

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2020, 10:00am



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 shall 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.

The Word of God

Prelude: Variations on "Stuttgart"

(arr. Knight)

The Processional Hymn

Savior of the nations, come!

Hymn #54, v. 1, 2, 4

Sa - vior of the na - tions, come!
Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child
Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son,
Vir - gin's Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both heaven and earth,
of the Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and Ma - ry's son,
who o'er sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your king - dom be;
that the Lord chose such a birth.
ea - ger that now his race to run!
grant that we its glo - ries see.

The Opening Acclamation

✠ Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

All 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 of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. 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 uni-
ty of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Deacon/Preacher: The Very Rev. Paula Vukmanic

Celebrant: The Rev. Jude Lyons

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.**

Hymn—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive Is - ra - el, that
3 mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re -
5 joice, re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Traditional carol from the 9th century

The First Lesson 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

1st Reader A Reading from the second Book of Samuel.

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."

Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived 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 and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 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 to be prince over my people Israel; and 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. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from 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. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

1st Reader Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

The Response Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26, *Misericordias Domini*

Reader Let us pray together the Psalm response.

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.'

The Holy Gospel—Luke 1:26-38

† Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
 † People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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, favored 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 favor 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 forever, 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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
 People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

† The Sermon

The Very Rev. Paula Vukmanic

There will be a moment of silence for reflection following the sermon.

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 Prayers of the People

The People join in reading the words in bold.

Our Advent prayers call upon God with our ancestors, the significant people of the Bible that led the way to the birth of Jesus.

God of the prophets, give your church courage to speak truth, and to tell of your love.

God of the prophets, hear us and help us!

God of the angels, give your church voice to sing your presence in the world. Give the world a freedom song, and help us to speak peace especially in all places of conflict in our world.

God of the angels, hear us and help us!

God of Mary and Elizabeth, give your church grace to bring forth new life into a world desperate for love, hope and opportunity for all.

God of our mothers, hear us and help us!

God of Zechariah and Joseph, give your church dreams and visions, and the courage to follow them.

God of our fathers, hear us and help us!

God of the shepherds, give your church humility, and to all who sit in darkness and anxiety, alone and afraid, light and peace.

God of the shepherds, hear us and help us!

God of the Magi, give your church gifts, and the will to find you among the poor and the marginalized.

God of the Magi, hear us and help us.

God of John the Baptist, give your church the grace to be a messenger of change and hope, to preach a message of love and peace in wilderness moments.

God of messengers, hear us and help us!

God of the Holy Innocents, give your church power to stand against violence and to protect the powerless.

For all first responders and members of the armed and foreign services and their families, especially Drew Deley, Michael Herredia, Mark Kappelmann, Maia and Tom Lainis, Will Piepenbring, Scott Ruston, Michael Strong, Jonathan Zimmerman and Steve, and their families.

God of Peace, hear us and help us!

God of Healing, give hope in your promised coming, especially for those suffering in body, mind or spirit:

Andrea, Barbara, Bob and Jane Africano, Claudia, Ceri Falk, Ann Godfrey, Frances Hailwood, Ashley Hawn, Sally Hill, Gale Lovrich, the Miles family, Molly, Marjorie Morris, Karla Nicole, Lisa Rieger, Bruce Schaefer, Anne Sharp, Steve Smith, and all those we name to you now *(please add your own prayers, silently or aloud.)*

We pray: **God of Healing, hear us and help us!**

God of Peace and Strength, we pray for those killed or injured in acts of terrorism, injustice, gun violence, abuse or prejudice of any kind, and from the consequences of diseases and natural disasters, fires and floods.

We pray for the healing of those suffering from the coronavirus and those ministering to them.

We pray: **God of Peace and Strength, hear us and help us.**

God of New Life, we pray for all who have died, especially those we name to you now *(please add your prayers, silently or aloud)*... that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

God of New Life, hear us and help us!

Let us pray together:

All In you we find our true joy, O God. Let this Advent season be a time to become mindful and alert in service to your people. Open our minds, hearts and hands to receive your transforming grace.

We pray through Jesus Christ who is always coming among us. Amen.

The Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Deacon Emmanuel, we want to believe you are with us dwelling in this and every moment,

People Yet we catch ourselves longing for the past and rushing toward the future.

Deacon We want to be found wide awake, alert with love, as you appear in this and every moment,

People Yet we often slumber through, and laze away the miracle of ordinary days.

Deacon We want to wait for you alone, and seek your will in all we do, with desire and hope,

People Yet sometimes our trust fails, our longing grows cold, and our hope dims.

Deacon We want to make room in our hearts, for you to be born again,

People Yet we say or do things that hardens our hearts to you and your people.

Deacon We confess our failure at missing the mark, of not loving from our highest self.

People We are sorry and we ask your forgiveness as we journey together in this Advent season recognizing our need for you.

The Absolution

✠ Celebrant May our Gracious God, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. 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 Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Who But The Lord?

Craig Courtney

O come, Thou bright and morning star and bring us comfort from afar.

Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.

Who but the Lord can give the shadows light, can break into the dark,

Draw morning from the night?

Who but the Lord will hear our cry and answer, "Here am I"?

Who but the Lord makes blinded eyes to see, brings music to the deaf,

Sets the lonely captive free?

Who but the Lord will by His glory show the paths of peace?

Who but the Lord, who but the Lord?

O shine on us the brightness of Your face, to earth's remotest end,

Every people every race.

O shine on us until to each is shown your saving grace.

O shine on us, O shine on us.

Who but the Lord can give the shadows light?

None but the Lord.

St. Francis Choir & St. Peter's by the Sea Sanctuary Choir

The Offertory Prayers

Celebrant Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which the earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation.

People Blessed be God forever.

Celebrant Receive, O Lord, these gifts presented by your holy people for the work of your holy Church.

People Blessed be God forever.

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer 2 from *Enriching Our Worship 1*, supplement to *The Book of Common Prayer*)

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 our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues. The People read the parts in bold.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; And yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Glory be to you, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The People join in reading the text in bold.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: this is my Body, which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it,

do this for the remembrance of me."

† Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with St Francis and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. 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.

Invitation To Pray Together The Spiritual Communion Prayer From The National Cathedral

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Celebrant Let us pray together

All My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

The Communion of the People

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.

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.

The Sending Forth

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

People Thanks be to God!

The Recessional Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn #56, v. 1, 2, 5

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, that
O come, thou wis - dom from on high, who or - derest all things might - i - ly. To
O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spi - rits by thine ad - vent here. Dis -

mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
us the path of know - ledge show, and teach us in her way to go. Re
perse the gloom - y clouds of night and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

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

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