

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 6, 2020 · 9:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square.

PRELUDE: *Sonata in F Major* for Two Violins Johann Caspar Kerll
(1627–1693)
Risa Brower and Marlisa Woods, *violins*

RECTOR'S WELCOME

HYMN 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

Please stand as the procession enters.



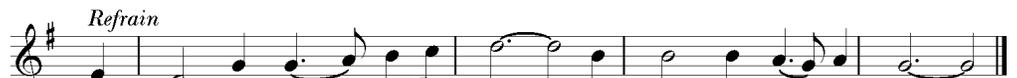
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

The Reverend Robert W. Fisher
Rector

The Reverend Savannah Ponder
Associate Rector

The Reverend William Morris
*Assisting Priest for Engaging
Faith and the Workplace*

Kaye Edwards
*Assistant for
Church Growth*

Brent Erstad
Director of Music

Samantha Scheff
Assistant Organist

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999)
Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm.
Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan, 1939, alt.
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THE WORD OF GOD

Please continue to stand.

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

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Priest: 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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the first candle of the Advent Wreath is lit, the following prayer is said by all.

Priest and People:

Holy and Gracious God, we pray that as we light this candle so, too, will a fire of Hope be kindled in our hearts. May we hold this Hope gently, as we are urged to stay awake and be ready for a most amazing event! As we prepare to receive the Christ Child, may we be ever-mindful of our love for you, and yours for us. This will keep the flames of Hope burning in this Advent season. We pray all this in the name of Emmanuel. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

THE READING

Please be seated.

Read by David Gallalee.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the

Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

Read by Hilary West.

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Tone VI

Alleluia.
I was glad when they said unto me:
We will go into the house of the Lord.
Alleluia.

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

Please be seated.

Preacher and People:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

Please stand.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM IV)

Led by Barbara Burkhardt.

Leader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world, responding with the words “Hear our prayer.”

Leader: Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the communities of St. John’s and our companion relationships with the *Anglican Church of Southern Africa** and *the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem*, and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for *St. Nicholas’ Parish, Germantown*. For *Michael*, our Presiding Bishop, for our Bishops, *Mariann* and *Chilton*, and for all bishops and other ministers. Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

** In particular, the Kwasa Centre in the Diocese of the Highveld.*

Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. For *Donald*, our President, *Joseph*, President-elect, the leaders of *Congress*, the *Supreme Court*, and for all who serve our country. Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. For those celebrating a birthday this week, especially *Doug Arnold, Carlos Arriaga, Shea Bader, Mary Jane Checchi, Sarah Demarest, Le Evans, Eric Eversole, Annie Gardner, Ursula Gunzel, Kate Huffman, Sara Josey, David Kieve, Ailin Lovelace, Ethan Papish, Anthony Pegues, Annie Simonds, Matthew Sipala, Anne Stewart, Celia Thompson, Jonathan Wakely, and Rick Young*; for those celebrating an anniversary this week, especially *Sarah and Jeff Agnew* and *Jessica and Alex Sanchez*; and in thanksgiving for the wedding October 30 of *Christina Jill Yu and Carl Noble Raether Jr.* Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially *Jimmy Lowe* who is in hospice care; and those who are sick and who are shut-ins. For the people of the *Middle East, Latin America, and all affected by the coronavirus*. Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Priest: 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.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Priest: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Priest 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.

ABSOLUTION

Priest: 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

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion

G.F. Handel
(1685–1759)

Louisa Waycott, *mezzo-soprano*

A PRAYER FOR STEWARDSHIP

Priest and People:

Gracious and everlasting God, the giver of all good gifts, you have blessed us and our parish abundantly. Grant us the hope to dream and the courage to live into our possibilities. Make us faithful stewards, both for the provision of our necessities and for the relief of those who are in need. Bless the efforts of our Annual Giving this year to extend the work of spiritual renewal in our church and community of faith. Through Jesus Christ, who gave all of himself, we offer this prayer. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Priest: 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 (S-125)

The musical score for Sanctus (S-125) is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "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 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 music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some phrases marked with slurs.

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Please stand or kneel.

Priest: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Priest and People:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Priest: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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 Father, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Priest 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Priest: 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.

All persons, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. During this time, our practice will be to offer the bread and the wine following health guidelines. An usher will provide communicants with hand sanitizer before the priest (who has washed his or her hands immediately prior) places a blessed wafer into your hands. Take a few steps, remove your mask, and consume the wafer. Blessed wine in small paper cups on a tray will be offered by a lay server.

After drinking the wine, place the cup in the basket at the end of the line.

Receiving the bread only is a valid way to share in Holy Communion. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. Children may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION

Hymn 59

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing; "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
 4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
 4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.
 Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)
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THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand.

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest and People:

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Priest: Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Chorale Partita on “Comfort, comfort ye my people”

Johann Pachelbel
(1653-1706)

ASSISTING AT THE 9:00 A.M. SERVICE TODAY: Thom Sinclair, *Crucifer*; Hilary West, *Lay Minister*; Jennifer San Pietro, Jonathan Wakely, Cecilia Wakely, and Sam Wakely, *Advent Wreath Lighter*; Pat Dalby and Joanne Hutton, *Flower Guild*; and Robert Carroll and William Duthe, *Ushers*.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for **Lee Alexander Azzarello**.



Welcome!

AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, we believe Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus' call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God's work in the world.

ST JOHN'S WAS ORGANIZED IN 1815 to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John's is often referred to as the "Church of the Presidents." Pew 54 is the President's Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John's were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

BROCHURES DESCRIBING PARISH LIFE, the history of St. John's, and the Episcopal denomination can be found in the church entrance. If you are visiting, please fill out the visitor information card found at the end of each pew to enable us to welcome you personally into the life of our parish.

ST JOHN'S WEBSITE WWW.STJOHNS-DC.ORG has up-to-date information about the Church including the weekly calendar, the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, the music calendar and newsworthy events.

Vestry

Paul Barkett, *Senior Warden*

Jeff Hantson, *Junior Warden*

Laurie Adams, Andrew Clarke,
Carolyn Crouch, Lauren Edwards,
Martha Ellison, Peter Odom, Anthony
Pegues, Scott Raab, Nora Rigby,
Jessica Sanchez, Desirée Stolar,
and Carl Ward.

Casey Evans, *Treasurer*

Sara McGanity, *Assistant Treasurer*

Andrew Tomlinson, *Secretary*

Christopher R. Wall, *Parish Counsel*

Head Usher

James H. Czerwonky

Staff

Kim Carlson

Director for Operations

Evangeline Gravina

Operations Assistant

Preston Cherouny

Financial Secretary

Sharlyne Griffin

Receptionist

R. J. Gravina

Program Coordinator

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant and David Gamboa,

Assistant Sextons

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