



# The Season of Advent

St. George's Church ☩ Glenn Dale, Maryland  
The Episcopal Diocese of Washington  
*The First Sunday of Advent*  
*November 29, 2020*

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

This Sunday morning we extend a special welcome to The Rev. Todd Thomas, who is back as our preacher and celebrant. Todd is the Missioner for Revitalization and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese. Thanks for being with us at St. George's!

**Prelude: Performed by Mike Hopkins, guest pianist**

## Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #57 *Lo! He comes, With Clouds Descending*

Words: Charles Wesley. Music Helmsley. Augustine Anne. Hymns 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 swell the  
ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him, pierced, and  
bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion to his  
- ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry; claim the



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



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

### **Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord, Levas # 11**

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Pre-<sup>3</sup>pare ye the way of the Lord. Pre-<sup>3</sup>pare ye the way of the Lord.

Make straight in the des-<sup>3</sup>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: **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.**

### **A 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 64:1-9**

*Read by William Bultman*

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 God; 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.

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

### **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that leading 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 peoples' 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: **show us the light of your face and we shall be saved.**

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.**

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Mark. **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."

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

**The Sermon: The Rev. Todd Thomas**

## **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 Karen Horrocks*

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 this week. 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 260,000 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 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](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 Anthem: *Heal Us Now* by Leon Sher ~ Sung by an Interfaith Virtual Choir

Recorded by members of the St. George's Anthem Choir and Kol Rinah from Chizuk Amuno Congregation of Baltimore.  
Cantor Randy Herman, Solo  
Joshua Fishbein, Piano  
Mark Jackson, Audio Editor

*Hebrew:*

*R'faeinu Adonai v'neirafei  
hoshieinu v'nivasheiah.*

*Eil karov l'chol korav.*

*Ach karov lireiav yisho.*

*Eil na r'fa na.*

*R'fuat hanefesh ur'fuat haguf*

*r'fuah sh'leimah.*

*Hoshiah et amecha*

*uvareich et nachalatecha*

*ur'eim v'nas'eim ad haolam.*

*Mi shebeirach avoteinu*

*mi shebeirach imateinu*

*ana Adonai hoshiah na.*

*English:*

Heal us, Eternal God, and we will be healed; save us, and we will be saved.

God is near to all who seek God. Surely, help is near for those who revere God.

Please God, grant healing, healing of the soul, healing of the body, complete healing.

Save Your people, bless Your inheritance, care for them, and exalt them forever.

You, who blessed our fathers and our mothers, O please, help us, God.

## 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:

### ***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 in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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.**

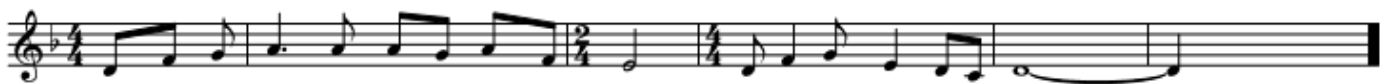
Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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

Marty Haugen. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waiaits, 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 - grimage, 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.

## 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 #68 *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

Words: Laurentius Laurenti, tr. Sarah B. Findlater. Music: *Llangloffan*. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear! The eve - ning is ad -  
See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - plen - ish them with oil; look now for your sal -  
Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear; A - rise, thou Sun so



- vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near. The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and  
- va - tion, the end of sin and toil. The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the  
longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere! With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we



soon he will draw nigh; up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
gates wide o - pen stand; Rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!  
plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

## Dismissal

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

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

## Postlude:

**We welcome Mike Hopkins who played the piano this week. Thank you, Mike, for being with us!**