

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29, 2020 at 11am

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

THE GATHERING RITE

Gathering Music *Nun komm der heiden Heiland* by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The Opening Acclamation

The people's responses are in bold.

Our God, Emmanuel, now draws near;

O come, let us adore.

Come, O come Emmanuel, you are the way, the truth, and the life; you are the true vine and the bread of life. Come, living Savior, come to your world which waits for you. Praise to you, the one, holy, and living God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!

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

words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Rend the heavens and come down, O God of all the ages! Rouse us from sleep, deliver us from our heedless ways, and form us into a watchful people, that, at the advent of your Son, he may find us doing what is right, mindful of all you command. Grant this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lesson *Isaiah 64:1-9*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The Response *sung by the choir*

A tender shoot has started
up from a root of grace,
as ancient seers imparted
from Jesse's holy race:
it blooms without a blight,
blooms in the cold bleak winter,
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us
from Jesse's root should spring;
the Virgin Mary brought us
the branch of which we sing;
our God of endless might
gave her this child to save us,
thus turning darkness into light.

words: William Bartholomew (1793-1867)
music: Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)

The Gospel *Mark 13:24-37*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon *The Rev. Daniel Simons, Priest-in-charge*

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Creed

During the season of Advent we will be using a scripture-based credal statement from the Episcopal Peace Fellowship of South Africa.

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true: “I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.” —*John 1:20*

It is not true that we are victims of evil that seeks to rule the world—

This is true: “Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, on whom authority will rest; who shall be called the Prince of peace.” —*Isaiah 9:6*

It is not true that we must wait for prophets to speak before we can be peacemakers—

This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young ones shall see visions and your elders shall have dreams. —*Joel 2:28*

It is not true that our hopes for liberating justice, human dignity, and peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

This is true: “The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth. —*John 4:23*

Merciful God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, and from hate to love. Lead us to your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Please offer your own petitions silently or aloud during the silences, or via a Facebook comment, which we will read aloud at the end of the prayers. The intercessor says

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed:

O come, Emmanuel: **Hear us when we pray to you.**

Blessed are You, who joins all things together in the communion of Christ’s Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service.

O come, Emmanuel: **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world.

O come, Emmanuel: **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: You are the strong force that draws us into the mystery of love divine. Forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the Truth and the Life.

O come, Emmanuel: **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Dayspring from on high, You unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit. *The People add their own prayers.* Resurrect their hope, grant them peace and refreshment, and restore their joy.

O come, Emmanuel: **Hear us when we pray to you.**

Dear people of God, for what else, and for whom else, shall we pray?

The online prayers of the people are offered.

O come, Emmanuel: **Hear us when we pray to you.**

The Celebrant concludes

O God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare You room. We pray in the name of Jesus, who comes among us now. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share the peace wherever you are: with a comment posted on Facebook, a bow to those nearby, or some other distanced gesture of peace.

The Announcements *available at stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning*

GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Now more than ever, the work and mission of St. Paul's depend on the generous support of its friends and members.

Please consider making an offering to St. Paul's by credit card. Visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate.

Thank you for your generous support!



THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Offertory

The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others. Learn more ways to give on the previous page.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.

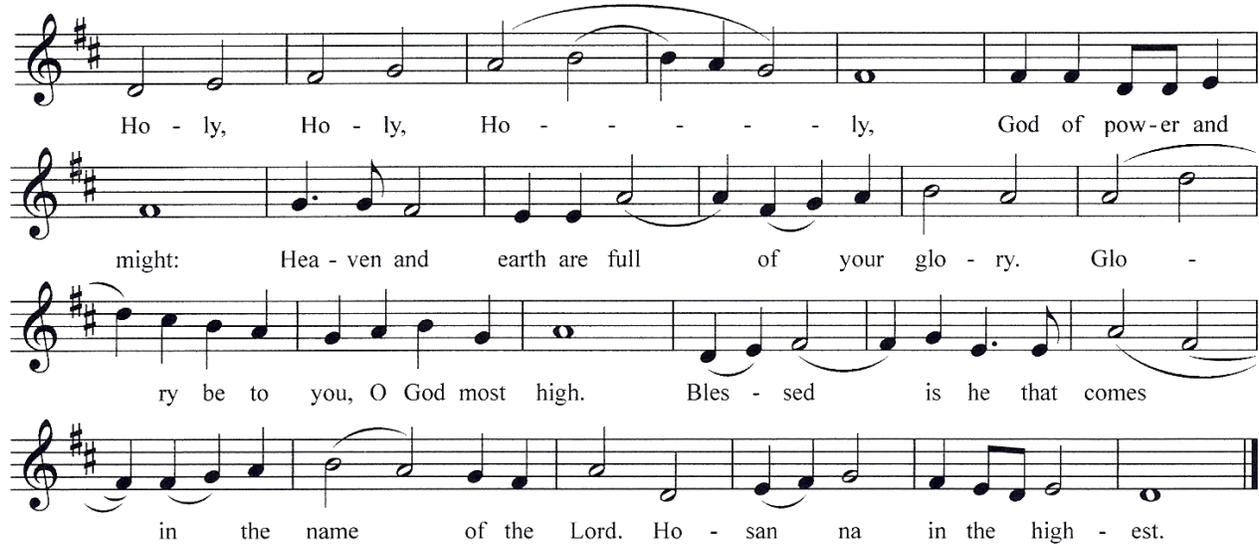
We praise you and we bless you, gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, fire, and water, and every living thing.

You made us creators in your image and taught us to walk in your love. But we rebelled against you, wandered far away, and used your gifts for evil.

And yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in your light and the fullness of your love.

So this day we join with all the earth and heavens in a chorus of praise that rings through eternity, as we proclaim:

Sanctus and Benedictus



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - - - - ly, God of pow-er and
might: Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo -
ry be to you, O God most high. Bles - sed is he that comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san na in the high - est.

setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880–1968)

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All glory be to you, holy and living God. You looked with favor on 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 into the heart of God, but we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

When the time came to complete the offering of his life, Jesus was eating supper with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, saying: "Take and eat; this is my Body, offered to heal you and the whole world. Whenever you eat it, do this to remember me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, offered it to his friends and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, a promise of eternal love poured out for you and for all creation. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me.

Now gathered at your table, remembering that we are one with you and all creation, we offer to you from your own hand these gifts of bread and wine, and our own bodies as a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts, that they, and we, may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Fill us with your breath, O God, opening our eyes and renewing us in your love. Send your Spirit over the whole earth, making everything a new creation.

And in the fullness of time bring us, with all your children from every people and tribe and faith and language and nation to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we give glory to you, O God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant
As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: *Ambrosian Chant*, adapt. Mason Martens
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The Communion

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread.

—Luke 24:35

Organ

O Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 6 sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
 10 on us. O Lamb of
 14 God, you take a - way the sins of the
 18 world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 23 O Lamb of God, you take a -
 27 way the sins of the world,
 31 grant us your peace.

setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880–1968)
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After a period of silent reflection the people pray the following

**God of love and grace, of justice and peace,
we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar
you assure us of your presence within us
and within the body of Christ,
the faithful through all the generations;
grant that we who witness anew these holy mysteries
may be moved by your indwelling Spirit
ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence,
reshaping in your likeness the world around us,
until we are gathered at last
into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence;
through Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.**

—Bennet Brockman, alt.

THE SENDING RITE

The Blessing and Dismissal

God is coming among us:
in your past forgiving you,
in your present loving you,
and in your future, meeting you with everlasting grace.

And may the blessing of the deep mystery we name God –
Source of hope,
Word of life,
and ever-present Spirit of truth
be with you this day and always.

Go in peace to love and serve Christ in all places and all people.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottessohn* by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

[Click here](#) to join in small group conversation and catching up on Zoom!

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