

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

First Sunday in Advent – November 28, 2021

WE GATHER IN PRAISE

PROCESSION OF PIPES AND DRUMS Waterloo Set City of Alexandria Pipes & Drums

OPENING HYMN Lo, he comes, vv 1-2 (*words on last page*) Hymnal 57

OPENING PRAYERS

Celebrant Blessed be Lord who was, and is, and is to come.

People **And blessed be the Life of God among us!**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who gave such grace to your apostle Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ, and brought his brother with him: Give us, who are called by your Holy Word, grace to follow him without delay, and to bring those near to us into his gracious presence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Love is spoken here

Love is spo - ken here Step in - side the door - way

Make your - self at home my friend where God is near.

Love is spo - ken here, Hush, and you will hear it, And

when the qui - et's bro - ken, love is spo - ken here.

THE WORD OF GOD

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

People **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 25:1-9

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, **and teach me your paths.**
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, **for they are from everlasting.**
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; **therefore God teaches sinners in his way.**
- 8 God guides the humble in doing right **and teaches his way to the lowly.**
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies

THE GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

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

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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.

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

SERMON "Power and Glory" The Rev. Dr. Kate Heichler

PRAYER SONG O come, o come Emmanuel, vv 1-2 (*words on last page*) Hymnal 56

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR ADVENT

Please respond to "Emmanuel, God with us," with "Hear our prayer."

Almighty God, Source of life, we thank you for your many gifts to us; for all celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week [*birthdays*] and for other gifts we name now, in silence or aloud...As you awaken our gratitude, set us free from the need to fill ourselves with more than we need. Emmanuel, God with us: **Hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Light of the world, you call us to be light to the world. Bless the people of the Christ Churches and our diocese, especially our bishop Mariann; we pray for [*ministries*] and all ministers we name now... Empower your church be a beacon of peace, hope, grace and mercy. Emmanuel, God with us: **Hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Prince of Peace, we lay before you the wounds of the world: the ravages of Covid and other diseases; the ongoing scourge of racism; political division, environmental disasters, and all other concerns that we name now... Provide for those in need; comfort those in mourning; give justice to the oppressed; and awaken generosity in the hearts of those who live in plenty. Emmanuel, God with us: **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, Comforter, thank you for your healing love which surrounds us. We lift before you now the things and people for whom we are concerned, especially those we name now... and all others for whom our prayers have been requested...

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn them, whom we name now...

May we shine your glory forth to lighten the darkness.

Emmanuel, God with us: **Hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Redeemer, we thank you for the forgiveness and grace you offer us.

Forgive us for all the ways we ignore your true gifts in this season of giving;

for the ways we become so focused on tasks that we forget to honor you;

for the ways we hurt those we love;

for the ways we damage our bodies and our planet;

for the ways we take more than we need and ignore the needs around us;

and any other sins of action or inaction that we name before you now...

Emmanuel, God with us: **Hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people exchange a sign of Christ's peace with their neighbors.

OFFERTORY How firm a foundation, vv 1,2,5 (*words on last page*) Hymnal 637

You can make your offering in the plate, or online: La Plata at <https://christchurchlaplata.org/donate/> Or text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256, and follow the prompts. Wayside at https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_72387a78

THE HOLY MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people are invited to pray the words in bold type.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Sanctus)

Kate Heichler, 2000

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might. Hea-ven and
earth are full of your glo-ry, ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed, bless - ed,
bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; Ho - san - na in the
high est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious God: 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 to remember 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, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me."**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption 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 God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD (Fraction)

Kate Heichler, 2004

Je - sus, La-mb of God, have mer-cy on me; Je - sus, Bear-er of our sins, have mer-cy;
Je-sus, Light and Re - deem-er of the world, Gra-nt us your peace; gra-nt us your peace.

THE COMMUNION

All present are welcome to the Altar rail for communion.

If you do not wish to receive, please cross your arms for a blessing. Those worshipping at home are invited to partake of consecrated bread and wine at home tables.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Amazing Grace

Pipes and Drums

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION *(For those not receiving eucharist today)*

In union, O God, with your faithful people in every church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. As I cannot receive you today in the sacrament of your Body and Blood, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. *Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, signs of your broken body and shed blood, a foretaste of your life at work in us. Give us expectant hearts as we anticipate your drawing near, in Word and Sacrament, in other people and in silence, at work and at rest. Make us bearers of hope to the poor, repairers of broken streets and broken relationships, until we see our light break forth like the dawn, and find our healing in you, God of wholeness: Amen.

SCOTTISH BLESSING

May the blessing of light be on you - light without and light within.
May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire,
so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it.
And may light shine out of the two eyes of you, like a candle set in the window
of a house, bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.
And may the blessing of the rain be on you,
may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean,
and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines, and sometimes a star.
And may the blessing of the earth be on you, soft under your feet as you pass along
the roads, soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day;
and may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it.
May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly;
up and off and on its way to God.
And the Lord bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Almighty God, this meal does not end here – you continue to nourish us, and to feed others through us. Bless these elements and vessels, and the lay eucharistic visitors who carry them out, that your Body and Blood may nurture those members of our family unable to worship with us today.

PRAYERS FOR BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

COMMUNITY NEWS

CLOSING HYMN Canticle of the Turning, v 1,4 (*words on last page*) Rory Cooney, 1990

RECESSIONAL Scotland the Brave
Killiecrankie Set/Green Hills/Castle Dangerous/Johnnie Scobie/Rolls

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OUR PRAYERS

We give thanks for: The City of Alexandria Pipes & Drums back with us today!
Birthdays and Anniversaries: Karen Hile (12/2); Jane Hobbs (12/3);
We pray for: Those in need of healing – Lou Demas, Nick LaMonica, Alicia Cordelle, Arlene Alvey, Bob Clark, Wyman Whelan, Marianne Wilburn, Duana Page, Steve and Kathy Blamer, Gary Murray, Susan White, Benji, Garner Burroughs
Those who have died: Deacon Michael Cahall; Vern Kordack

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TELLING OUR CONGREGATION'S STORY – NEXT Sunday December 5, 12 pm. Please come for a meal (served with Covid-safety in mind) and a gathering to tell each other the story of Christ Church by each of us sharing our part in that story. It will be creative and fun. This is part of our Tending Our Soil thriving congregations journey.

ADVENT SPA FOR THE SPIRIT: AWAKEN ME December 11, 9-12 – One of the themes of Advent is Awakening. This retreat morning will explore how we can become more awake – to the quiet yearning of our own spirits, to the life in other people, to the Life of God around us. Take some time for your spirit in this holy season of preparation - the baking, shopping, wrapping and decorating can wait for three hours. Click **here** to register; link and info will be sent. *Share the Facebook event to invite friends.*

BABY SHOWER FOR MARY – Sunday, December 12 – Who's Mary? someone always asks. Each Advent we throw a baby shower for the Holy Family during Sunday worship, bringing clothing and supplies for homeless families in their honor. This year we will use the gifts we gather to stock a giving closet for the many families who need our help.

GINGERBREAD PARTY WITH AT-RISK YOUTH Tuesday, December 7, 4 pm. The Christ Churches will host a holiday gathering at Wayside for foster kids and those living in the Newburg Group Home, complete with songs, stories and of course food with stations for decorating gingerbread houses and making Christmas ornaments for keepsakes. The holidays a poignant time to share these experiences with these teens. If you would like to participate contact Alicia Cordelle at 301-860-9325 or aliciacordelle@live.com.

WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH! Please join with your fellow-congregants in prayerfully considering how you will help support God's mission at Christ Church in 2022. Fill out an Estimated Annual Giving card, or submit one online here: [La Plata](#); [Wayside](#).

GIVING FAIR AT LA PLATA – Saturday, December 4, 10-3 – Christ Church will host the Neighborhood Creative Arts Center Giving Fair for children to make crafts and DIY kits to take home in the holidays. Please contact [Georgia Bonney](#) if you can help out that day – This is a joyful opportunity to work with children, talk to them about generosity, and inspire their creativity. And a great way for Christ Church to connect with area families!

ONLINE GIVING – La Plata: You can text a donation - text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256, and follow the prompts. You can give to Open Plate or toward your pledge. You can also give online - go to www.christchurchlaplata.org and scroll down to the "Donate" link.

Wayside: Go to https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_72387a78 and follow the prompts.

GIVING FUND – Our Giving Fund is getting many requests – please give as you're able.

Wayside: Write a check or go to https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_72387a78 and follow the prompts. **La Plata:** Write a check or give online at the donate page on our website, www.christchurchlaplata.org, or text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256, and follow the prompts, designating Giving Fund. You now have the option to make pledge offerings or donations online, or by text.

HYMNS

OPENING HYMN 57 Lo, he comes with clouds, vv. 1-2 Hymnal 57

1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.

4 Yea, amen! let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

PRAYER SONG O come, O come Emmanuel, vv 1-2 Hymnal 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

OFFERTORY HYMN How firm a foundation, vv. 1,2,5 Hymnal 637

1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed! For I am thy God,
and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

5 "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

CLOSING HYMN Canticle of the Turning v 1 and 4 Rory Cooney, 1990

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| 1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout That the God of my heart is great And my spirit sings of the wondrous things That you bring to the ones who wait You fixed your sight on your servant's plight And my weakness you did not spurn So from east to west shall my name be blest Could the world be about to turn? | 4 Though the nations rage from age to age We remember who holds us fast God's mercy must deliver us From the conqueror's crushing grasp This saving word that our forebears heard Is the promise which holds us bound 'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God Who is turning the world around. |
|---|--|

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.