



# Advent 4

December 22, 2024  
St. John's Church

# Welcome

We are so happy you are with us.

All you need to worship with us is in this bulletin. Please greet the person near you, stand and sit as you are comfortable, and bring your voice and heart to the service.

We say the words printed **in bold** together.

## Advent Time

When apocalyptic writing shows up in the readings on Sunday, you know it's time to pay attention. Not to prepare for the end of time, as this genre is so frequently misunderstood to demand, but to expect the revelation of God in our time. God's control of time. God's directing of time toward all that is perfect and true.

Advent asks us not to treat this time, this four weeks, differently, but to live in time differently *altogether*.

Advent is a reminder that our time is not our own. We like to pretend that it is, that we can manage it efficiently, plan accordingly. That by our sheer determination we can bend it to our needs and desires.

The charge to keep awake during this Advent season is not just about waiting and anticipation. It is not just about getting ready or being ready.

Ultimately, God's entering into time disrupts time, displaces time, disorients time. Not always comfortably. Not always helpfully. Not always desirably. And never how or when we expect. But yet, there God is. In the flesh, in the moment, in the days.

This, beloved, is the meaning of waiting, watching, and Advent time.

## O, Look

There is a special little group of prayers called the O Antiphons, because they all begin with "O." They go back 1,300 years and are scripturally based prayers focusing on the titles given to Christ in scripture. Originally, they were chanted in monasteries during the last days before Christmas. You already know these antiphons in a different form. The famous carol "O come, O come, Emmanuel" is based on the O Antiphons.

Although typically prayed in the evening towards the end of Advent, we are using them as a part of our Sunday morning worship. They add to our sense of anticipation and keep our focus on the coming of Jesus Christ, and all the ways he is named.

## Ministers

Altar Guild	Charlotte Patrick
Sound	Oscar Trevino
Hospitality Greeter	Martha Moewes
Liturgy Greeter	Jim Morales
Musicians	Tom & Kathy Walker Kasandra Fell & Cheri Mateo
Worship Leader	Charlotte Patrick
Readers	Cheri Mateo Jen Litterer-Trevino
Preacher	Tim Glatzer
Intercessor	Mary Dillivan
Presider	Megan Nickles
Communion Servers	Bobbi Tyrrel Laura Greathouse
Communion Bread	Barb Morales
Coffee Hour	Barb Morales & Carly Asay

## Prayers

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Uganda  
 Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Diocesan Standing Committee, Diocesan Staff;  
 Katharine Jefferts Schori, Assisting Bishop;  
 Church of the Good Shepherd, Sundance

Paul & Gaylene, Cece & Frida; Chris & Terri; Tim & Alex; Andre & Syd; Don, Deb & Donna; Bob & Charlotte; Kenny & Michael; Richard & Jennifer; Carolyn & Family; Lee & Kelly; Hunter, Charlotte & Mike; Hugh B. & Marge; Margie & Josey; Tim & Lynnae; Bobbi & Bentley	Jim, Mary Ellen, Laurel, Braxton, Gail, Joey, Patty, Don J., Cynthia W., Mary, Katy, Tuti Rosita, Marlynn, Douglas, Mickey, Mike G., Carra, Rob R., Kathy E., Tammy, Bobby B., Cynthia G., Larry, Irene, Nancy, Sue, Kahli, Ron and Jane.  Bennett, Daryn, Justin, Jacob, Patrick, Reece, Coleman, and Bryce who are serving in the military.
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## Celebrations

Birthday: Jasper Fell—26<sup>th</sup>

# Prelude

“Magnificat,” Voces8.

## Hymn Verses 1, 2, and 4

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
2. "For know a bless - ed Moth - er you shall be, All
3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head; "To
4. Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



1. wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
2. gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, Your
3. me be as it pleas - es God!" she said. "My
4. Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn; And



1. hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"
  2. Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told."
  3. soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
  4. Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:
- } "Most



- 1-4. high - ly fa - vored la - dy!" Glo - ri - a!

Text: 10 10 12 10; *Birjina gaztettobat zegoen*; trad. Basque carol; tr. by Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924.

Music: Trad. Basque carol melody.

## O Antiphons

O Wisdom coming towards us on the breath of God,  
seeping into every crack and corner of the world with strength and gentleness  
to order everything just right: Come now and show us the way to health and wholeness.  
Lord draw near.

**Draw near and save.**

O Adonai Shepherd of God's people,  
you made yourself known to Moses in a burning bush,  
and let him in on life's best secrets on that very same mountain:  
Come now, take us into your confidence as well. Lord draw near.

**Draw near and save.**

O Root of Jesse, budding from a dead branch as a sign of hope for everyone,  
the leaders of the world will stand in amazement at you,  
and all their people as well:  
Come quickly to deliver us from the decay of our politics. Lord draw near.

**Draw near and save.**

O Key of David, true Pastor of all God's people,  
you open doors that no-one can close,  
and close doors that no-one can open:  
Come now to set the prisoners free,  
all those who live in darkness and despair. Lord draw near.

**Draw near and save.**

O Radiant Dawn, glory and beauty of God's own face,  
eternal Sun of justice and peace:  
Come now to shine for everyone  
who lives in the shadow of death. Lord draw near.

**Draw near and save.**

O Shepherd of all the world, desire of every heart and nation,  
you are the heartbeat of our fragile humanity:  
Come now to save us,  
we whom you formed from the dust of the earth.  
Lord draw near.

**Draw near and save.**

O Immanuel, rightful ruler and giver of the secrets of life,  
desire of every heart and savior of the world: Come now to make us your children,  
for you are our God, the Lord of all. Lord draw near.

**Draw near and save.**

# Prayer of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God made known in the friendship of women, the word of greeting and unseen life enwombed; give us the courage of the teenage mother who brings into the world a song of joyful revolt and a God who needs her love; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.

## Scripture

*After the reading*

Word of God, word of return.

Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia

*We stand.*

*The Cantor sings through once, then we sing together.*



Music: *Do This in Memory of Me*, David Hans, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

## Scripture

*After the reading*

Word of God, word of return.

Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

## Prayers

Be strong and let your heart take courage,  
all you who wait for the Lord. –*Psalm 31:24*

We pray for the needs of all the earth saying,  
Healer of the world: **lead us to wholeness,  
and make us shine with your light of healing love.**

*The intercessor continues, concluding with*

Holy One, whose coming we await,  
you invite us into the light of your presence:  
illumine the dim places of our hearts.

We are thirsty for your compassion.

Draw near to us and fill us,

that we may pour out your goodness to all who hunger.

Jesus, your light calls us forth to follow and serve you.

Your light still shines for all to see in this world.

May we continue to reflect your light in our lives,  
in our service, in our words and in our deeds.

**Amen.**

## Peace

May the peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*We greet one another in the name of God.*

## Offertory

Gracious and generous God, we give of ourselves as you offer yourself:  
to feed the hungry, care for the poor, lift up the broken-hearted,  
and bring comfort to those in need.

## Music

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus,” Charles Wesley.

# Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is a good and joyful thing to give our thanks to you, God of hosts, O ancient of days, for from of old you have called forth life. You brought into being every detail of creation and gave birth to your covenant people. When the time drew near, you called upon Bethlehem to bear the hope you promised, and summoned Mary to bear your holy child. By your grace the child grew to be the one to bear not only our sins but the sins of the world. In his dying and rising you gave birth to everlasting life for all your children. And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we sing your praise and join the unending hymn.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, God of  
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na  
in the high - est. Bless - ed is  
he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



On the night before he died, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying

“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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en.

Christ will come, Christ will come a - gain.

Text: ICEL, © 1973  
Music: *Do This in Memory of Me*, David Haas, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

God of Mary, whose womb bore the sacred fruit of our salvation, bring forth from this fruit of the vine your cup of blessing. As we remember around this table your son's saving passion poured out for us, send your Holy Spirit upon your church to make us bearers of your Christ, your mercy, and your hope. Sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of Jesus our Lord.

God of holy expectation, let your face shine upon us and your dawn break upon us that we may be saved. Make your church expectant in faith as we labor for what we cannot yet see. Come and dwell with your people who yearn to be restored, to be forgiven, to belong. Let the warmth of your face shine upon those who seek the peace long promised for Bethlehem, for Jerusalem, and for all your waiting world. Bring us, with the saints who have looked for your coming, to the day and we and all your children shall celebrate and leap for joy in your holy presence, one God, Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A - men, A - men, Al - le - lu - ia!

A - men, A - men!

Music: *Do This in Memory of Me*, David Haas, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

## The Lord's Prayer

We pray as Christ taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Fraction

*The Leader breaks the bread. Silence is kept.*

We eat this bread to remember and to hope.

**Fill us and all who hunger with good things  
and remember with your loving kindness  
all who watch for the coming light.**

God's gifts for God's people.

## The Communion

*Please come to the table, whether you are single, married or divorced, drinking, using or sober, abled, disabled, or ill, gay, straight, or discovering, wealthy, getting by or in debt. Christ meets us all.*

*We approach the altar beginning with those sitting in the last rows; they shall be first.*

*Approach the rail from the left aisle and take a cup; used cups go on the tray on the right.*

*You may receive only bread or only wine, or both. Our Eucharistic bread is handmade and robust. If you prefer a wafer, please tell your server.*

*Receiving bread and wine is a central act of worship in the Episcopal Church.*

## Music

"Savior of the Nations Come," St. Ambrose.

"Creator of the Stars of Night," Gregorian Chant.

# Thanksgiving

*We stand.*

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we thank you that in Christ you give yourself into our hands;  
may we who have tasted life proclaim the coming feast  
when many will come from east and west, from north and south  
to greet the creator of all. Amen.

## Hymn

1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!  
2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his name!  
3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!  
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his Word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spir - it voice;  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his Word;  
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord

in God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - jice.  
his ho - ly name, the Lord, the Might - y One.  
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more!

## Sending

May the God who brings heaven close to earth  
give truth to our judgement and flame to our longing,  
that our hearts might be ready to be born again in love.  
Go now, rejoicing in a weary world.  
**We go to love and serve. Alleluia!**

## Postlude

“E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come,” Heart & Voice Men's Chorus & Brandon Mulle.

## Sources

O **Antiphons** are adapted by Gary J. Deverell, [deverell.org](http://deverell.org).

**Prayer of the Day**, **Prayer of Thanksgiving**, and **Sending** are from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, Steven Shakespeare ©2009, Church Publishing, New York.

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