



# The Season of Advent

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

*The Second Sunday of Advent*  
**December 6, 2020**

*Welcome to St. George's! We are glad to see you this morning, whether in person or virtually.*

This Sunday we welcome The Rev. Canon Andrew Walter. Canon Walter serves the Diocese of Washington as Canon for Collaboration and Administration. In this role, he oversees the finance, governance and administrative affairs of the Diocese and works closely with the Regional Deans to strengthen the relationships between parish leaders within each region and across the Diocese. Prior to joining diocesan staff, he served as Rector of Grace Episcopal Church and Day School for almost nine years. Thanks for being with us at St. George's!

**Prelude: *On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand* arr. Ken Medema (b. 1943)**

**Opening Anthem: *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord* from Godspell by Stephen Schwartz**

*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: **Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and 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.**

### **Isaiah 40:1-11** *Read by Alix Volel-Stech*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

### **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

Lord you were once gracious to your land: you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**You forgave the offence of your people and covered all their sins.**

Let me hear what you will say O Lord: **for you will speak peace to your people, to your servants whose hearts are turned to you.**

For deliverance is at hand for those who fear you:

**so that your glory may dwell in our land.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met together: **justice and peace have embraced each other.**

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground:

**and righteousness will look down from heaven.**

You Lord will give prosperity: **and our land shall yield its harvest.**

Justice shall go before you: **and the path for your feet shall be peace**

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

**Mark 1:1-8**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon:      The Rev. Canon Andrew Walter**

**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 Brother Ed Munro, BSG*

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 Emanuel.**

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 Emanuel.**

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 Emanuel.**

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 Emanuel.**

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 Emanuel.**

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 Emanuel.**

We pray, God who gives comfort, for those who have died. We grieve for the more than 265,000 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 Emanuel.**

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 Emanuel.**

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 #76 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Words: Charles Coffin, tran Charles Winfred Douglas. Music: Winchester New from Musicalishes hand-Buch.

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On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a -  
Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make straight the way for God with - in, and  
For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our re - fuge and our great re - ward; with -  
To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine  
All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom



- wake and heark-en, for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
let each heart pre-pare a home where such a might-y guest may come.  
- out thy grace we waste a - way like flowers that wi-ther and de - cay.  
forth, and let thy light re-store earth's own true love-li - ness once more.  
with the Fa - ther we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it 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**

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

The musical score is written on four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases ending in a fermata. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values and rests. The third staff concludes the phrase with a final note and a fermata. The fourth staff repeats the final phrase of the hymn.

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 Anthem: *He Shall Feed His Flock from Messiah*

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd  
And He shall gather the lambs with His arm  
And carry them in his bosom and gently lead those that are with young

Come unto Him all ye that labour  
Come unto Him, ye that are heavy laden  
And He will give you rest

Take his yoke upon you and learn of Him  
For He is meek and lowly of heart  
And ye shall find rest, and ye shall find rest unto your souls



## 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 #67 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

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Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,  
Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er pla - ces plain:



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.  
call - ing us to new re - pent - ance since the king - dom now is here.  
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

## Dismissal

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

*People:* **Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude: Day By Day by Stephen Schwartz (b. 1948)**