



Christ Church

East Norwalk, Connecticut



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DURING COVIDTIDE

20TH DECEMBER, 2020

Welcome. Whoever and wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here. Our worship is according to Book of Common Prayer in the Episcopal Church. In this time when we cannot sing together, we are blessed to enjoy the singing of church and chapel choirs from around the Anglican Communion leading our praises. Feel free to join them from your home or wherever you may be! Please do stay on “mute” as Zoom does not do well with many voices singing at once 😊

✠ indicates where one might cross oneself; ∇. indicates “Versicle” said by Celebrant or reader; ℞. indicates “Response”;
People’s words are in **bold**

PRELUDIAL MUSIC

Variations on Veni Emanuel for Organ

OPENING HYMN

Sung by all in your homes and led by various choirs

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel
That into exile drear is gone,
Far from the face of God's dear Son.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

4 O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

5 O Come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O Come, Desire of Nations! Show
Thy kingly reign on earth below;
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
Restore the ruin of our fall.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

✠ Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
℞. **And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Celebrant then says the Collect for Purity and all respond,

℞. **Amen**

KYRIE*Sung by all, standing*

J.H. Willan (1880-1960)

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

COLLECT(S)*∇*. *The Lord be with you.**℞*. **And also with you.***∇*. *Let us pray The Celebrant prays the collect(s) and then all respond...*

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

℞. **Amen.****LESSON**

A Reading from Second Samuel Chapter 7 beginning at the 1st Verse

Now when the king dwelt in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies round about, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart; for the LORD is with you."⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges^[a] of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.'"

∇ The Word of the Lord*℞*. Thanks be to God

GRADUAL PSALM

Said responsively by half verse indicated by “”

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Misericordias Domini

1 Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

4 'I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"

19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

20 I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

21 My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.

22 No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.

23 I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.

24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.

25 I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.

26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

EPISTLE

A Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans, Chapter 16 beginning at the 25th Verse
Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory for evermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

SEQUENCE HYMN VV. 1 & 2

Sung by all in your homes and led by various choirs

1 Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Refrain:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

2 God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human. [Refrain]

THE HOLY GOSPEL *Stand*

V. The Lord be with you. *R.* And with thy spirit.

V. ✠ The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to _____

R. Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel:

V. The Gospel of the Lord. *R.* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SEQUENCE HYMN LAST 2 VERSES

Sung by all in your homes and led by various choirs

See Insert

3 Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected, [Refrain]

4 Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Refrain:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

SERMON

CREED *All Stand*

Celebrant We believe in one God,
All 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: *All may bow or kneel*
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man. All rise
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 worshipped 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.

All remain standing or kneel for the Prayers of the People

PRAYERS *The Leader and People pray responsively*

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world, remembering especially, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Ian and Laura, our bishops; Ian our priest and all bishops and other ministers.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for: Mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for: Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport For the children of the world, the Bishops' Fund for Children, and all ECCT ministries for children at risk

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, particularly Donald, our President, Ned, our Governor, Harry, our Mayor, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Comfort and heal our nation and communities, torn by racial strife and instances of man's inhumanity to man.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For all suffering with COVID-19 physically, emotionally, or financially, and for those who care for those who are in pain.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. (We pray especially for *Here may be added birthdays and anniversaries* _____).

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. (We pray especially for DRAKE, TYLER, SKYLER, MARK, Cindy, Erica, Jamie, Anita, Angela, Betty, George, Cathy, Shannon, Ron, John, Kathy, Christina, Bette, J.P., Evelyn, Wally *All repeat the person's name after the leader* and all others we now name *Add your own intercessions silently or aloud*

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We commend to your mercy all who have died, (especially _____ and all others we now name *Add your own intercessions silently or aloud* _____;) that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Celebrant bids the people make their confession. All kneel

GENERAL CONFESSION (OMITTED ON MAJOR FEASTS)

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 pronounces the absolution, ✠ the people reply **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All Stand

∞. The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

∞. And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are seated

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail", said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady." Gloria.
- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emanuel, by seers foretold
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:¹
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

SURSUM CORDA

remaining standing

∞. 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.

PREFACE

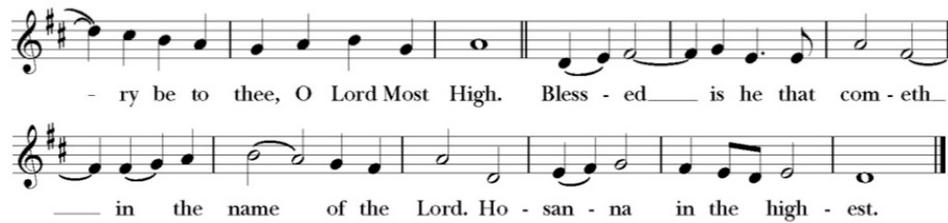
the Celebrant continues with the preface

SANCTUS

All sing

Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -



- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE CANON *all kneel*

The Celebrant continues and concludes the Words of Institution with:

Celebrant Therefore, according to his command, O Father.

All We remember his death. We proclaim his resurrection. We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues the Canon and concludes with:

...Almighty Father, now and for ever.

And all respond AMEN

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

LORD'S PRAYER *Said by all*

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.

FRACTION

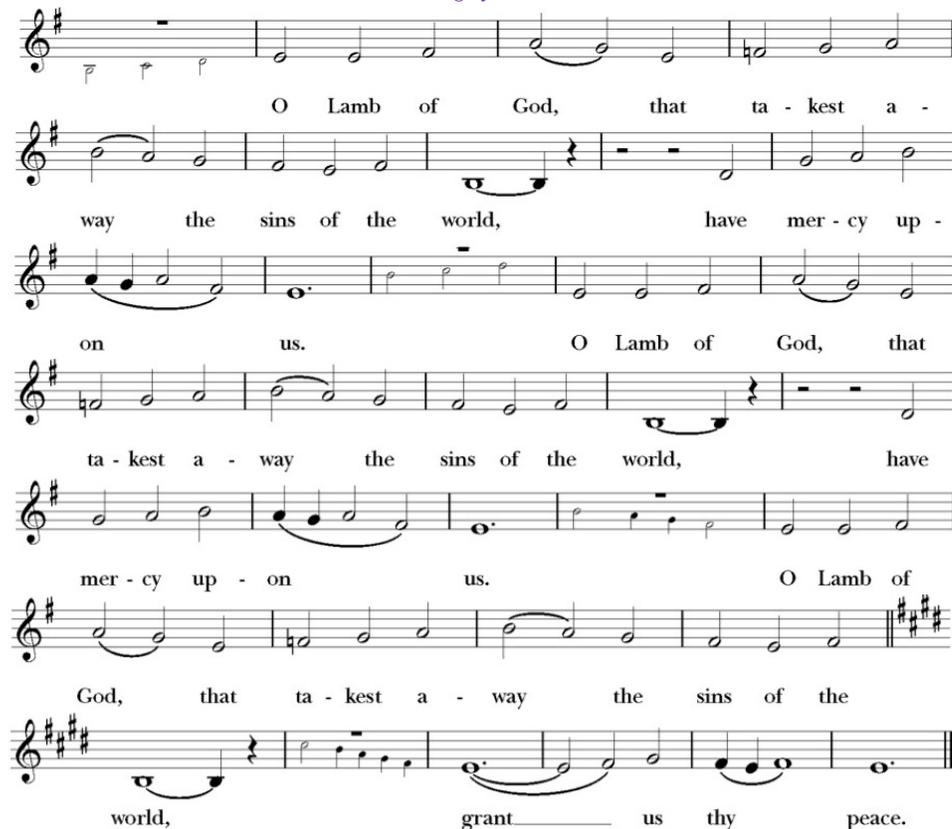
∇. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

✠. Therefore let us keep the feast.

AGNUS DEI

Sung by all

Willan



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
 way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
 on us. O Lamb of God, that
 ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
 mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
 God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
 world, grant us thy peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for you, preserve your body and soul unto everlasting life

THOSE WHO HAVE HOSTS AT HOME SHOULD CONSUME THEM NOW

During these extraordinary times when we cannot GATHER for Holy Communion, the Sacrament (consecrated in advance in the one form of bread only) can be brought in a COVID-safe manner to you for consumption at home during the live service. Contact the Church Office if you would like to have the Sacrament brought to your home.

*If you do not have the sacrament available physically, you can make an act of "Spiritual Communion" offered by the Bishop as follows
In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live and die in your love. Amen.*

COMMUNION HYMN

1. Gabriel's message does away
Satan's curse and Satan's sway,
out of darkness brings our Day:

Refrain:

so, behold,
all the gates of heaven unfold.

2. He that comes despised shall reign;
he that cannot die, be slain;
death by death its death shall gain: (Refrain)

5. Art by art shall be assailed;
to the cross shall Life be nailed;
from the grave shall hope be hailed: (Refrain)

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

the following said by all

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The Celebrant then blesses the people who respond saying **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

℟̕. Let us bless the Lord. ℞. Thanks Be to God

CLOSING HYMN

1 Ye who own the faith of Jesus
Sing the wonders that were done,
When the love of God the Father
O'er our sin the victory won,
When he made the Virgin Mary
Mother of his only Son.
Hail Mary, full of grace.

2 Blessèd were the chosen people
Out of whom the Lord did come,
Blessèd was the land of promise
Fashioned for his earthly home;
But more blessèd far the Mother
She who bare him in her womb.
Hail Mary, full of grace.

4 Let us weave our supplications,
She with us and we with her,
For the advancement of the faithful,
For each faithful worshipper,
For the doubting, for the sinful,
For each heedless wanderer.
Hail Mary, full of grace.

5 May the Mother's intercessions
On our homes a blessing win,
That the children all be prospered,
Strong and fair and pure within,
Following our Lord's own footsteps,
Firm in faith and free from sin.
Hail Mary, full of grace.

7 Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,
Praise thy Saviour and thy Son,
Praise the everlasting Spirit,
Who hath made thee ark and throne;
O'er all creatures high exalted,
Lowly praise the Three in One.
Hail Mary, full of grace.

“COFFEE HOUR”

All are welcome to linger in the “Zoom Room” and interact after the liturgy!