

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 27 November 2022 ♦ 10:00 AM
Grace Episcopal Church, Hinsdale, IL



GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE

Benedictus

Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

WELCOME

BLESSING AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Presider Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.
You show up in our lives at unexpected times.
Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.
We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

HYMN

"Hark! a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

MERTON



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bon - dage let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with par - don down from heav'n;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,



"Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye chil - dren of the day."
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - giv'n;
may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

THE ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed are you, ✠ holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider 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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put
on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your
Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living
and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for
ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,

and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 122

Response



I re-joyced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
- 2 Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;
- 4 to which the tribes go up, the / tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the Lord.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. *Response*
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good." *Response*

THE SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

The people stand, as able, to sing the Gospel Acclamation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ken Simmons

Refrain



Je-sus is Lord, al-le - lu - ia! Je-us shall come, al-le - lu - ia!

Verse (Cantor or choir):

Advent 1: Stay awake and be prepared.

Advent 2: Prepare a way for the Lord.

Advent 3: Go out into the world.

Advent 4: I am your servant, Lord.



ALL: Je-sus shall come, al-le - lu - ia!

Advent 1: Be ready to greet the Lord.

Advent 2: Make straight the path for him.

Advent 3: Take the good news to the poor.

Advent 4: Let your will be done to me.



ALL: Je-sus shall come, al-le - lu - ia! (to refrain)

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

Preacher The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Preacher The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reader As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world
that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the
global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of
culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and
healing work. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us
your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats,
preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth, and for peace in Ukraine. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care, especially those we remember in our hearts. *(pause)* God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to vestries and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Other intercessions may be offered.

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you, remembering this week, St. Andrew, the apostle. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Presider God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

All **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.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you,
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

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

Offertory Sentence

*With joy, we give thanks to God for all who support this community of love and faith.
Your gifts truly do continue the mission and ministries of Grace Church.*

*If you wish to give electronically, please scan the QR code
or follow the link to our electronic giving platform.*



<http://www.gracehinsdale.org/give>

Offertory Anthem “Steal Away” Spiritual, arr. David Blackwell (b. 1961)

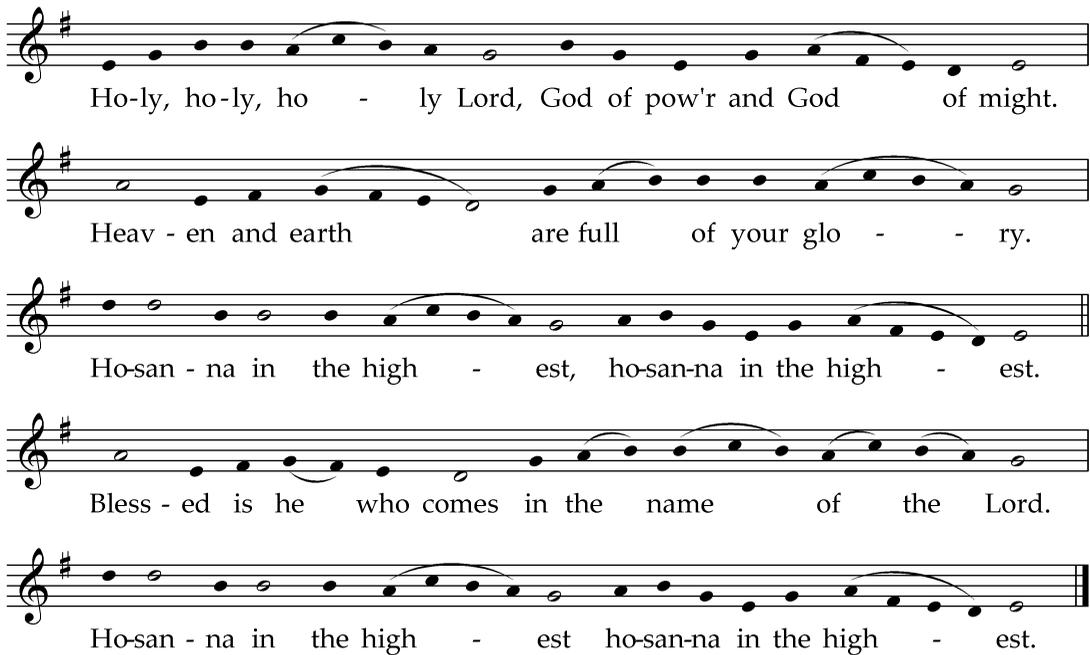
Steal away, steal away to Jesus; steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord, he calls me, he calls me by the thunder.

The trumpet sounds within-a my soul. I ain't got long to stay here. Steal away...

Green trees a-bending, poor sinner stands a-trembling.

The trumpet sounds within-a my soul. I ain't got long to stay here. Steal away...



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - - ry.
 Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho-san - na in the high - est ho-san-na in the high - est.

Presider

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
 the Word made flesh.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death,
 our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you,
 he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my
 Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he
 gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my Blood of the
 new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of
 sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a-gain.

Presider With this bread and cup we remember your Word
dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming. Come, Lord Jesus.

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth. Come, Holy Spirit.

All **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Presider All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread is broken. Silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God

David Hurd (b. 1950)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Invitation

From a sermon by St. Augustine

Presider Behold what you are;
People **May we become what we receive.**

THE COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive Communion, including children.
 Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.
 Those who prefer to receive a blessing may cross their arms over their chest.*

Communion Anthem "Say to Them of a Fearful Heart" Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)

Say to them that are of a fearful heart: Be strong, fear not.
 Behold, your God will come and save you. (Isaiah 35:4)

Communion Hymn

“Once He Came in Blessing”

GOTTES SOHN IST KOMMEN



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us
3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,
4 One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.



came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:
but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,
Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;



bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.
he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee.
let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

All Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of our Son our savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

HYMN

“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

LLANGLOFFAN



1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - plen - ish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-ened sphere!



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

SENT FORTH TO THE WORLD

THE DISMISSAL

The preacher offers a dismissal, then the people respond

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Suite in the Second Tone: Dialogue for two choirs Jacques Boyvin (1649-1706)

ADVENT

(On a theme by Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Pamela Cranston (2019)

*Look how long
the tired world waited,
locked in its lonely cell,
guilty as a prisoner.*

*As you can imagine,
it sang and whistled in the dark.
It hoped. It paced and pattered about,
tidying its little piles of inconsequence.*

*It wept from the weight of ennui
draped like shackles on its wrists.
It raged and wailed against the walls
of its own plight.*

*But there was nothing
the world could do
to find its freedom.
The door was shut tight.*

*It could only be opened
from the outside.
Who could believe that latch
would be turned by the flower
of a newborn hand?*

How do we deal with difficult Bible passages when we encounter them?

How do we deal with passages which historically have been used by others to vilify groups of people—passages that may seem to condone exclusion or condemnation of groups we may perceive as “other than us”? Everyone looks at scripture through a lens of some kind—a lens which will subsequently help shape the way they approach a given passage and ultimately interpret it.

We use the Baptismal Covenant as our lens, specifically “to seek and serve Christ in all persons,” and “to strive for justice and peace among all people.” (See the *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 304.) Through the Covenant, we understand how we are called to follow Christ and approach the difficult biblical passages with this knowledge in mind.

Why use incense in worship?

Incense has a long history in Christianity, Judaism and other religions. It adds our noses to the multi-sensory experience of worship. The psalmist expresses the symbolism of incense and prayer: “Let my prayer rise like incense before you; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

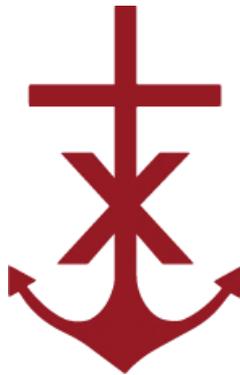
The clouds of incense represent cleansing and purification. The sweet smell suggests Christ's righteousness that covers sin. In some traditions, incense is used to honor holy things and holy people (the gathered people, that is, the body of Christ). The altar/table, the bread and wine, the ministers and the assembly may be “censed” as a way of showing their importance in the liturgy. Incense adds a festive accompaniment to processions, creating “holy clouds” and “holy smells” in the air.

The sweet smell of incense is a doorway to the holy in the same way that beautiful music, flowers, stained glass, or a room/building can lead us to ponder the mystery of God's presence. Incense in worship is an ancient practice that connects us to the Church around the world and through the ages.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding,” Text: Latin, 6th cent.; trans. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Tune: MERTON, William Henry Monk (1823-1889). Psalm 122, response by Michel Guimont (b. 1950). Gospel Acclamation: © 1994, 2002, Ken Simmons. Published by OCP Publications. *Missa Emmanuel*: setting by Richard Proulx (1937-2010), © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc. Fraction anthem: setting by David Hurd (b. 1950). “Once He Came in Blessing,” Text: Jan Roh (1485?-1547), trans. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Tune: GOTTES SOHN IST KOMMEN, Michael Weisse (d. 1534). “Rejoice! Rejoice Believers,” Text: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt. Tune: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh melody. The Scripture texts are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission. Music reprinted under OneLicense.net, license # A-720489.

*Welcome to the transformative power
of Christ's love;
if you're here, you belong!*



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND ACADEMY

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