

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 20, 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 *O Gloriosa Virginum* by Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

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

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

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

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

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.

Here in our midst, O God of mystery, you disclose the secret hidden for countless ages. For you we wait; for you we listen. Upon hearing your voice may we, like Mary, embrace your will and become a dwelling fit for your Word. 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 *2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

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.

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

Thanks be to God.

The Response *sung by the choirs of St. Paul's and St. John's, West Hartford*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm;

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,

as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

words: Luke 1:46-55

music: *Evening Service in E Flat Major, No. 2*, Charles Wood (1866-1926)

The Gospel *Luke 1:26-38*

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

Glory to you, O 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon *The Rev. Louise Kalemkerian, Associate Priest*

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.

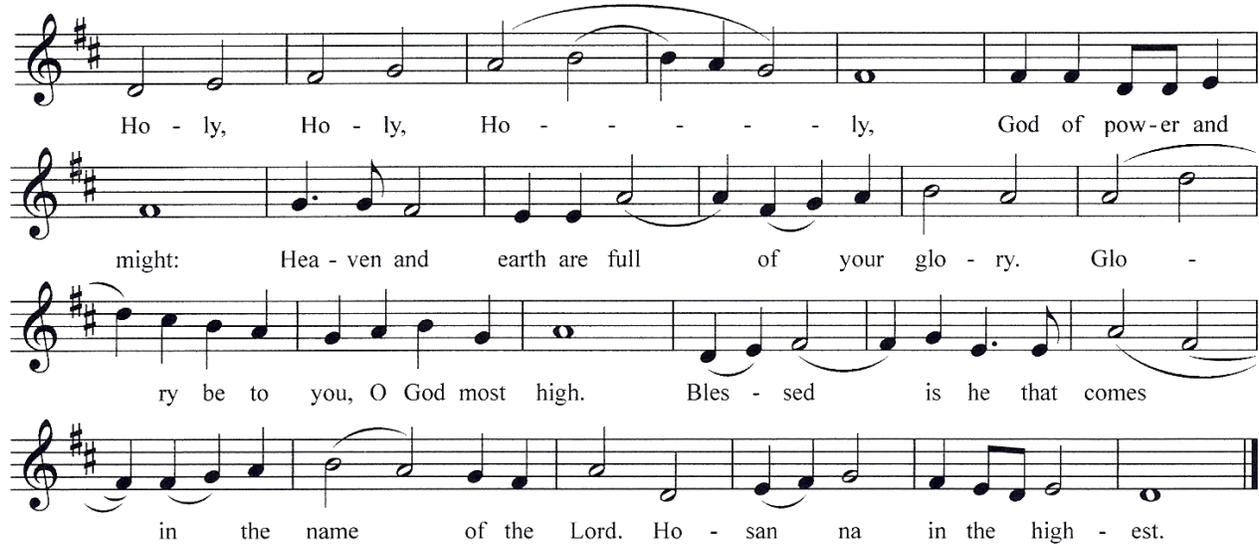
We praise you and we bless you, gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, fire, and water, and every living thing.

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

Hymn at the Communion

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924)
 music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865–1943)
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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 throughout all generations;
grant that we who are nourished anew by 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 our past forgiving us,
in our present loving us,
and in our future, meeting us 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 remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Postlude *Ave Maris Stella*, attributed to Louis Couperin (1626-1661)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

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

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