



The First Sunday of Advent

St. George's Church

Glenn Dale Parish

The Episcopal Diocese of Washington

December 3, 2023

Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #57 *Lo! He comes, with clouds descending*

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Helmsley*, melody Augustine Arne (1710-1778). Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for our sal -
 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in dread - ful
 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his daz - zling
 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -

- va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him,
 bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;

swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture, with what
 claim the king - dom for thine own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

- lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture, with what rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

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

Canon

1 2

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and

3 4

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

The image shows a musical score for a canon in 6/8 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff is labeled '1' and '2' above it, and the second staff is labeled '3' and '4' above it. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The second staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

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.

As for those who burn it with fire, and cut it down:

let them perish at the frown of your face.

Let your hand rest upon the one at your right hand:

the one you have made so strong for your service.

Then we will never forsake you:

O give us life, and we will call upon your name.

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 #13 *My Lord, What a Morning*

Words and Music: Traditional Spiritual. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn - ing, My Lord, what a morn - ing, O



my Lord, what a morn-ing, When the stars be-gin to fall.



You'll hear the trum - pet sound, To wake the na-tions un-der ground,
You'll hear the sin - ner mourn, To wake the na-tions un-der ground,
You'll hear the Chris-tian shout, To wake the na-tions un-der ground,

D.C.



Look-ing to my God's right hand, When the stars be-gin to fall.
Look-ing to my God's right hand, When the stars be-gin to fall.
Look-ing to my God's right hand, When the stars be-gin to fall.

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

Mark 13:24–37

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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 - live 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 - live 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, 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.

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 73256. (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

Hymnal 1982 #66 *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: Stuttgart from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andachtliche und Schone Gesange*, 1715
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Come, thou long ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, born a child, and yet a King,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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 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 this bread and this wine as we sing praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**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: Gather #252 *My Soul in Stillness Waits*

Words and Music: Marty Haugen (b. 1950). © 1982 G.I.A. Publications. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.



O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glor - y, your ra - diance
O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its, our thirst - y
O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us, and in your
O Key of Know - ledge, guide us in our pil - grim age, we ev - er
Come, let us bow be - fore the God who made us, let ev - 'ry
Here we shall meet the Ma - ker of the heav - ens, Cre - a - tor



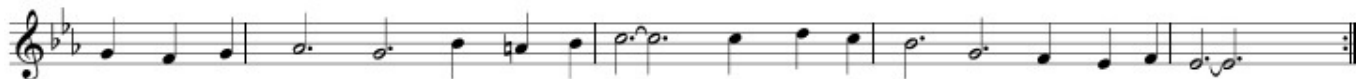
shines in all who look to you, come, light the hearts of all in dark and shad ow.
hearts are yearn - ing for you Word, come, make us whole, be com - fort to our hearts.
ad - vent, draw us all to you, our hope re - born in dy - ing and in ris ing.
seek, yet un - ful - filled re - main, o - pen to us the path - way of your peace.
heart be o - pened to the Lord, for we are all the peo - ple of his hand.
of the moun - tains and the seas, Lord of the stars, and pres - ent to us now.

Communion Hymn 2: LEVAS #145 *Have Thine Own Way, Lord!*

Words: Adelaide A. Pollard (1862-1934). Music: George C. Stebbins (1846-1945) Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou art the pot-ter I am the clay!
Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Search me and try me, Mas-ter, to - day!
Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Wound-ed and wea-ry, Help me, I pray!
Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Hold o'er my be-ing Ab - so-lute sway!



Mold me and make me Aft - er thy will, While I am wait-ing, Yield-ed and still.
Pur - er than snow, Lord, Wash me just now As in thy pres-ence Hum-bly I bow.
Pow - er all pow - er Sure - ly is thine! Touch me and heal me, Sav - ior di - vine!
Fill with thy Spir - it 'Til all shall see Christ on - ly, al - ways, Liv - ing in me!

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 #640 *Watchman, tell us of the night*

Words: John Bowring (1792-1872). Music: *Aberystwyth*. Joseph Parry (1841-1903). Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Watch - man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise are.
Watch - man, tell us of the night, high - er yet that star a - scends.
Watch - man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to dawn.



Trav - eler, o'er yon moun - tain's height, see that glo - ry beam - ing star.
Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its course por - tends.
Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror are with - drawn.



Watch - man does its beau - teous ray aught of joy or hope fore - tell?
Watch - man, will its beams a - lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Watch - man, let thy wan - derings cease; hie thee to thy qui - et home.



Trav - eler, yes; it brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.
Trav - eler, a - ges are its own; see, its bursts o'er all the earth.
Trav - eler, lo! the Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

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 with music 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.

