

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 22, 2019, 10:00 a.m.



WELCOME TO ST. FRANCIS CHURCH SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.



*The Annunciation: The Angel Gabriel
before 1511, Gaudenzio Ferrari*

Celebrant: The Very Rev. Paula Vukmanic
Deacon: The Rev. Jude Lyons

A Few Words About Advent

Purple was the traditional color of Advent, a color that represents penitence and fasting, as well as royalty. Purple will continue to be the traditional color of Lent. But for Advent, we use deep blue, as other churches have come to do, because deep blue represents the Advent themes of expectation, hope and anticipation of the dawn of Christ. It is the color in the sky before the sun rises, encouraging us to keep watch for the promised light of Christ to break over the horizon, changing night into day. The use of blue has deep historical roots.

The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen, and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light.

Traditionally, the wreath is made of four blue or purple candles in a circle of evergreens, with a central white candle lit on Christmas Eve and Day. The meaning assigned to each candle varies by tradition.

A † appears in the margin where you may wish to make the sign of the cross over your body. Making the sign of the cross is a choice left to each worshipper.

It is simply a way to engage your entire body (not just your speech and mind) in worship, and physically to signify embracing the blessing of God.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Prelude: Variations on "Veni, Veni"

Please stay seated for the first reading of our service of lessons and carols.

Lesson 1—The Story of God's Loving Purpose Begins with Genesis

Genesis 3:1-15

Reader A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent,

'Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**



Please STAND as able, and join in singing,

Processional Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn #56 vv 1-4

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A family steps forward:

Leader Today we light the first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE.

The candles are lit.

Leader "Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (*John 13:34*)

People Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.

An Advent Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God:

In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against God until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. For all those killed or injured from acts of terrorism, violence and abuse of any kind in our country and around the world, from the consequences of natural disasters, and for those who grieve from tragic loss. We also pray for all first responders and members of the armed and foreign services and their families, especially Drew Deley, Kelly Hall, Mark Kappelman, TJ Malzahn, Will Piepenbring, Scott Ruston, Michael Strong, Jonathan Zimmerman and Steve.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray especially for those suffering in body, mind or spirit: Andrea, Aidan and Lorcin, Barbara, Bob and Jane Africano, Stephanie Bezner, Howard Dale, Ceri Falk, Ann Godfrey, Sally Hill, Marjorie Morris, Karla Nicole, Nathan Reddall, Shelley Reece, Gwynne Shaw, Steve Smith, and all those we name to you now (*please add your own prayers, silently or aloud.*)

Finally, let us remember before God his Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. **Amen.**

Please be seated.



Lesson 2—God's Promise to Abraham

Genesis 22:15-18

Reader A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn

The God of Abraham Praise

Hymn #401 vv 1 & 4

Lesson 3—A Young Woman Shall Conceive

Isaiah 7:10-15

Reader A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose

Hymn #81

Lesson 4—New Heavens and New Earth

Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice for ever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered
a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be
considered accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labour in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—
and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the LORD.

Hymn

O Day of Peace

Hymn #597

Lesson 5—New Covenant

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Reader A Reading from the Book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the LORD', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

The Plans I Have for You

Jonathan Adams

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord; plans to prosper you and never harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.*

Then you will call upon me, and come and pray to me; and I will listen to you.

For I know the plans I have for you...

Lesson 6—Bethlehem

Micah 5:2-4

Reader A Reading from the Book of the prophet Micah.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn #79



Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

Lesson 7—Gabriel Appears to Mary

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Reader A Reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Anthem

The Angel Gabriel

19th c Basque Carol arr. John Leavitt

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 favored lady!" Gloria!

*"For know, a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady!" Gloria!*

*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!*

*Of her Emmanuel the Christ was born, in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, "Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!*

Please STAND, as able for,

The Holy Gospel—John 1:1-14

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Anthem

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Grace Buchen, flute

arr. John Cornish

*Of the Father's love begotten e'er the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he.
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.*

*O that birth, forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.*

*O ye heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing, powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.*

Please remain STANDING as able, and join in saying,

An Affirmation of Faith for Advent

Liturgy For The Whole Church, Susan K. Bock

We believe in God, who bends and kneels toward our world, drenching it with love, making it new with every breath. We believe in Jesus, God become human, who brought every person a spark of the divine. We believe in the Spirit, hovering God, present among us, abiding, upholding, awaking all things to her grace. We believe we are called to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God and each other, ready for God's reign, awake and alert, as we work to bring it near. We believe we are called, as Christmas comes close, to lift up our hearts in hope and in love, seeking God's advent in each moment and person, each challenge and heartache, each blessing and joy. This we promise to do. Keep us faithful, Lord Jesus, and come soon.

Come soon! Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant May the transforming peace of Jesus Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements



The Annunciation
Frederick James Shields (1833–1911)
Manchester Art Gallery

The Holy Communion

On the fourth Sunday of each month, the children of the parish, and their families, gather at the altar to experience the mystery and joy of Communion up close, so their Sunday School learning may come alive in their experience.

Please STAND as able, and join in singing,

Offertory Hymn

Come As You Are

Brent Helming

Come as you are, come and drink from the liv - ing wat - er that flowed from his hands,
Come as you are, come and bathe in the heal - ing wat - er, cleans - ing from sin,
flowed from his side. Draw near to him and he'll draw near to you.
re-leas - ing new life He's been wait - ing for you to call on his name, so come, Come as you are.

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Please continue STANDING, as able, for

The Offertory Prayers

Celebrant God, through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer.
They will become for us spiritual food.

People We bless God forever.

Celebrant God, receive our gifts for the work of your Church.

People We Bless God forever.

Celebrant God, you have blessed us with the joy of children and families and members of all ages.
We thank you that they are with us, surrounding your table.

People We bless God forever.

Remain standing for

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant God is here.

People We praise God together.

Celebrant Let us say thank you to God

People God has done so much for us.

Celebrant O God, you made all things, and you blessed them.

People You gave us the earth to feed us, the sky to open our hearts, the water for us to drink.
You blessed all those who came before us, and you bless us, also.

Celebrant When it was time, you sent angels to Mary and Joseph to tell them about having a child, whom they would call Jesus. Jesus would be the Savior of the world.
And so we praise you with all the angels as we sing:

Sanctus

God Is Here!

Carey Landry

God is here! Come, let us cel - e-brate! God is here! Let us re - joice!

5
God is here! Come, let us cel - e-brate! God is here! Let us re - joice!

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*Please STAND or kneel, as you are able, or feel most comfortable. **The People join in reading the text in bold.***

Celebrant God, you made us, and the world and everything in it.

Families All the good we see comes from you. You have always loved us, but people have not always loved you.
You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again.

People **Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

Families He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit we can all be your people.
And so with thanks we praise you.

People **Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

Celebrant We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God.
He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them.
"This is my body," he said.

People **Do this, and know that I am with you.**

Celebrant Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you.
He shared it with them, and said
"This is my blood, which brings new life.

People **Do this, and know that I am with you."**

Celebrant We remember what Jesus has done for us:

People **Jesus died, then was raised to new life by you,
and is alive forever,
We are glad to share that life and live in him.
Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

† Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus,
and through this food give us strength to live as your people.

People **Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

Celebrant Help us care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us.

Families Help us to love God, love others, serve the world,
Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land.

Celebrant We worship you and say:

People **We praise you.
We thank you.
We bless you.
Amen.**

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

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

Fraction Anthem

At the Table of Jesus

Carey Landry

At the ta - ble of Je - sus we give thanks, and we cel - e - brate the glo - ry of our God. At the
 ta - ble of Je - sus we give thanks, and we cel - e - brate the glo - ry of our God.

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The Communion of the People

All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please follow the directions of the ushers. Kneeling or standing, each person receives the Bread in the palm of the right hand, eats, and then guides the cup for a sip of the Wine. If you do not wish to receive or are not yet baptized, we encourage you to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply fold your hands across your chest when you come forward. The clergy will carry Communion to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward. Please notify an usher if you wish to be served in your seat.*

If you have come with a particular prayer concern today, after receiving Communion you may come to the Nason Prayer Chapel to the right of the altar rail where someone will be available to pray with you.

**Gluten-free Communion wafers are now carried alongside regular wafers at Holy Communion. If you require one of these, simply ask at the Altar rail.*

Communion Anthem

Child of Light
 Jill Lynch, solo

Daniel Kantor

*Why only this darkened stable embraced the dawn of new life?
 Lowly manger to welcome our savior, this child of night needs our light.*

Could it be that Creator, Builder has no home in creation? In his house will he find no home? Child of night, needs your light.

*Sleep, sleep as the morning daybreak in song and sun shall arise.
 Eyes of wonder look upward from under the star of night, Child of light.*

In this winter of aging darkness rays of youth will awaken. Warming hearts of unspoken love, Star of night, Child of Light.

*What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

Post Communion Prayer for Advent

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Holy and eternal God, you have graciously fed us with the Body and Blood of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant Let us say together our Mission Statement:

All We welcome everyone to worship God together, to be transformed by the Holy Spirit and each other, and to share the light of Christ in the world. Amen.

A Blessing for the Advent Season

Celebrant May the dawn of Christ's coming be the joy of your strength. May the sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; And may the blessings of God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Spirit our Sustainer, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.



Please STAND as able, and join in singing,

The Recessional Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

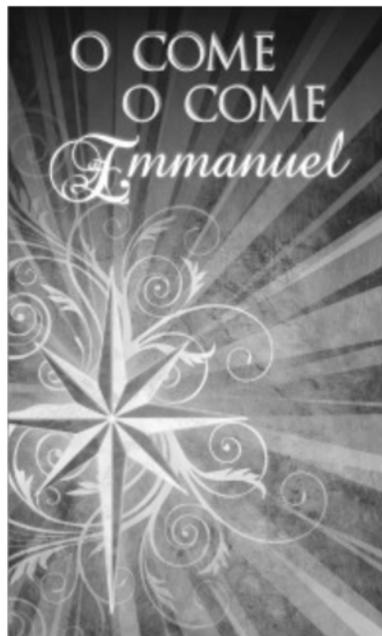
Hymn #56 vv 5-8

The Sending Forth

Deacon Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

Postlude: "Winchester New"



St Francis Episcopal Church, 2200 Via Rosa, Palos Verdes, CA 90274, 310 375-4617.
www.stfrancispalosverdes.org