

# ST JOSEPH'S

EPISCOPAL • CHURCH

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 20, 2020 – 9:30 A.M.

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## Opening Prayer

## Processional - Hymnal #72

*Hark! The Glad Sound*

1. Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.
2. He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
3. He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure;  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved Name.

## Candle Lighting

### *Celebrant*

"Today we light the first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent wreath. The first candle represents HOPE, the second candle represents PEACE, the third candle represents JOY, and the fourth candle represents LOVE."

*The candles are lit.*

### *Celebrant and People*

Scripture: "John 13:34 – Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

### *Celebrant*

Prayer: "Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen."

## Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

## Collect for Purity

### *Celebrant and People*

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.

## Hymn of Praise - Hymnal #56

*O Come O Come Emmanuel*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

### *Refrain:*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!*

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind.  
bid thou our sad divisions cease  
and be thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

8. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

### **The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant        The Lord be with you.

*People*         *And also with you.*

Celebrant        Let us pray.

*Celebrant*

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.*

### **First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*After the reading*

Reader         The word of the Lord.

*People*         *Thanks be to God.*

### **Canticle 15**

***The Song of Mary Magnificat***

***Luke 1:46-55***

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
*for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.*

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
*the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.*

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
*in every generation.*

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
*he has scattered the proud in their conceit.*

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
*and has lifted up the lowly.*

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
*and the rich he has sent away empty.*

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
*for he has remembered his promise of mercy,*

The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
*to Abraham and his children for ever.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
*as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

### **Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*After the reading*

Reader            The word of the Lord.  
People            *Thanks be to God.*

### **Sequence Hymn - Hymnal #74**

*Blest Be the King Whose Coming*

1. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
For him let doors be opened, no hearts against him barred!  
Not robed in royal splendor, in power and pomp, comes he;  
but clad as are the poorest, such his humility!
2. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
By those who truly listen his voice is truly heard;  
pity the proud and haughty, who have not learned to heed  
the Christ who is the Promise, who has atonement made.
3. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
He only to the humble reveals the face of God.  
All power is his, all glory! All things are in his hand,  
all ages and all peoples, till time itself shall end!
4. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
He offers to the burdened the rest and grace they need.  
Gentle is he and humble! And light his yoke shall be,  
for he would have us bear it so he can make us free.

### **The Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

*Before the Gospel reading*

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*After the Gospel reading*

Deacon            The Gospel of the Lord.

People            *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## **The Sermon**

**The Rev. Ann B. Barker**

## **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.

## **Prayers of the People - Form III**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

### **Concluding Collect**

Celebrant

### **Confession**

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Celebrant and People*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*Celebrant*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

### **The Peace**

### **Offertory Sentence**

Celebrant

**Doxology** (*After the elements are prepared.*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **The Great Thanksgiving** - Eucharistic Prayer B

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 him thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### **Sanctus** – S125

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

*Celebrant*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*Celebrant*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [ \_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Celebrant        And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and People*

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.

*A period of silence is kept.*

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

#### **Fraction Anthem**

Celebrant        Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
People            *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

### **Spiritual Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant and People*

Dear Jesus, in Advent we long for you to come into our hearts and lives. This Advent we also long for the gift of your presence in the Eucharist. Since we cannot now receive the Sacrament, we pray that you will come spiritually into our hearts and fill us with your love. Keep us close to you always. Amen.

*The Celebrant invites the people to Communion*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## **Post Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Blessing**

**Recessional** - *Hymnal #65*

*Prepare the Way O Zion*

1. Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

*Refrain:*

*Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.*

2. He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. *Refrain*
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.  
His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him. *Refrain*

**Dismissal**      *The congregation responds:* Thanks be to  
God.

## **Postlude**

## **Announcements**

### **Christmas Services**

Please join us for one of our Christmas services.

Christmas Eve: Thurs, Dec 24, 6:30 pm  
Outside or Facebook

Christmas Day: Friday, Dec 25, 10:00 am  
Facebook only

### **Service Request**

Recording for the service continues until after the postlude is finished. If you are gathering your belongings during this time, please stay quiet until Friedemann is finished playing so that voices do not record.

### **Regathering**

Be sure to register for our services online. You can do it on the website or Facebook or from the email you received earlier this week. If you cannot work the technology, call a member of our regathering team to register (Marcie Hale, 404-314-5120; Elizabeth Hayes, 404-509-4831; Sheryl Parsons, 770-957-3204; Art Richard, 706-372-6782). There is no restriction on how often you can come.

### **Food Pantry Donations**

It has come to our attention that there is a need for cereal for children and soup for seniors. If you can purchase and drop off these items, please bring them to the church and place them in the bin labeled Food Pantry.

### **Visitation**

Rev. Ann is available for outside visits at home or at church. If you would like to make an appointment, please call her at 703-622-2373. If she doesn't answer, leave a message and she will call you back.

### **Prayers of the People**

We would like to offer up your petitions to God during our worship service. If you have a prayer request, please submit it on the website ([stjosephsmcdonough.org/prayer](http://stjosephsmcdonough.org/prayer)). We will pull a list on Thursday at 10am, and the reader will read them on Sunday during the Prayers of the People. If you want someone mentioned for longer than one Sunday, please submit another request the following week.

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