

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Second Sunday in Advent – December 5, 2021

WE GATHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE

Organ

OPENING HYMN

Here I am to worship (*words on last page*) Tim Hughes 2001

OPENING PRAYERS

Celebrant Blessed be God, whom we know as Father, Son and Holy Spirit

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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

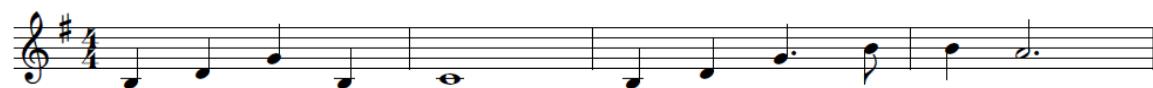
Celebrant Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Love is spoken here

Reichach/Ross



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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

**By the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy universal and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come. Amen**

THE WORD OF GOD

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more

and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
People **Thanks be to God**

CANTICLE 16 Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; **God has come to his people and set them free.**

God has raised up for us a mighty savior, **born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets God promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, **from the hands of all who hate us.**

God promised to show mercy to our fathers **and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham,

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship God without fear,

holy and righteous in God's sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give God's people knowledge of salvation **by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God **the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

THE GOSPEL Luke 1:5-25

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

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

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard.

Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON The Stories of the Elders The Rev. Dr. Kate Heichler

PRAYER SONG O come, o come Emmanuel, vv 3-4 (*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.**

Celebrant offers Absolution and a concluding 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 Come thou long expected Jesus vv 1,3,4 (*words on last page*) Hymnal 66

You can make your offering online:

Wayside at https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_72387a78

Or La Plata at <https://christchurchlaplata.org/donate/>

Or text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256, and follow the prompts.

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

My Lord, he's a comin' soon Laura Winnen & Jeff Cothran

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

Triune God, Giver of all good things, thank you for feeding us at Your table, for making us joyful givers in Your own image. Now make us gifts to the world – offering nurture where there is hunger, comfort where there is pain, hope where there is despair and love where there is fear. Let this circle of giving that begins and ends with You, O Lord, expand until it includes the entire world. We pray in the name of the One who gave his life for us, Jesus our Lord: Amen.

BLESSING

May God, who restores our brokenness, work through you to restore this broken world; may God, the source of peace that passes all understanding, fill you with peace in the midst of the stress and joy of this season; and the blessing of God, whom we know as Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you this week and for all time: **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 The King shall come, vv 1,2,5 (*words on last page*) Hymnal 73

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OUR PRAYERS

We give thanks for: Cheryl Reckweg, playing organ today; the outpouring of generosity in our congregations; a glorious Kirking of the Tartans at La Plata last week.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

We pray for: Those in need of healing – Lou Demas, Nick LaMonica, Alicia Cordelle, Arlene Alvey, Bob Clark, Wyman Whelan, Duana Page, Steve and Kathy Blamer, Gary Murray, Susan White, Benji, Garner Burroughs

Those who have died: Marianne Wilburn

ANNOUNCEMENTS – LA PLATA

TELLING OUR CONGREGATION’S STORY – TODAY! Please stay for lunch (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 –]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.

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.

ADVENT COURSE: WITNESSES – Join Rev. Kate on Zoom at the Learning Hour Sunday mornings December 5, 12 and 19 to get better acquainted with some of the people who helped bring Jesus into this world and prepare hearts for his coming.

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 Homes. 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](#).

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - WAYSIDE

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.*

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GINGERBREAD PARTY WITH AT-RISK YOUTH Tuesday, December 7, 4 pm. We will host hosting a holiday gathering evening for foster kids and those living in the Newburg Group Home, complete with songs, stories and of course food with a decorating contest for the gingerbread houses and creations, and a station where Christmas ornaments can be created for keepsakes. During the holidays it becomes even more poignant to share these experiences with these teens. If you would like to participate in any way please contact Alicia Cordelle at 301-860-9325 or aliciacordelle@live.com.

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COATS, HATS AND GLOVES FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS – Sandy Hixson is spearheading a coat drive for Higdon Elementary, up the road from the church. All items have to be new, with tags on – please drop them at the church. All sizes for younger kids are welcome.

GIVING FUND – Please consider donating to the Giving Fund; we are being asked for help more and more these days. Our policy is to help once and deal with repeat requests on a case-by-case basis. **Wayside:** Write a check or go to https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_72387a78 and follow the prompts.

HYMNS

OPENING HYMN Here I am to worship Tim Hughes 2001

1 Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness; opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore you; hope of a life spent with You.

Refrain: Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God;
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

2 King of all days, O so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above;
Humbly You came to the earth you created, all for love's sake became poor.

PRAYER SONG O come, O come Emmanuel, vv 3,4 Hymnal 56

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

4 O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny;
That trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

OFFERTORY HYMN Come thou long expected Jesus Hymn 66

1 Come, thou long expected Jesus born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.

3 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts lone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne

CLOSING HYMN The King shall come Hymn 73

1 The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks;
when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

2 Not, as of old, a little child, to bear, and fight, and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings:
Hail, Christ the Lord! thy people pray, come quickly, King of kings.