



St. George's
Episcopal Church

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LITURGY OF THE WORD, RITE II

DECEMBER 20, 2020
10:30 AM

The Rev. Merrill Wade, *Interim Priest*

Melissa Brackin, *Senior Warden*

Ms. Mi-Young Kim, *Music Director*

The mission of St. George's Episcopal Church is to worship God and share our faith through word, action, and service.

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE WITH US. In this difficult and uncertain time, our commitment to one another as the Body of Christ is more important than ever. We are blessed to be able to join together in prayer, even as we are unable to be together in person as we would wish. Our online services are all available from the [Online Worship](#) page of our website.

Today is the Fourth Sunday of ADVENT. Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation. During these four weeks before Christmas, our worship, hymns, and readings focus on the coming of Christ – not only his coming as a babe in Bethlehem, but also his Second Coming, and his coming into our lives today and every day. We mark this season in a variety of ways that you'll notice during the worship services and also with some special times for our parish family to gather virtually. For those who follow the lectionary readings, this Advent signals a switch to Year B for the Sunday readings. Have a blessed Advent!

Join us on Thursday, December 24th, for one or both of our CHRISTMAS EVE services.

- **Christmas Eve Pageant, 4:00 pm**, followed by a Coffee/Hot Chocolate/Fellowship Hour.
- **Christmas Eve Liturgy, 8:30 pm**, preceded by a Coffee/Eggnog/Fellowship Hour at 8:00 pm.

GUIDE TO ABBREVIATIONS

H – 1982 Hymnal

G – Gather Hymnal

BCP – Book of Common Prayer

ADVENT WREATH LITANY

After the ringing of the church bell, the service begins with the Advent Wreath Litany in the home of a St. George's family (previously recorded).

Reader Here begins our service for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Blessed are you, God of our salvation;
you promised that the One of peace would come from Bethlehem,

People **to feed your flock and make us live securely.**

Reader As we light these candles,
kindle in us the fire of your love,
and infuse in us the fruit of your Word.

People **Empower us to lift up the lowly and to fill the hungry with good things.**

Reader Let your face shine on us and bless us that we may be saved.

All **Amen.**

The family lights four candles on their Advent wreath.

At St. George's, four candles on the Advent Wreath are lighted, and the congregation sings:

ADVENT HYMN

Wait for the Lord (sung three times)

G 256

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has the lyrics: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The second system has the lyrics: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart." The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass accompaniment. The key signature is G major, and the time signature is 4/4. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taizé Community, 1984. Tune: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994).
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We keep silence in watchful expectation.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**
Amen.

Officiant 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.

People **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take a-way, you take a-way, the
sins of the world, the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take a-way, you take a-way, the
sins of the world, the sins of the world, grant us your peace, grant us your peace,

Music: J. M. Wade. Used by permission.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 212

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.
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.

People **Amen.**

Reader A reading from the second book of Samuel.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 15

THE SONG OF MARY, LUKE 1:46-55

Please join in reading the canticle in unison.

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.

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vss.5-8)

H 56

5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our heaven - ly home;
 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy draw - ing night;
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the hearts of all man-kind;
 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
 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 sha - dow 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-joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th century; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.
 Music: *Veni, veni Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th century.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890).

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 1:26-38

Officiant 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.

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

THE SERMON

THE REV. MERRILL WADE

NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM II

BCP 385

Intercessor I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion; for Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Andy, Jeff, Hector, and Kai, our Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

(Silence)

Intercessor I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

(Silence)

Intercessor I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison, especially August, Gladys, Charles, Eva, Ralph, Kirk, the Gil Family, Divesh, Rosie, IxChel, Mary, Ada, Ben, Aaron, David, Rochelle, Jon, Tom, and those suffering from COVID-19. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

(Silence)

Intercessor I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

(Silence)

Intercessor I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Nancy, Maggie, and those who have died from COVID-19. Pray for those who have died.

(Silence)

Intercessor I ask your thanksgivings for Vivienne, Mi-Young, Patsy, and Stella Rose, as they celebrate birthdays; for Divesh & Vanamala as they celebrate their anniversary; and for all the blessings of this life.

(Silence)

Intercessor I ask your prayers and intercessions for the life of this congregation.

(Silence)

Intercessor Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

(Silence)

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

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.

Officiant Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Officiant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.**

Officiant 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.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY *Recognition and thanksgiving for gifts of time, talent, pledges and other donations*

THE DOXOLOGY

H 380 (verse 3)

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him all crea-tures here be - low;
praise him a-bove ye heav-en-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: verse 3, Thomas Ken. Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).

THE BLESSING

(This final hymn of our Advent season is a paraphrase of the Magnificat, or Song of Mary.)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is great,
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who holds us fast:



and my spi - rit sings of the won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne.
 God's mer - cy must de - li - ver us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not spurn,
 Your ve - ry name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can ne - ver earn;
 This sav - ing word that our for - bears heard is the prom - ise that holds us bound,



so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

Words: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney (b. 1952) © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music: *Star of the County Down*, Irish Traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney (b. 1952).
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DISMISSAL

Officiant Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Allegro Cantabile
 Flor Peeters

MI-YOUNG KIM

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The altar candles are given by the McGhee Family, in thanksgiving for Katie and Lexie on their 19th birthday.

After the service, please join us for our [Zoom Coffee Hour](#) (password: Christ), a brief time of fellowship with other St. George's parishioners.



PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING

For those who are sick or facing medical issues, especially:

August Dolan-Henderson
Gladys Dykes
Charles Foster
Eva Harpst
Ralph Hausser
Kirk Hoffman

The Gil Family
Divesh Manohar
Rosie Martinez
IxChel Morrison
Mary Parker
Ada Pewitt

Ben Sears
Aaron Strong
David Treviño, Jr.
Rochelle & Jon Winkle
Tom Wooten
Those suffering from COVID-19

For those who have died and their families, especially:

Nancy Johnson

Maggie Straub

Those who have died from COVID-19

For those facing difficult circumstances

For those serving in the armed forces and their families, especially:

Maddison Worcester

Those who celebrate birthdays, especially:

Vivienne Landry (Dec 20)
Mi-Young Kim (Dec 22)
Patsy Chandler (Dec 26)
Stella Rose Tavrdes (Dec 26)

Those who celebrate anniversaries, especially:

Divesh & Vanamala Manohar (Dec 22)

In the Anglican cycle of prayer:

Mission agencies and their ministry
throughout the Anglican Communion

In the Diocese of Texas cycle of prayer:

St. Martin's, Houston
St. Paul's, Katy

Names newly added to the list of prayer requests are in bold.
Names can be added to this list by emailing Jennifer at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

THE SUNDAY BANNER – December 20, 2020

- ❖ **VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR** – Immediately after the service each Sunday, you are invited to join our [Zoom Coffee Hour](#) (password: Christ) to share a brief time of fellowship with other parishioners.
- ❖ **COMPLINE** – Join us for Merrill’s final in-person, outdoor Compline services on **TONIGHT at 5:15 pm!** Merrill has been leading the beautiful evening prayer service of Compline for two months, and this evening’s service will be our last with Merrill, so we encourage you to take this opportunity to worship together. The service is limited to approximately 20 people and requires registration. To attend, please [register online](#). (Some notes: Compline will last approximately 15-20 minutes and will be held at the rear of the playground. If you wish to sit, please bring your own chair; you are also welcome to stand. Masks and social distancing will be required, and bathrooms will not be available. Please bring a Book of Common Prayer or a device to access [Compline online](#).)
- ❖ **INTERIM PRIEST’S OFFICE HOURS** – Merrill Wade will keep office hours this week on Wednesday, December 23rd, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Feel free to contact him at merrill76@utexas.edu or **512-454-2523 ext 2**; he will check voice mail daily during the week. When in the office, he would love to meet parishioners on the porch of the Wright House or some other socially distanced setting; contact him to set up a time in advance.
- ❖ **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**– Join us for one or both of our Christmas Eve services this **Thursday, December 24th**.
 - **Christmas Eve Pageant, 4:00 pm** – This pre-recorded service will feature the children and families of St. George’s in a photographic pageant unlike any you’ve seen before! Join us on [our Facebook page](#) at 4:00 pm to celebrate the Nativity through song, scripture, and pageantry. After the service, join us on Zoom (link to be sent to the parish email list) for a Coffee/Hot Chocolate Hour for fellowship.
 - **Christmas Eve Liturgy, 8:30 pm** – This Liturgy of the Word service of Christmas will be accessible through both [our Facebook page](#) and Zoom (link to be sent to the parish email list). It will be **preceded** by a Zoom Coffee/Eggnog Hour at **8:00 pm**.
- ❖ **CHRISTMAS OUTREACH** – Your response to our Christmas Outreach ministry has been truly inspiring – we have reached our goal! As a result, we will be able to provide a \$20 HEB gift card to each resident of Casa Marianella and St. George’s Court. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed! We will continue to accept donations through the twelve days of Christmas (ending on January 5th); anything we receive now will be divided between Casa and the Court to be used in their feeding programs. You can donate online at the [St. George’s Donation page](#) (Christmas Outreach section, either *Casa Marianella* or *Angel Wreath* for St. George’s Court) or by mailing a check to the church office (made out to “St. George’s Episcopal Church,” with “Christmas Outreach” in the memo line). For more information about this project, please contact Sarah Campbell at cowmarket2@gmail.com or Alice Nelson at mzlsnlsn@gmail.com.
- ❖ **2021 PLEDGE** – It’s not too late to make a pledge to support St. George’s in 2021! You can [pledge online](#) or by mailing your pledge card to the church office. (Contact Jennifer in the church office at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com if you need a pledge card.) For more information or to pledge online, visit our website at www.sgchurch.org/stewardship.

- ❖ **END-OF-YEAR DONATIONS** – Now is also a good time to think about completing your 2020 pledge, if you haven't yet done so. You can pay your pledge (as well as make other donations) at the [St. George's Donation page](#). (You can also pay your pledge by check, but please note that check deposits may be delayed. Any checks received after December 31st, regardless of the date on the check, will be recorded as contributions for 2021 for tax purposes.) If you are not sure about the status of your 2020 pledge, please contact our financial secretary, Samantha Stevens, at samanthahstevens63@gmail.com. We are grateful for your financial support as we work to stay connected in these challenging times.
 - ❖ **2021 FLOWER/CANDLE DONATION CALENDAR** – St. George's [2021 Online Flower/Candle Donation Calendar](#) is available. To give altar flowers for one or more Sundays in 2021, or altar candles for one or more months, visit the [Online Donation Calendar](#) and enter your name and dedication next to the week or month of your choice. You can give flowers or candles in memory or honor of a loved one, in celebration of an important event, or in thanksgiving for a blessing in your life. **A donation of \$35** is requested. To give electronically, visit the [St. George's Donation page](#), scroll down to "Designated Gifts" / "Altar Guild," and enter the amount of your donation. Make checks payable to St. George's, with "Altar Flowers/Candles" in the memo line, and mail it to the church office.
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PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMON LIFE

PRAYER IN TIMES OF TRANSITION

God of love, in this interim time, we pray for our parish family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, imaginative about our future, and daring in our faith. As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. All this we pray, empowered by the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY

BCP 815

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

BCP 260

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, December 21

Saint Thomas the Apostle

Tuesday, December 22

7:30 pm Choir Meet-up

Wednesday, December 23

Thursday, December 24

4:00 pm Pageant Service (to be followed by a Hot Chocolate/Coffee Hour)

8:00 pm Eggnog/Coffee Hour

8:30 pm Christmas Eve Liturgy

Friday, December 25

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Saturday, December 26

Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Sunday, December 27

10:30 am Liturgy of the Word

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

THOSE WHO SERVE

Officiant/Preacher – The Rev. Merrill Wade

Organist/Pianist – Mi-Young Kim

Media Coordinator – Brad Dieringer

Advent Wreath Lighting – The Wall Family

Singers – Elaine Hosage, Periwinkle Schuster, Jan Phillips

Reader/Intercessor – Mikail McIntosh Doty

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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