert J. Batastini, b. 1942

Verses 1, 2

1. A - wake from your slum - ber! A - rise from your sleep!
2. We are sons of the morn - ing; we are daugh - ters of day.

A new day is dawn - ing for all those who weep.
The One who has loved us has bright - ened our way.

The peo - ple in dark - ness_ have seen a great light.
The Lord of all kind - ness_ has called us to be

The Lord of our long - ing has con - quered the night.
a light for his peo - ple to set their hearts free.

Refrain

Let us build the cit - y of God. May our tears be turned in - to danc - ing!
For the Lord, our light and our love, has turned_ the night in - to day!

Verse 3

3. God_ is light;_ in him there is no dark - ness. Let us walk_
in his light, his chil - dren, one and all.

O com - fort my peo - ple; make gen - tle your words. Pro - claim to my
cit - y_ the day of her birth._ D.S.

Verse 4

4. O cit - y of glad - ness, now lift up your voice. D.S.

Pro - claim the good tid - ings that all may re - joice!

Gather 485 2010.05.02

Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: *Creator of the Stars of Night* arr. Thomas Keesecker