



Advent 2

December 8, 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	Laura Greathouse
Sound	Robert Rumbolz
Hospitality Greeter	Mary Dillivan
Liturgy Greeter	Cynthia Garhart
Musicians	Tom & Kathy Walker Kasandra Fell
Worship Leader	Laura Greathouse
Reader	Kenny Allen
Gospel	Susan McEvoy
Preacher	Katharine Jefferts Schori
Intercessor	Jessica Smith
Presider	Katharine Jefferts Schori
Communion Servers	Barb & Jim Morales
Communion Bread	Diana Anderson
Coffee Hour	Congregational Care

Prayers

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Diocesan Standing Committee, Diocesan Staff;
Katharine Jefferts Schori, Assisting Bishop;
St. Hubert's, Bondurant

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

Mary Ellen, Bernadette, 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.

Celebrations

Birthday: Marlynn Riker—11th, Jane Woods—12th, Sugar Magnolia Weed—12th,
Galina Hasanova—13th, Barb Roberts—13th

Prelude

“Prepare The Way, O Zion,” Divine.

Hymn



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -
2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry soul from sin; Make
3. For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our
4. All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee Whose



1. nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,
2. straight the way of God with - in, Pre - pare we in our
3. ref - uge and our sure re - ward; Shine forth, and let thy
4. ad - vent set thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



1. for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2. hearts a home, Where such a might - y guest may come.
3. light re - store Our souls to heav'n - ly grace once more.
4. we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: LM; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. by John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.
Music: *Musicalishes Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690; adapt. by William H. Havergal, 1793–1870.

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.

Lord of the wilderness way, whose word scours our smooth evasions:
take us on the unbending road to the raw center of our world
with a cry of invitation and the call of sudden grace;

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.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

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

Gospel

We remain standing.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the reading

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

We sing the Alleluia once together.

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

“Prepare the Road,” Tom Walker.

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.

Blessed be your name, God of time and eternity, for you have come to your people and set them free. You have spoken through the mouth of holy prophets and remembered your covenant of old. You have prepared the way of our salvation by raising up a mighty Savior from the house of your servant David.

Your son Jesus took upon himself on the cross the cost of our sin, and through him you revealed the fullness of your promise of mercy. In his resurrection you gave us knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins that we might serve you without fear in holiness and righteousness all our days.

And so with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we join in the unending hymn.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: 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.

The image shows two lines of musical notation in 3/4 time. The first line contains the lyrics 'Christ has died. Christ is ris - en.' and the second line contains 'Christ will come, Christ will come a - gain.' The music is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb).

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

God of the future and the past, you promised that all flesh shall see your salvation:
show us the salvation you bring through the flesh and blood of your holy son. As your
prophets heralded his saving glory, sanctify your church for his promised coming.

Refining spirit, you burn away all that does not endure your presence. Reveal your
mercy in the very crucible of your love. Protect your sons and daughters who are facing
a crucible of trial or temptation or testing, and amid the suffering of your children
reveal your eternal grace. Refine and strengthen the hope of your church through every
adversity and every danger.

Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and this cup that they may be for us the body
and blood of Christ our Lord. Set the hearts of your people on fire to seek your justice
and share your mercy; until your dawn from on high breaks upon us and on the day of
your coming we stand clothed in the righteousness of the sun, in the presence of the
creator, by the refining power of the Holy Spirit, one god now and forever.

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

The image shows two lines of musical notation in 3/4 time. The first line contains the lyrics 'A - men, A - men, Al - le - lu - ia!' and the second line contains 'A - men, A - men!'. The music is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb).

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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

"Refiner's Fire," Brian Doerksen.

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord," Adelaide Pollard.

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 *Verses 1, 2*

verses



1. O come, di - vine Mes - si - ah; The world in
2. O Christ, whom na - tions sigh for, Whom priest and
3. You come in peace and meek - ness And low - ly



1. si - lence waits the day When hope shall sing its
2. proph - et long fore - told, Come, break the cap - tive's
3. will your cra - dle be; All clothed in hu - man



1. tri - umph And sad - ness flee a - way.
2. fet - ters, Re - deem the long - lost fold.
3. weak - ness Shall we your God - head see.

Refrain



Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the



night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace. O



come, di - vine Mes - si - ah; the world in si - lence waits the day when



hope shall sing its tri - umph and sad - ness flee a - way.

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

“Wake, O Wake With Tidings Thrilling,” Bach: Roger Wilcock & The London Fox
Players.

Sources

O **Antiphons** are adapted by Gary J. Deverell, deverell.org.

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