



The Second Sunday of Advent

St. George's Church
Glenn Dale Parish
The Episcopal Diocese of Washington
December 10, 2023

Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #59 *Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding*

Words: Latin ca. 6th century; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861. Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).
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Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
 so when next he comes with glo-ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son,



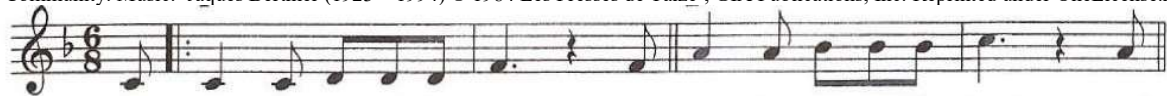
"Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, O ye chil-dren of the day."
 Christ our sun all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
 let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for-given;
 may he with his mer-cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 with the ev-er last-ing Spi-rit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

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: Taize Community. Music: Jaques Berthier (1923 – 1994) © 1984 Les Presses de Taize, 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:

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.

The people may be seated

Isaiah 40:1-11

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.

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

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 sin.

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.

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: LEVAS #6 *Christ is Coming*

Words and Music: from Advent Jazz Vespers II adapted by Edward V. Bonnemere. © Amity Music Corporation.
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Christ is com-ing: Pre - pare the way. Christ is com-ing: Pre - pare the way.

The first line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). It consists of two phrases of music, each ending with a repeat sign and a 'Fine' marking. The lyrics 'Christ is com-ing: Pre - pare the way.' are written below the notes.



Christ is com - ing. Christ is com - ing.

The second line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a complex time signature that changes between measures: 2/4, 4/4, 2/4, 4/4, 2/4, and 4/4. It ends with a repeat sign and a 'D.C.' (Da Capo) marking. The lyrics 'Christ is com - ing. Christ is com - ing.' are written below the notes.



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

People: **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.”

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 #65 *Prepare the way, O Zion*

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmadia Sacra, oder Audachtige und Schone Gesange* 1715
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Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Refrain
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

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.**

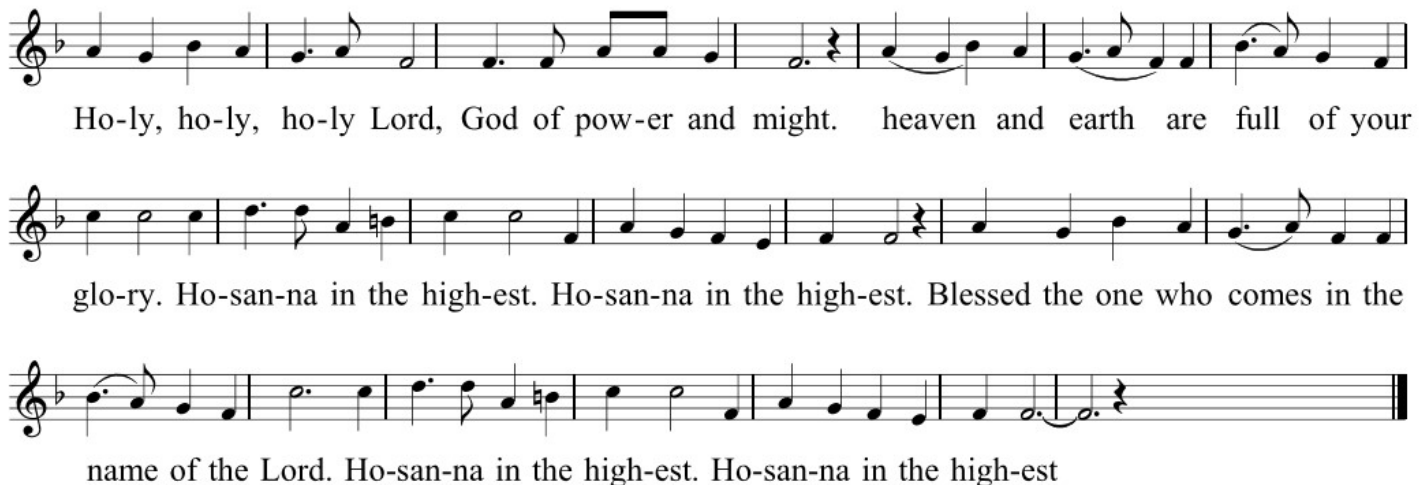
It is right to give unceasing thanks and boundless praise to you, Holy God, ruler of the universe and giver of life. We thank you for opening our eyes to see your starlit beauty and for offering your word to take our mortal flesh in Jesus, your Son.

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:

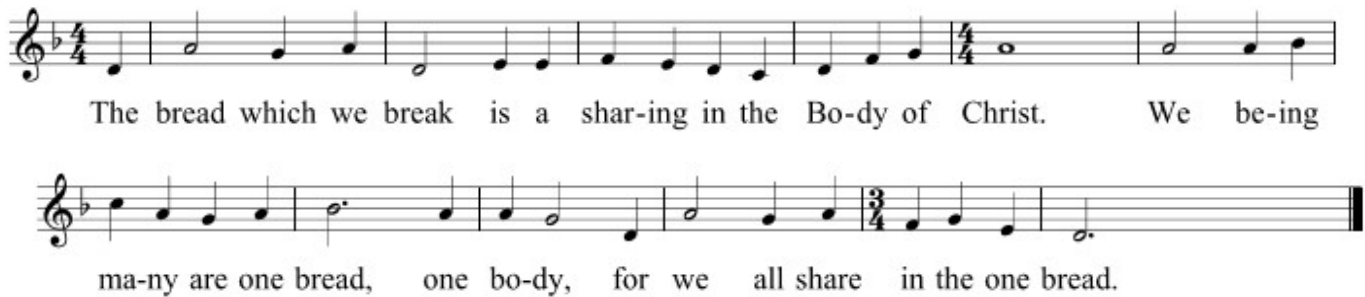
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. 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

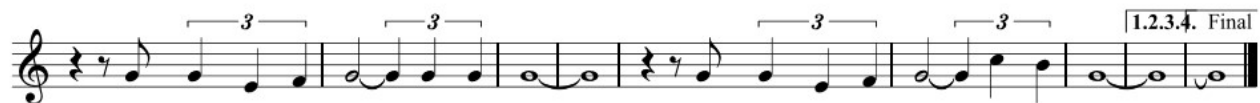
Wherever you are on your journey, whatever you believe or don't believe, know that you are welcome at this table. For this is Christ's table, and all are welcome.

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 #11 *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*

Words: Isaiah 40:3-4,9. Music: James E. Moore, Jr. © 1992 G.I.A. Publications. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



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



Make straight in the des - ert a high-way for our God.
Fill ev-'ry val - ley, bring all moun-tains low.
Go up to a moun-tain and shout with a loud voice.
Say to all peo - ple here is your God.

Communion Hymn 2: Gather #256 *Wait for the Lord*

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7. The Taize Community, 1984. Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) © 1984 Les Presses de Taize, G.I.A Publications. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart.

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: Hymnal 1982 #67 *Comfort, comfort ye my people*

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) Music: *Psalm 42* Claude Groudimel (1514-1572)
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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.

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.