

Advent & Christmas 2023

*The First Witnesses
of Christ*



1st Sunday in Advent

.....
Zechariah

December 3 | 9 & 11 am

Holy Communion

All hymns & song lyrics are included in the bulletin.

Congregational responses are indicated in **bold**.

Prepare the Way

Verses 1-3



1. Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, Your Christ is draw - ing near!
2. Christ brings God's rule, O Zi - on; He comes from heaven a - bove.
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; Your Sav - ior'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.
And 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 re - joic - ing, Their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ that came In God's most ho - ly name.

The Acclamation for Advent

Surely the Lord is coming soon.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

The 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.

The Collect for the 1st Sunday in Advent

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

[Please be seated.]

The Lesson..... Malachai 4: 1-6

Pew Bible pg. 802

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm..... 80: 1-3

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that lead Joseph like a sheep; *
show yourself also, you that sit upon the cherubim.
- 2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us again, O God; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be whole.

[Please stand.]

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel Reading..... Luke 1: 5-25

Pew Bible pg. 855

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

[Please be seated.]

The Sermon..... The Rev. Ben Hughes

[Please stand.]

The Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten 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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.***

[Please sit or kneel.]

The Prayers of the People

*If you would like us to name someone aloud in prayer in the service
next week, please notify the office during the week.*

The Confession and Absolution of Sin

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**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.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

[Please stand.]

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
*Amen.***

The Sursum Corda

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

[On occasion the minister may add a proper preface.]

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:

The Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, God Almighty
Who was and is, and is to come,
Lift up His name with the sound of singing,
Lift up His name in all the earth.
Lift up your voice and give Him glory,
For He is worthy to be praised.
Holy. Holy.**

[Please be seated.]

The Prayer of Consecration

All praise and glory is yours, O God our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there, by his one offering of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and he instituted, and in his Holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For on the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

And here we offer and present to you, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice. We humbly pray that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, be filled with your grace and heavenly benediction, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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 Fraction

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Prayer of Humble Access

**We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your abundant and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy so much as to gather up
the crumbs under your table;
but you are the same Lord
whose property is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.***

The Ministration of Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Parents of baptized children are welcome to decide whether you would like your children to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

*To receive a blessing instead of communion,
simply keep your hands by your side or folded.*

If you require a gluten-free or alcohol-free cup, please ask the minister.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Verses 1-4

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

In the Bleak Midwinter

Verses 1, 2, 4

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heaven and earth shall flee a - way, when he comes to reign:
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim throng - ed the air;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
yet what I can I give him give my heart.

Adore

Kendrick / Chalk

You stepped down from heaven
Humbly You came
God of all creation
Here with us
In a starlit manger Emmanuel
Light of the world here to save

Chorus: Adore

Come let us adore
O come let us adore Him
The Lord
Worship Christ the Lord
Let all that is within us adore

Wise men bring their treasures
Shepherds bow low
Angel voices sing
Of peace on earth
What have I to offer to heaven's King
I will bring my life my love my all

Bridge: Angels sing praises ring
To the newborn King
Peace on earth here with us
Joy awakening
At Your feet we fall

The Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

On occasion the minister may invite the congregation to join in the Post Communion Prayer below.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

**We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out to do
the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever.
*Amen.***

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

**On occasion members of this congregation like to add "alleluia, alleluia" to the dismissal.*



Under Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord:
The Rt. Rev. Alex Cameron, Bishop of Pittsburgh

Staff

The Rev. Alex Shuttleworth, *Rector*
Robert Fire, *Music Minister*
Tami Fire, *Children's & Pastoral Care Minister*
Josh Gerdes, *Children's Minister*
The Rev. Ben Hughes, *Assistant Minister*
Jenna Hughes, *Asst. Youth Minister*
Lam Gray, *Interim Asst. Youth Minister*
The Rev. Elizabeth H. Rodewald, *Deacon*
Niki De Luca, *Finance Manager*
Bridget Michael, *Operations Manager*

Vestry

Catherine Parham, *Senior Warden*
Matt Beresik, *Junior Warden*
Richard Cagley
Alyssa Campbell
Jane Flaherty
Zack Gray, *Treasurer*
Joe Nawrocki
Anne Malone, *Secretary*



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