



# Advent I

December 1, 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.

## 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, we are using them as a part of our Sunday 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	Jane Woods
Sound	Steve Nickles
Hospitality Greeter	Diana Anderson
Liturgy Greeter	Kathy Riley
Musicians	Tom & Kathy Walker Kasandra Fell
Worship Leader	Kim Dillivan
Readers	Rob Koelling & Barb Morales
Preacher	Megan Nickles
Intercessor	Katy Lytle
Presider	Susan McEvoy
Communion Servers	Oscar & Jen Litterer Trevino
Communion Bread	Charlotte Patrick
Coffee Hour	Martin & Cynthia Garhart

## Prayers

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan  
Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Diocesan Standing Committee, Diocesan Staff;  
Katharine Jefferts Schori, Assisting Bishop;  
All Saints', Torrington

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.
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## Celebrations

Birthday: Kim Dillivan—7<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary: Barb & Jim Morales—4<sup>th</sup>

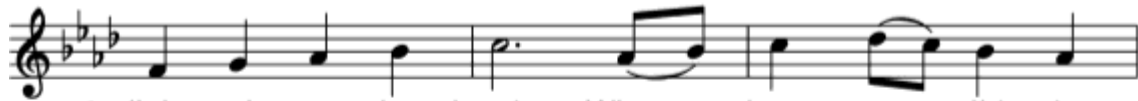
# Prelude

“Creator of the Stars of Night,” The Choir of St. John's College Cambridge.

# Hymn



1. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And
2. Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, To
3. O bright - er than the ris - ing morn When
4. O bright - er than that glo - rious morn Shall
5. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And



1. light tri - um - phant breaks, When beau - ty gilds the
2. bear, and fight, and die, But crowned with glo - ry
3. he, vic - to - rious, rose And left the lone - some
4. this fair morn - ing be, When Christ, our King, in
5. light and beau - ty brings. Hail, Christ, the Lord! Thy



1. east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes.
2. like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.
3. place of death, De - spite the rage of foes.
4. beau - ty comes, And we his face shall see!
5. peo - ple pray: Come quick - ly King of kings.

Text: CM; Greek; tr. by John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.

Music: *Sixteen Tune Settings*, Philadelphia, 1812; *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816.

## 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.

Urgent God, breaking through the static to speak to our hearts:

disarm our love of control and shake the silent heavens

to reveal your dawning glory,

judging all in the light of 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.*

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

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time. The first staff is for the Cantor, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (half), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia,' are written below the notes. The second staff is for the congregation, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (half), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes.

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

# Scripture

*After the reading*

Word of God, word of return.

Thanks be to God.

*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

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” traditional.

# 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 are you, God of David, for your faithfulness is steadfast and your mercy has been from of old. You draw your people to you with your promise of salvation, and every promise you make, in your goodness, you fulfill. From the House of David you raised up your Messiah to restore Judah and to herald that your deliverance was near.

In your son's righteousness we find our life: for his righteousness was more than enough for your people who had waited so long for justice, who had yearned so long for redemption, who had trusted so long in your grace.

Truly in his righteousness is fulfilled every hope of salvation in every generation. By his death we can stand justified before you; and through his resurrection we can share your holy life forever. And so with angels and archangels, we praise your name, joining the company of heaven in their 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat. The first staff contains the melody for "Christ has died. Christ is ris - en." and the second staff contains the melody for "Christ will come, Christ will come a - gain." The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

God of glory, for whose coming we wait, make this meal we share a sign that our redemption draws near. Send your Holy Spirit upon your church: strengthen our hearts in all holiness that we may be heralds of your Kingdom. By your same spirit, sanctify this bread and this cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of power, you have promised to make your way to us: come quickly to those who wait for you. Raise up every head that is bent low in sin. Lift up every heart that is bowed down in shame. Uphold every soul that is made heavy by oppression. Inspire every weary throat to sing of the day when justice and mercy meet.

Bring us through all that is passing away to the life that shall never pass away, when every eye shall be lifted up to gaze upon your Son in everlasting glory with all your saints, and when the redemption for which we have longed shall forever be ours, in the company of your Son and the power of your Spirit, O blessed Trinity.

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat. The first staff contains the melody for "A - men, A - men, Al - le - lu - ia!" and the second staff contains the melody for "A - men, A - men!". The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

"All My Hope Is in Jesus," David Crowder.

"In Christ Alone," Keith Getty, Stuart Townsend.

# Thanksgiving

We stand.

Let us pray.

Eternal God,

we thank you that in Christ

you give yourself into our hands:

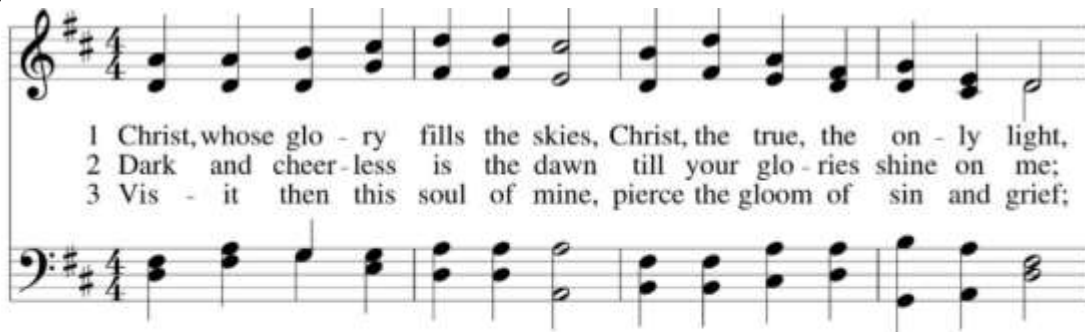
may we who have tasted life

proclaim the coming feast

when many will come from east and west, from north and south

to greet the creator of all. Amen.

## Hymn *There is no introduction*



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the dawn till your glo - ries shine on me;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of right-eous-ness, a - rise, tri-umph o - ver shades of night:  
joy - less is the day's re - turn till your mer-cy's beams I see:  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief:



Day-spring from on high, be near, Day-star, in my heart ap - pear!  
as they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart,  
more and more your - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day!

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.  
MUSIC: J. G. Werner's *Choralbuch*, 1815; harm. William H. Havergal (1793-1870)

RATISBON  
7.7.7.7.7.

## 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

“Seek Him That Maketh the Seven Stars,” Tenebrae & Nigel Short.

## 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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