

# The Second Sunday of Advent • Year C

## Sunday, December 5, 2021 • 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to Church of the Ascension. We are an inclusive community that respects the dignity of every human being. Therefore, whoever you are in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or ability and wherever you are on your faith journey, we welcome you and hope you will give us an opportunity to be your spiritual home. At this time, **masks are required for congregational singing.**

The lit candle before the altar is “the Peace and Justice Candle.” It stands to proclaim our commitment against any kind of injustice, prejudice, or discrimination based on difference, and also our prayers for an end to war, violence, genocide, and gun violence.

### HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

#### PRELUDE

#### *Fantasia on Greensleeves*

Elizabeth Oka, *viola*, and Bailey Myers, *piano*

Adapted from the opera *Sir John in Love*  
R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  
Arr.: Watson Forbes

#### PROCESSIONAL

#### HYMNAL 65

#### *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999)  
Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *The Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, SLIGO PARISH

633 SLIGO AVE. • OFFICES: 634 SILVER SPRING AVE., SILVER SPRING, MD 20910

301-587-3272 • WWW.ASCENSIONSLIVERSPRING.ORG

# THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

God's Love is Like a Blanket  
Responsive Advent Litanies of Light and Warmth

## *The Weighted Blanket that Stills Anxiety*

The days have been difficult.

**We have known the known the separation and loneliness of isolation.**

The days have been trying.

**We have known the frustration and tears of quarantine.**

The days have heavy.

**We have known the crush and heaviness of grief.**

The days have been overwrought.

**We long for soothing, for touch, for calm.**

Holy God, come to us. Wrap us in the promise of your Incarnation.

**Blanket us with comfort when we are demolished by worry.**

And one more thing, Holy God ...

**Be a light to us —like two candle of Advent — warming our brittle hearts and showing us the path to hope.**

## *The Blanket Song*

Tune: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

*The lighting of the Second Advent candle will take place. The Celebrant will say The Blanket Song as blankets are collect and placed before the Altar.*

Verse 2:

*God's love is a blanket —Comfort in this world  
Where the strands of harshness are so often twirled —  
Covering the fragile, when all hope seems thin,  
As a threadbare bedspread, warming hearts within.*

©Christine Sobania Johnson, 2020. Used by permission.

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* **God's mercy endures forever. Amen!**

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly  
love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## KYRIE

HYMNAL S96

*Lord, Have Mercy: Kyrie*

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert  
arr. Richard Proulx(1937-2010)

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." The first staff has a vocal line with lyrics: "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." The second staff has a bass line with lyrics: "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." There is a "Lord, —" written above the second staff in the middle of the first measure.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, -  
 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, -  
 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.  
 Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*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.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

Sandra Sussman, *Lector*

**Malachi 3:1-4**

*A Reading from the Prophet Malachi.*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 16

*The Song of Zechariah*  
Sandra Sussman, *Lector*

Luke 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his 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 his 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.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON

Sandra Sussman, *Lector*

Philippians 1:3-11

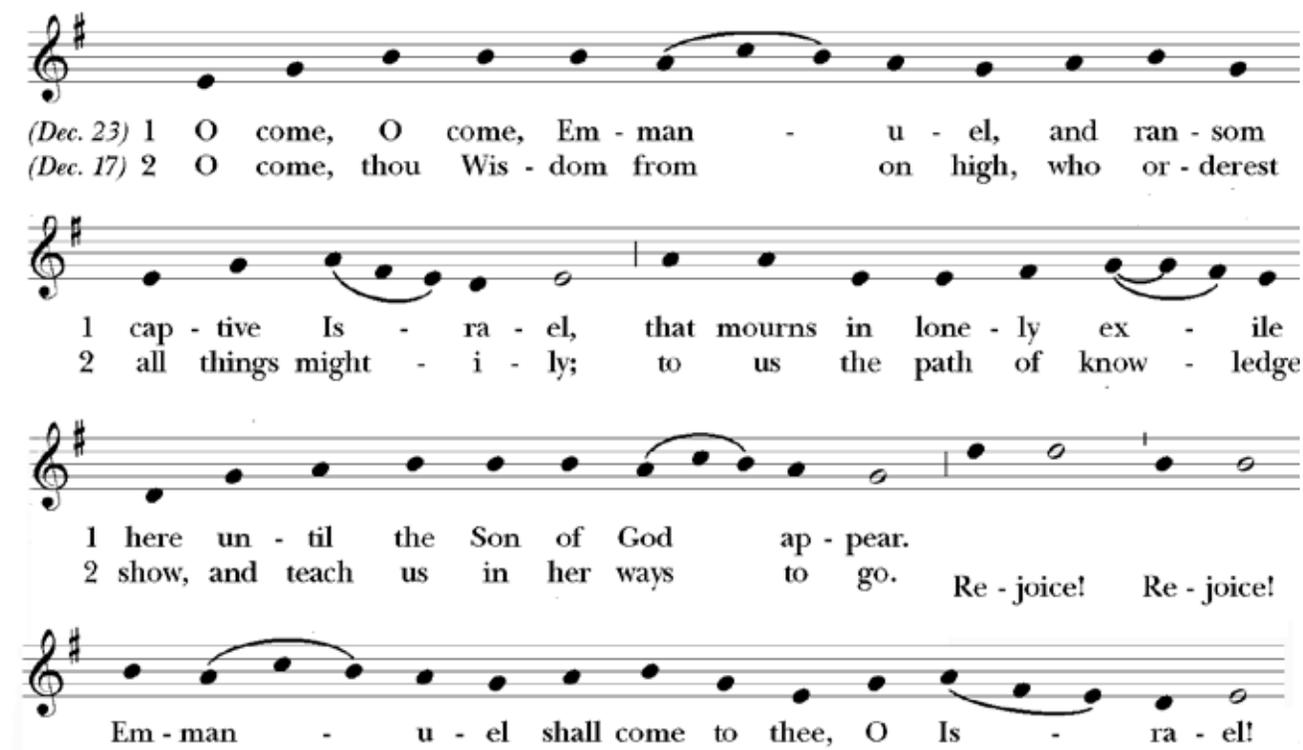
*A Reading from the Letter to the Philippians.*

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.

The Word of the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL HYMN  
HYMNAL 56

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*. alt.  
Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode I, *Processionale*, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

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

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein

*A moment of silence for reflection will follow.*

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 catholic 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.*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In this season of God's light and new birth, let us offer our prayers, saying, "Christ, have mercy."  
For peace, justice, and tranquility in the world, and for the salvation of all,  
let us pray.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Mariann our Bishop; for Joan our Rector; for Terri our Deacon;  
our seminarian, deacon candidates, and deacon postulants, and Bailey our Minister of Music, and for all  
the People of God, especially the people of Ascension, our spiritual home. In the Anglican Communion  
we pray for The Anglican Church of Burundi; let us pray.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For those who are unemployed, hungry, homeless, and in any kind of need, especially those whom we  
encounter in our own community of Silver Spring, let us pray.

**Christ have mercy.**

For those who suffer in body, mind, and spirit and are experiencing any kind of distress or trouble. We  
pray especially today for **all who are suffering from COVID-19 ... Virginia ... Gloria ... Gwendolyn ...  
Amy ... Rachel ... Tina ... Florri ... Frank ... Glen<sup>1</sup> ... Riza ... Marilyn ... Vince ... Skip ...  
Yvonne ... Jean ... \*Bob ... Mary ... Lillian ... Joré Yvonne ... Paula ... Pat<sup>1</sup> ... Jeff ... Giulia ...  
Sofia ... Patti ... \*Sally ... Sean ... The Floyd Family ... David ... Inez ... Geoff ... Gloria ...  
Kitty ... Pat<sup>2</sup> ... Jere ... Dick ... \*Maggie ... The Hunte Family ... Lynn ... Paul ... \*Bert ...  
Pauline ... Linda<sup>1</sup> ... Mary ... Pat<sup>3</sup> ... Mike ... Les ... Marsha ... \*Kathryn ... \*Linda<sup>2</sup> ...  
David ... Paula ... \*Lisa ... Keli ... Zobida ... Cynthia ... Elaine ... Val ... Severn ... \*April ...**

\*Carol<sup>1</sup> ... Joseph ... The Seaton Family ... Pat ... Sam ... Carol<sup>2</sup> ... \*Martha ...  
\*Joyce<sup>1</sup> ... The Tate Family ... Myrtle ... \*Giselle ... The Thomas Family ... Emma ... \*Lorraine ...  
Helen ... \*Libby ... \*Ginny ... Glenn<sup>2</sup> ... Joyce<sup>2</sup> ... and Judah. And we pray especially for those  
suffering from HIV/AIDS (World AIDS Day, December 1st.)

I invite you now to offer up your prayers either silently or aloud.

*Silence*

Let us pray.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For those who have died, especially those whom you wish to name at this time.

*Silence*

Let us pray,

**Christ, have mercy.**

For all the blessings of this life, especially for our parish members: Kevin Connell, Lia Kvatum, and Violet Connell Kvatum; Patrick Sr., Patrick Jr., and Natasha Corrigan; Bob, Leona, and Schuyler Cosby; Jim and Ann Coyle. And for those celebrating birthdays this week: Jean Smeltzer, Haja Wotorson, Ross Howe, Peggy Grosswiler, and Alexander Stone (16).

*Silence*

I invite you now to offer up any other thanksgiving prayers you may have.

*Silence*

Let us pray,

**Christ, have mercy.**

God of new birth, hear the prayers of your people. In this Advent season of preparation, empower us to be vehicles of your love, healing, and peace in the world. We ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom you gave to us as a precious gift of salvation. May our hearts be truly thankful for your presence with us, our Emmanuel. **Amen.**

*Deacon*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence*

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Celebrant declares God's forgiveness.*

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** And also with you.

## WELCOME AND BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### *O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines*

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

*The Chancel Choir with Elizabeth Oka, viola,*

Music: C. H. H. Parry, 1916 Arr: Jantz A. Black

## OFFERTORY HYMN

### HYMNAL 67

### *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684);

tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt

Music: *Psalm 42*, melody Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -  
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
let the val - leys rise to meet him  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
and the hills bow down to greet him.  
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

## OFFERTORY WORDS

*Celebrant* All things come of thee, O Lord.

*People* And of thine own have we given thee.

## BLESSING OF THE AGAPE MEAL AT HOME

We thank you God for the abundance of your hand. The food that satisfies our hunger, and the drink that quenches our thirst. As we gather together, from near and far, we ask that you continue to bless our daily bread and the fruit of the vine, which we share when we come together as One Body in your Name. *Amen.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is a good and joyful thing to give our thanks to you, Lord 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.



## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

**HYMNAL S130**

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord: Sanctus***

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert arr. Richards Prouix (1937-2010)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. 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.

*The people stand or kneel.*

As we remember around this table your Son's saving passion poured out for us,  
we ask gracious God that you 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;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,  
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

*"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me."*



After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying,

*"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.*

*Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*



Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

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 our 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 when we all your children shall celebrate and leap for joy  
in your holy presence, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

And now, in hope and confidence, let us pray as our Savior Christ has taught us,

Eucharistic Prayer from *Eucharistic Prayers*, Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher.  
(Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.: Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2016.)

## 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.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. AMEN.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

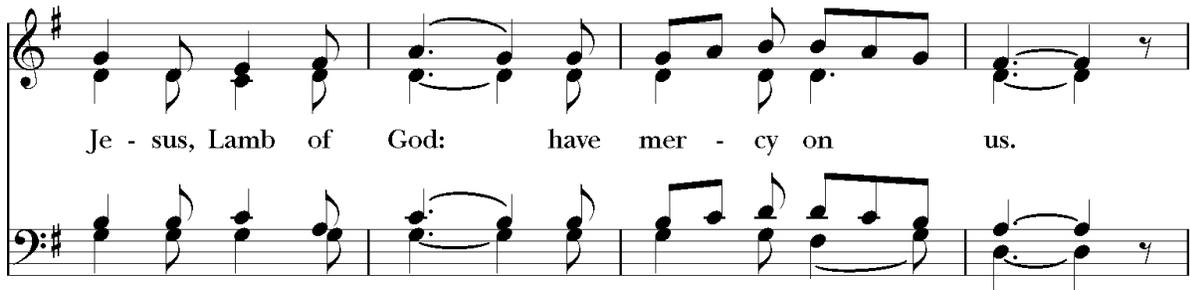
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

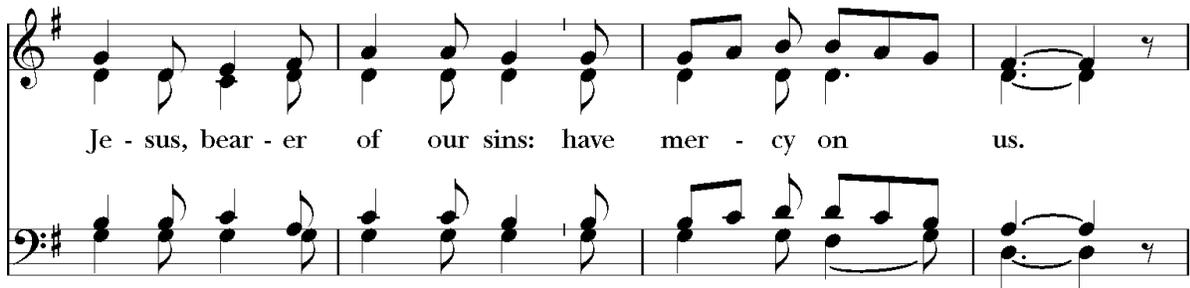
HYMNAL S164

*Jesus, Lamb of God: Agnus Dei*

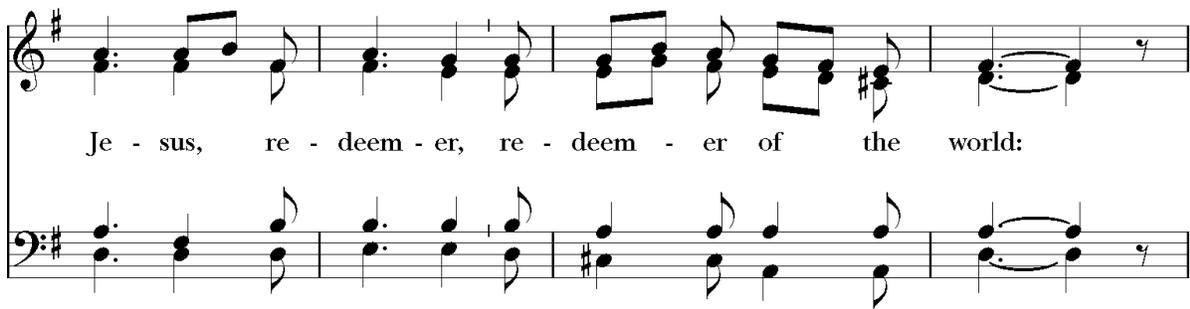
Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert arr. Richards Felciano (1930-2010)



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



give us your peace, give us your peace.

THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ was born into the world for you, therefore feed on him in your hearts with thanksgiving.

*Please walk single file up the center aisle toward the priest.*

*Only the host will be distributed which is full communion. The common cup is still not allowed at this time.*

*Please return to your seat using the aisle to your right to avoid the live stream equipment.*

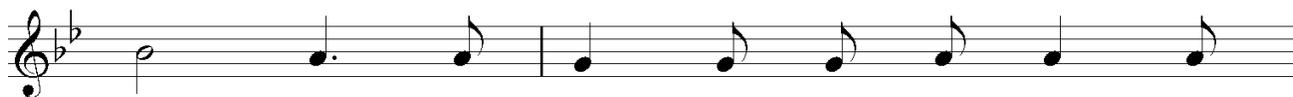
## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

HYMNAL 69

### *What Is the Crying at Jordan*

Words: Carol Christopher Drake (b. 1933), alt.

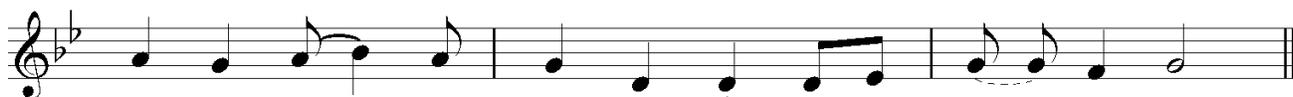
Music: *St. Mark's, Berkeley*, Irish melody from *Danta De: Hymns to God, Ancient and Modern*



1 What is the cry - ing at Jor - dan? Who  
 2 Who then shall stir in this dark - ness, pre -  
 3 Lord, give us grace to a - wake us, to  
 4 Now comes the day of sal - va - tion, in



hears, O God, the pro - phe - cy? Dark is the  
 pare for joy in the win - ter night? Mor - tal in  
 see the branch that be - gins to bloom; in great hu -  
 joy and ter - ror the Word is born! God gives him -



sea - son, dark our hearts and shut to mys - ter - y.  
 dark - ness we lie down, blind - heart - ed, see - ing no light.  
 mi - li - ty is hid all heaven in a lit - tle room.  
 self in - to our lives; O let sal - va - tion dawn!

HYMNAL 75

### *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying*

Words: Ka,es :ewos <o;ogam (1876-1961)

Music: Ascension, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988)



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
 2 O Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee  
 3 but the word of our God en - du - reth, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the  
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 flowers of the field they per - ish, like  
 feed his flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of  
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our God may go!  
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way;  
 lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Eternal Giver of love and life, you have nourished us with the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Now send us into the world to preach your Good News, to do your justice, and to walk humbly in your way. Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation from generation in the Church, and in Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

**DISMISSAL**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**



WLP 889

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)

Music: *Shepherd's Pipes* Annabeth McClelland Gay (1925-2020)

1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free and  
2. With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call, the  
3. My child, as pro - phet of the Lord you will pre - pare the way, to

rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree. So  
oath once sworn to A - bra - ham; from foes to save us all; that  
tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway. Then

have the pro - phets long de - clared that with his might - y arm God  
we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise, in  
shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease, to

would turn back our en - e - mies and all that wish us harm.  
ho - li - ness and right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.  
drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

POSTLUDE

*Alleluja from Exsultate, jubilate K. 165*

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Elizabeth Oka, *viola*, and Bailey Myers, *piano*

Arr.: Barbara Barber

# ANNOUNCEMENTS • DECEMBER 5, 2021

## Our Holiday Brass Concert Returns!

Saturday, December 18 at 7 p.m.

In person and live-streamed!

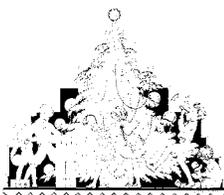
Suggested donation with all proceeds going to Afghan refugees.

Hot apple cider will be served to go on your way out the door!



## DONATE TOYS FOR CHILDREN THIS ADVENT SEASON

We are doing our annual toy drive for children served by the Silver Spring Help organization. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy (for any age child) and put it in one of the large gift boxes in the Gathering Space. We'll take the donated toys each week between now and December 23rd. There will also be a box for new socks, underwear and t-shirts for men of Progress Place, and a small box for stamped Christmas cards. The boxes will be near the windows of the gathering area for all of advent. For more information contact **Hunter Howe 301-445-0540**.



## ADVENT OUTREACH PROJECT: Warm Blanket of God

One of our parishioners has come across a lovely Advent Wreath lighting liturgy that honors not only the season of Advent but also provides an opportunity for servant ministry. Each Sunday of Advent, we are asking for new donated blankets. Please bring them to services where they will be collected. These blankets will be delivered to Bethesda Cares for distribution to the homeless in Bethesda and Silver Spring. Please prayerfully consider donating a blanket at this time. Sundays of collection: 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19/2021.

## ELDERBERRIES !

**Wednesday, December 8th • 10-11:30 AM (Parish Hall)**

A reunion of Elderberries! The last Elderberries Meeting was two years ago! Please come masked and ready to catch up with each other! There will also be a short AIM listening session. For those who wish to attend the Noon Service, you can wait a bit and stay. For responses and questions, please contact

**Annette Achille 301-775-2019 or Marta Brenden 301-618-3839.**



## ADVENT OFFERING: PARISH-WIDE AIM LISTENING SESSION

**Starting Thursday, December 9th • 7:30-8:30 PM • Zoom link to follow**

***A time for sharing and comment building!***

From its founding, Ascension Church has been a supporter of Action in Montgomery, or AIM. AIM is an advocacy organization in Montgomery County focusing on issues of social and racial justice, and health and educational equity. Every few years, AIM conducts listening sessions among its members to determine priorities for future advocacy. AIM is undertaking another round of these sessions during the last months of 2021, to guide work from 2022-2027. The AIM support team at Ascension Church has committed to conducting six listening sessions, each involving 12-15 persons (75-90 persons total). Three sessions will be in-person, and three will be virtual. Some will be on weekends, some on weekday evenings, and at least one will be held on a weekday. Each session will last 60 minutes. We would like a diverse array of Ascension members participating in the listening sessions, and if you are interested you only need to participate once.

## Mid-Week Serices

Holy Eucharist & Healing Rite (In-person & Zoom)

**Wednesdays, 12:00 PM**

Zoom Link provided on Weekly Editions  
of *Sweet Spirit Express*

Daily Offices (Monday-Saturday) (Zoom)

**Morning Prayer -- 8:00 AM**

**Compline -- 8:00 PM** Zoom Links provided on Weekly Editions  
of *Sweet Spirit Express*

To sign up for the *Sweet Spirit Express* (Ascension's Weekly Newsletter) Please email Rev. Joan at [revdrjeb@comcast.net](mailto:revdrjeb@comcast.net).

*Serving This Week*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021**

**The Second Sunday of Advent • Year C**

*Celebrant & Preacher:* The Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein

*Rector:* The Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein

*Deacon:* The Rev. Terri M. Murphy

*Seminarian:* Creamilda Yoda

*Deacon Candidates:* Adela Vasquez, Melissa Sites

*Deacon Postulants:* Mary Kelly, Annemarie Quigley

*Director of Music Ministries:* Bailey Myers

*Lector (8 a.m.):* Creamilda Yoda

*LEM (8 a.m.):* Melissa Sites

*Lector (10 a.m.):* Sandra Sussman

*LEM (10 a.m.):* Kathryn McCullough

*Greeters:* Bob Jacobs and Addison Hunt

*Warden of the Day:* Theo Emory

*Tech Team (10 a.m.):* Steve Fromyer and Monica Allen

*Serving Next Week*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021**

**The Third Sunday of Advent • Year C**

*Celebrant:* The Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein

*Preacher:* The Rev. Terri M. Murphy, *Deacon*

*Rector:* The Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein

*Deacon:* The Rev. Terri M. Murphy

*Seminarian:* Creamilda Yoda

*Deacon Candidates:* Adela Vasquez, Melissa Sites

*Deacon Postulants:* Mary Kelly, Annemarie Quigley

*Director of Music Ministries:* Bailey Myers

*Lector (8 a.m.):* Morna Holden

*LEM (8 a.m.):* Adela Vasquez

*Lector (10 a.m.):* Annie Brown

*LEM (10 a.m.):* Fred Paul

*Greeters:* Bill Schauman and Chuck McCarter

*Warden of the Day:* Arabella Littlepage

*Tech Team (10 a.m.):* Mary Kelly and Bill Schauman

**THE VESTRY OF ASCENSION**

- Jane Alpersen (22), Senior Warden • Steve Fromyer (23), Junior Warden
  - Theo Emery (24) • Anne LeVeque (24)
  - Arabella Littlepage (22) • Dick Marks (22) • Chuck McCarter (24)
  - Jonathan Mengesha (23) • Laura Schattschneider (22)
  - Blaise Strandquist (23) • Sandra Sussman (23) • Joan Thomas (24)
  - Ex Officio: Mary Fromyer – Registrar
  - Leticia Read – Clerk of the Works
  - Leona Cosby – Treasurer • Fred Paul – Assistant Treasurer
- treasurer-ascension@comcast.net

To submit a prayer request or add birthdays, anniversaries, and other thanksgivings to the Sunday prayer list please email: Jennifer Woods, [knitpick@mac.com](mailto:knitpick@mac.com) and The Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein, [revdrjeb@comcast.net](mailto:revdrjeb@comcast.net)

*Special Thanks to Chris Chang and Astrocasters for helping make our live stream possible by providing our streaming server and cota.live site!*



For peace and an end to violence and terrorism everywhere.

*Our Parish Cycle of Prayer*

Kevin Connell, Lia Kvatum, and Violet Connell Kvatum

Patrick Sr., Patrick Jr., and Natasha Corrigan

Bob, Leona, and Schuyler Cosby

Jim and Ann Coyle

*For those celebrating birthdays:*

*December 6:* Jean Smeltzer

*December 7:* Haja Wotorson

*December 8:* Ross Howe

*December 11:* Peggy Grosswiler, Alexander Stone (16)

*In our Diocese:*

St. Nicholas' Parish, Germantown

Episcopal Church Women

United Thank Offering

International Human Rights Day (December 10)

*In the Anglican Communion:*

The Anglican Church of Burundi

For those with HIV/AIDS everywhere, but especially in Africa.

*In the World*

All with the COVID-19 virus and all who have died.

*For people in need of healing*

(\*indicates a member of the parish; italics, new this week):

- Virginia Allen, Gloria Alexander, Gwendolyn Alexander, Amy Anderson, Rachel Anderson, Tina Arnold, Florri Aversa, Dick Baker, Frank Baxter, Glen Bediarum, Riza Bediarum, Marilyn Belmontes, Vince Belmontes, Skip Bowling, \*Yvonne Boyd, Jean Brady, \*Bob Brown, Mary Bucher, Martha Catel, Joré Yvonne Chumbley, The Rev. Canon Paula Clark, Bishop-elect of Chicago, Jane, Pat Cox, Jeff Crites, Giulia Del Priore, Sofia Del Priore, \*Sally Feder, Sean Fitzsimmons, The Floyd Family, David and Inez Frederick, Geoff Grub, Gloria Gunness, Kitty Hall, Jere Herzenberg, \*Maggie Howard, The Hunte Family, Lynn Hutcheson, Paul Jackson, Sara Jackson, Barbara Jacobs, \*Bert Joseph, Pauline Lerner, Linda LeVeque, *Mary MacDougall*, Pat Martin, Mike Mattson, Les Maul, Marsha Maul, \*Kathryn McCullough, \*Linda McCullough, David Meyer, Paula Moree, \*Lisa Null, Keli Pirtle, Zobida Ragbirsingh, Cynthia Roberts, Elaine Rutman, Val Sasmore, Severn Savage, \*April Schrock, \*Carol Schwobel, Joseph Sears, The Seaton Family, Pat Seeger, Sam Shutt, Carol Fiddler Smith, \*Martha Smith, \*Joyce Sterling, The Tate Family, \*Giselle Thomas, The Thomas Family, Myrtle Thompson, Emma Tunaley, \*Lorraine Van Buren, \*Helen Van Doren, \*Libby Williams, \*Ginny Ripley-Wolf, Glenn Woodley, Joyce Woody, Judah Yoda

*Please take the Prayer List home for use in daily prayers.*

# Mustard Seed Ministry Opportunities • December 2021



Ascension's Mustard Seed Ministry offers simple moments of ministry that are easy to complete, often from the comfort of your own home. Don't know what to do to combat the hate and need you see all around you? Choose one or more of the Mustard Seed opportunities below!

- **NEW** Bring a new blanket to a Sunday service during Advent. These will be distributed to the homeless.
- **NEW** Bring a new toy for donation to needy area children on any Sunday in Advent.
- **NEW** Attend Ascension's Brass Concert on December 18. All proceeds will go to help Afghan immigrants arriving in the area.
- Tommy's Pantry, volunteer to help at Ascension on Saturdays to prep and distribute food to needy neighbors. <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10c0a4aafa72fa0f58-gift>.
- Volunteer to help the Adventist Community Center sort supplies for refugee families
- **Casserole Ministry.** Please help us feed the local needy. Shepherd's Table asks that rather than making a casserole for Shepherd's Table, you donate the cost of making one (\$10), to Shepherd's Table. Please let Carol Schwobel know of your donation. [Cjs\\_skye@hotmail.com](mailto:Cjs_skye@hotmail.com)<sup>1</sup>
- **Knit a baby blanket, sweater, booties or caps** for Palestinian newborns at St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus, Palestine. Please drop off your items with Rev. Terri.
- **Donate time around Ascension** to help with yard clean up shoveling or mowing in the spring.
- **Drop off a \$10.00 Giant or Safeway food card** at the front of the church on Wednesdays from 10-11 a.m. to help feed the homeless!<sup>3</sup>
- **Diaper Ministry to benefit Greater DC Diaper Bank.** On Sundays between 11-11:30 a.m. you can drop off items at the front door of the church. Contact Laura Schattschneider at [les291@nyu.edu](mailto:les291@nyu.edu) or Drew Snyder at [drewsnyder@pobox.com](mailto:drewsnyder@pobox.com) for details.<sup>4</sup>

*In November, you donated:*

1. 550.00 (55 casseroles) to Shepherd's Table
2. \$1010.00 in grocery store gift cards and 110 comfort packs to the area homeless|
3. 573 diapers in October, November number to come; for the D.C. Diaper Bank.

**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**  
**IN-PERSON WORSHIP PROTOCOLS**  
**Revised October 31st, 2021**

*In accordance with the CDC, Montgomery County, and Diocesan Guidelines.*

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**SUNDAYS**

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Services

9:00 AM -- Children's Chapel

11:15 AM – Coffee hour

**WEDNESDAYS**

Same as below.

+

- **VACCINATION:** It is strongly recommended that all be **fully vaccinated** for the COVID-19 virus, **but vaccination is not required.**
- **MASKS:** **Required for indoor worship.**
- **BULLETINS:** Please provide **your own bulletin** (i.e., a print copy, on your phone, on your tablet.) A limited number of paper bulletins will be available for visitors and those who need them. Please take all paper copies of the bulletin with you upon departing the service.
- **GENERAL PARKING:** **Street parking** and the **school lot** behind the church are available.
- **HANDICAPPED PARKING:** The church parking circle at 633 Sligo Avenue is reserved for those with **limited mobility.**
- **SEATING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING:** When choosing a seating area, please observe **social distancing** of at least 6 feet.
- **RESTROOMS:** The **restrooms** in the Gathering Space and in the Undercroft will be available for your use.
- **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE:** Bows, waves, peace signs, elbow bumping, handshaking, kissing, or hugging are allowed but **please be respectful** and check if others welcome these gestures or not.
- **HOLY COMMUNION:** **Please** walk up the **center aisle** single file toward the priest. Only the host will be distributed which is full communion. The common cup is still not allowed at this time.



***Come this far by Faith***  
***Annual Stewardship Pilgrimage for***

***Episcopal Church of the Ascension***

Our/my gift is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per [week | month | year] for an annual total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like information about Realm Online Giving to pay my pledge but don't have a Realm Account.

Contact Leona Cosby (Treasurer) for instructions.

I plan to fulfill my pledge to Church of the Ascension using Realm Online Giving through my Realm account.

**NOTE:**

Online Giving via ACH (for credit card) is a convenient and reliable way to fulfill your financial commitment to the church. ACH is also the most efficient method of giving to the church since it reduces administrative overhead and helps maintain predictable cash flow. To set up Online Giving login to your Realm account, select Giving, then +Give, and selected the frequency (once a week, once a month, etc.) Please also consider checking the box "Processing Costs" to contribute a little extra to offset processing costs."

I would like information about Appreciated Stock Transfers. Please contact Leona Cosby (Treasurer.)

**YOU MAY SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE BY:**

- Scanning (or photographing the form) and emailing to:  
Leona Cosby, Treasurer, at [treasurer-ascension@comcast.net](mailto:treasurer-ascension@comcast.net).
- Mailing it to the church office address:  
Church of the Ascension, 634 Silver Spring Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910, ATTN: Treasurer
- Putting it through the mail slot at Ascension House, ATTN: Treasurer
- Placing in the Offering Plate on Sundays if you attend a service in-person.

If you any questions about pledging or methods of pledging please contact:

**Leona Cosby (Treasurer) • [rlcosby2@verizon.net](mailto:rlcosby2@verizon.net) • Mobile: 301-520-6179**