



The Season of Advent Fourth Sunday of Advent St. George's Church

Glenn Dale Parish
The Episcopal Diocese of Washington

December 19, 2021

Welcome to St. George's! We are glad to see you this morning, whether in person or virtually. Zoom participants are encouraged to leave your video camera on or turn it off; at certain points during the service participants in the sanctuary will see the gallery view of those taking part in the service via Zoom.

Prelude: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, arr. Cindy Berry (b. 1949)

Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1985 # 56 O come, O come, Emmanuel, verses 1,5-8 only.

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 Key of Dav - id, come, and o - pen wide our heaven - ly home;
O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy draw - ing night;
O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the hearts of hum - man - kind;
O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,



that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
bid thou our sad di - vi - sions cease, and be thy self our King of peace.
that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Re-joyce! Re-joyce! 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.

Song of Praise: My Heart Sings Out # 61 Prepare the way of the Lord – Sung three times

Canon

1
Pre - pare the way of the Lord.

2
Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and

3
all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

4

Text: Taize Community. Music: Jaques Berthier (1923 – 1994) © 1984 Les Presses de Taize', GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

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: **Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

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

Psalm 80: 1-7

Hear O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock:

shine forth from your throne upon the cherubim.

Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:

stir up your strength and come to our rescue.

Restore us again O God: **show us the light of your face and we shall be saved.**

O Lord God of hosts: **how long will you set your face against your people's prayer?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears:

and given them tears in plenty to drink.

You make a mockery of us to our neighbors:

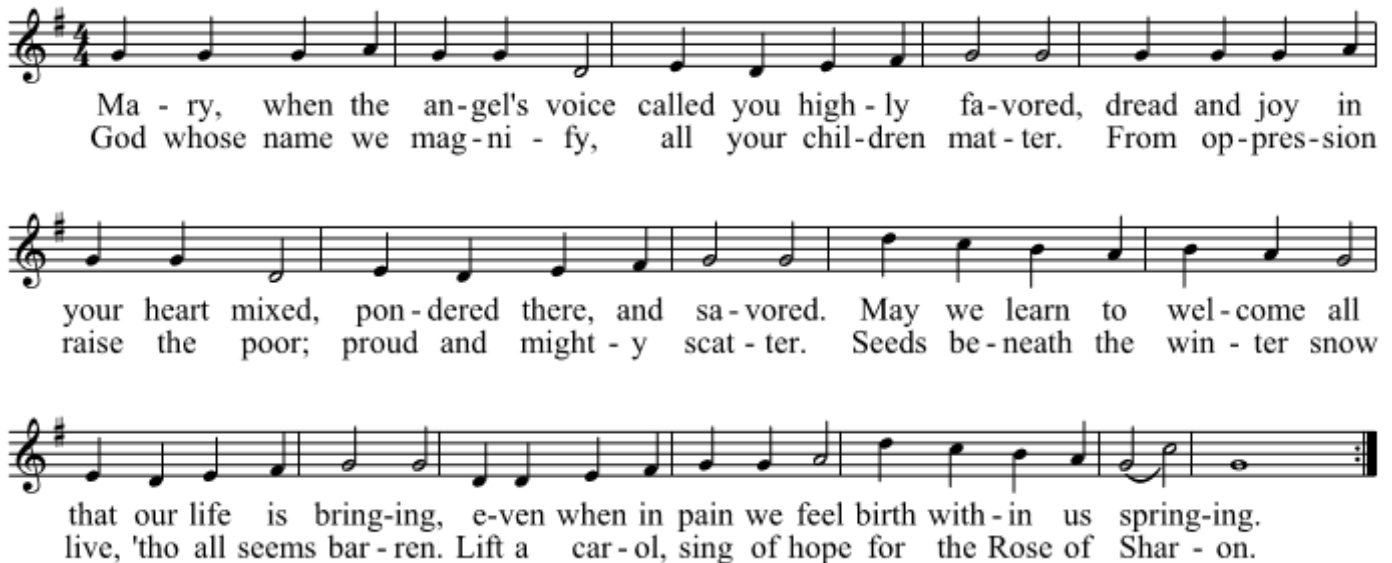
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us again O God of hosts:

show us the light of your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Hymn: Voices Found #64 *Mary, when the angel's voice* verses 1 & 4

Words: Carol Goodwin King © 1997 Carol Goodwin King. Music: *Tempus adest floridum* from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582
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Ma - ry, when the an-gel's voice called you high - ly fa-vored, dread and joy in
God whose name we mag-ni - fy, all your chil-dren mat-ter. From op-pres-sion

your heart mixed, pon-dered there, and sa-vored. May we learn to wel-come all
raise the poor; proud and might - y scat-ter. Seeds be-neath the win-ter snow

that our life is bring-ing, e-ven when in pain we feel birth with-in us spring-ing.
live, 'tho all seems bar-ren. Lift a car-ol, sing of hope for the Rose of Shar-on.

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

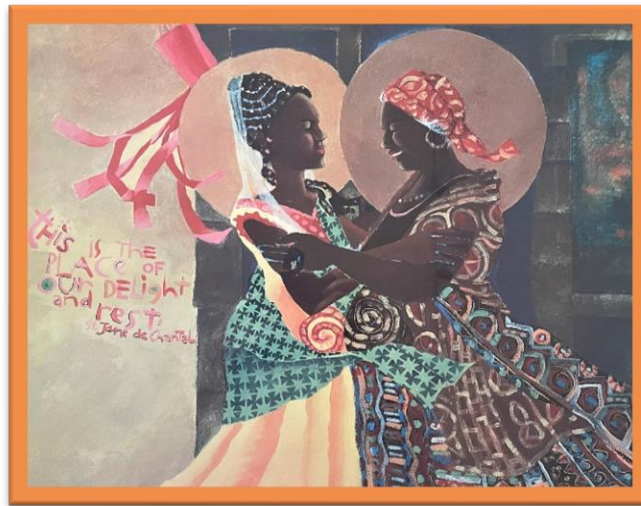
Luke 1: 39 – 55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord: **People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**



The Sermon The Rev. Connie Reinhardt

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God
the Father, the Almighty
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
Begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins,
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

That after the example of Mary, we may live as faithful servants of God, let us offer our intercessions, as we say: God of all creation, equip us to serve you.

Holy One, we give you thanks for the peace of this place. We pray for all who go forth from here, empowered by your Spirit. Bless our work in the world and the ministries you entrust to us. God of all creation: **Equip us to serve you.**

Look with compassion upon all the nations of the earth. Help communities in trouble to flourish again. Raise up servant leaders in abundance, that the human family may walk in the ways of your peace. God of all creation: **Equip us to serve you.**

Holy One, make us attentive to your word and ready to do your will. We pray for expectant parents and for those adopting children. We remember before you children in places of danger or violence. We pray for the grieving, the lonely, and those without guidance. God of all creation: **Equip us to serve you.**

Sustain all who are in special need, and guide us in our support of them. We remember everyone on our parish prayer list along with others we name before you (*offer names*). God of all creation: **Equip us to serve you.**

We pray for people away from home, for travelers, for refugees and prisoners, and for people who have no home. God of all creation: **Equip us to serve you.**

As we anticipate our Savior's birth, so we pray for people marking other joyous occasions. God of all creation: **Equip us to serve you.**

We give thanks for those who have faithfully served you in the past and now enjoy the vision of your glory. Some of the departed we remember by name (*offer names*). May we find our inheritance with them in the age to come.

God of all creation: **Equip us to serve you.**

Celebrant: Pour your grace into our hearts, Holy One, that we who have known the incarnation of your Child Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through the same Christ our Savior. **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

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

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

Many thanks for your financial support of St. George's. 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. There are also baskets at the entrance and exit doors of the Sanctuary for donations of checks or cash.

Offertory Hymn: Wonder, Love and Praise # 722 The Desert shall rejoice

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The des - ert shall re - joice and blos - som as a rose. It shall
For the
For the
For the



blos - som a - bun - dant - ly and re - joice with praise and sing - ing.
ears of the deaf shall hear and the blind, their eyes be o - pened.
tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame will dance with glad - ness.
ground will be - come a pool and the dry land springs of wa - ter.



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:

We give thanks to you, Holy One, that the days are surely coming when all the world will see the fulfillment of your promise of salvation. You alone are our righteousness, our only hope for justice and peace.

We rejoice and sing to you with gladness, for you have renewed us by your love, restoring the fortunes of the lost, gathering up the broken and outcast, and giving them a home in you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sanctus: Gather # 144 *Holy, holy, holy*

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen (b. 1950) © 1964 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
Blessed is the one 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:

We give you thanks O God for sending Jesus to be our way in the wilderness: at his word, every valley is lifted and every mountain made low; in his body, all flesh shall see your saving power.

Born of Mary, Jesus Christ is our salvation and strength, the fulfillment of your word and the hope of generations. For he lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things.

And so we remember that on the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Gracious God, we ask you to pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts that they may be the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world.

Guard our hearts and minds by the power of Christ Jesus. Speak to our anxieties with the peace that passes understanding, and let our gentleness and joy be a sign of his gracious presence.

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

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now let us pray with confidence the words our Savior has taught us:

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 and silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: Wonder, Love, and Praise # 878 *Whoever Comes to Me*

Sung twice: first by the choir alone, and then with the congregation joining.

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



Who-ev-er comes to me shall not hun-ger and who-ev-er be-lieves in me shall nev-er thirst.

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

If you would like to receive the Eucharist, you may choose to receive both the bread and wine or only one of them. If you receive the wine, please drop your empty cup into the recycling bin at the door. Note that hand sanitizer is available as you exit. Please follow the arrows to go through the narthex (hallway) and back into the Sanctuary and on to your seat.

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: *Gabriel's Message* arr. Tony Alonso

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame.

"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady."

Gloria!

"How blest among all women you shall be, whom every age will praise continually.

Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady."

Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. "To me may be as it pleases God," she said.

"My soul should laud and magnify God's holy name." Most highly favored lady,

Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.

And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady."

Gloria!

Communion Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #60 *Creator of the stars of night*

Words: Latin, 9th century; verses *Hymnal 1940*. Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light.
In sor - row that the an - cient curse should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
At your great Name, O Je - sus now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
Come to your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.
you came, O Sa - vior, to set free your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
not as a mon - arch, but the child of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.
all things on earth with one ac - cord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
de - fend us while we dwell be - low from all as - saults of our dread foe.
praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Post Communion Prayer)

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: 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
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 Dismissal

With love and compassion, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

With judgement and mercy, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

In power and glory, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

In wisdom and truth, **Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Postlude: *The Quiet Center* by Thomas Keesecker (b. 1956)