



GOOD MORNING & WELCOME

Welcome to everyone joining us for worship this morning. Whether or not you consider yourselves members of this congregation, we are glad you are here. If the flow of worship should seem unfamiliar to you, relax and let God's presence envelop you, without a worry about when to stand, sit or kneel. If you are new to St. John's, please complete a visitor card found at each of each pew.

****Please silence all cell phones and other noise-making devices
before the start of the service. Thank you.****

**The Rev. Nathan Carr – Vicar
The Rev. William Font – Priest Associate
The Rev. Lisa Chronister – Deacon
Cynthia Cortright D.M.A. – Organist / Choir Director
Daisy Leyva-Lara – Children's Coordinator
Victoria Moon – Nursery Attendant**

Serving Today:

**Greeters/Oblationers – Alaina Copeland and Sarah Tracy
Layreaders/Chalice Bearers – Sarah Greenley,
Aaron Mooney, Dana Billingsley, Jade Rodgers,
Mark Anderson, Eli Mooney, Pat Greaves,
Deacon Lisa, Rosemary Rodgers and Beverly Bradley
Acolytes – Charlie Bornman, Cornel Bornman,
Eli Mooney, Sir Patton and Latoya Burris
Nursery – Victoria Moon**

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9:00 am to 3:00 pm
or by appointment**

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The Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year B

Rite II – Lessons & Carols and Holy Eucharist – December 24, 2023 – 10 :15 AM

The Processional

The Hymnal, #56

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

2 Oh, come, our Wisdom from on high,
Who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain

3 Oh, come, oh, come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

4 Oh, come thou branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust thy mighty pow'r to save;
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

5 Oh, come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Refrain

6 Oh, come, thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh,
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

7 Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,
And be yourself our King of Peace.

Refrain

8 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

A Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the Magi adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this place, glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church for which he died, within the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, and especially in this country and within Oklahoma City. And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of God.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**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 Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

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 unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings

The First Lesson

Genesis 3

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

"Adam Lay Ybounden"

by Boris Ord

St. John's Choir



The Second Lesson

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 22

"Advent Message"

by Martin How

St. John's Choir



The Third Lesson

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

Isaiah 9

"The People Who Walked in Darkness"

by G.F. Handel

Doug Rogez, soloist



The Fourth Lesson

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

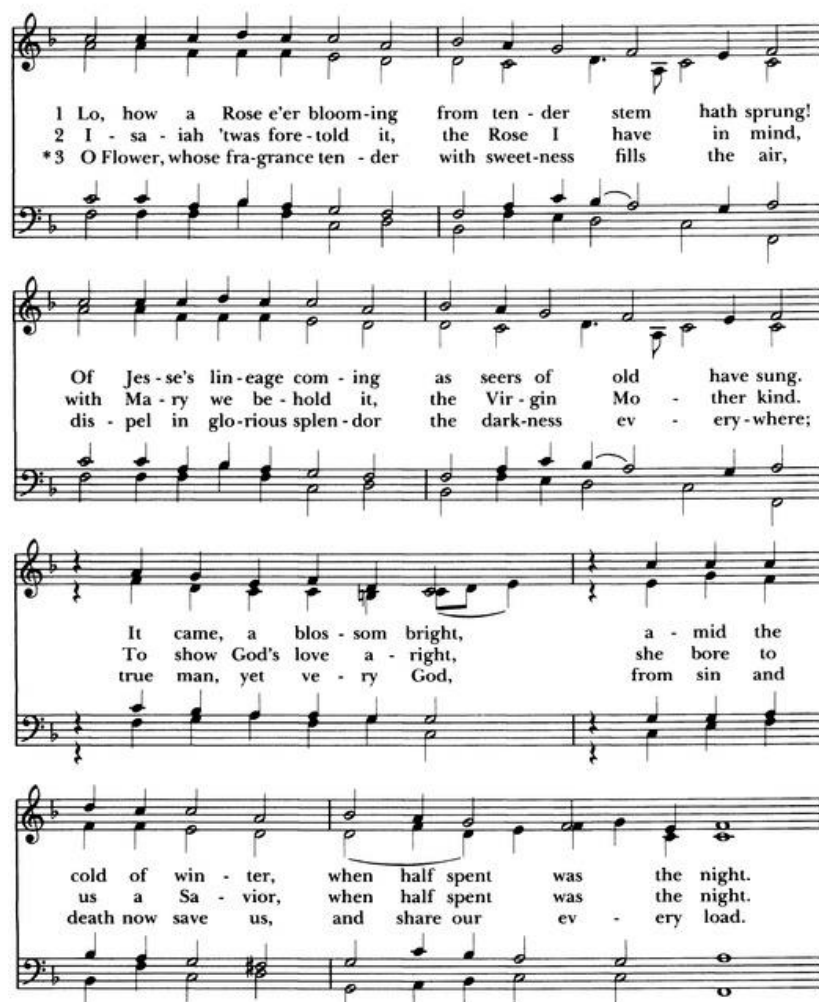
Isaiah 11

Congregational Hymn Please stand

The Hymnal, #81

81

Christmas



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
*3 O Flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin-eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo-rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery-where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God's love a - right, she bore to
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). st. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859);
tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. Hymnal 1940
Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599;
harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

76. 76. 676

The Fifth Lesson

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

Luke 1

"Magnificat"

by Charles Stanford

St. John's Choir



The Sixth Lesson

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2

"E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"

by Paul Manz

St. John's Choir



The Seventh Lesson

The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2

Congregational Hymn *Please stand*

The Hymnal, #96

1 Angels we have heard on high
Singing sweetly through the night
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their brave delight

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Gloria in excelsis Deo

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Refrain

3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him,
whose birth the angels sing Come,
adore on bended knee Christ the
Lord the newborn King *Refrain*

4 See him in the manger laid Whom
the angels praise above Mary,
Joseph, lend your aid While we
raise our hearts in love. *Refrain*



The Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

"Congregational Hymn *Please stand*

The Hymnal, #128

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

1. We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever,
ceasing never
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

3. Frankincense to offer have I:
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising,
gladly raising,
worship him, God Most High. [Refrain]

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia:
alleluia
the earth replies. [Refrain]

The Ninth Lesson

John 1

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

"A Joyful Peal"

arr. Michael Bedford

St. John's Bell Choir



Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Blessing Prayer: O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor we pray on all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, strengthen their trust in your goodness; and in their hearts may your peace, which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

*I sing of a maiden
That is makeless;
King of all kings
To her son she ches.*

*He came all so still
Where his mother was,
As dew in April
That falleth on the grass.*

*He came all so still
To his mother's bower,
As dew in April
That falleth on the flower.*

*He came all so still
Where his mother lay,
As dew in April
That falleth on the spray.*

*Mother and maiden
Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady
Gode's mother be.*

The Doxology

The Hymnal, 380 (verse 3)

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

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 him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei

The Hymnal, S163

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

We Share the Gifts of God

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

The Hymnal, #66

1 Come, thou long expected Jesus
born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release
us,
let us find our rest in Thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

1 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 339

Collect & Blessing

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Celebrant: May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Recessional *Please stand*

The Hymnal, #438

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender
to me the promise of his word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has
done; his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name -- the Lord, the Mighty One.

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word! Firm is
his promise, and his mercy sure. Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of the Lord to children's children and
forevermore!

Postlude

Hark the Herald Angels Sing Glory to the Newborn King



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please hold these souls in your ongoing prayers:

Audrey	Jessica	Kathleen Rhodes
Beverly Bradley	Judd	Rob, Ruthie and
Bob	Drew Kolb	Samuel
Braiden	Sarah Kramer	Adrienne Robertson
Sarah Brewer	Jean Ledet & Chad	Sahar
Margaret Brown	Dixon	Scott Salladin
Lewis Honor Carr	Denys Lenets	Seth
Nancy Carr	Kara Lynn	Betty Sinclair
Jeff Clemens	Ron Marlett	Family of Kenneth
Kathie Clemens	Tony Marruchella	Sosna
Dave Coleson	Mary	John Steward and
Sue Collins	Leland Mayo	Lee DeWitt
Sir Michael Dawson	Betty & Delbert Millican	Martha Steward
Stephanie Dunham	and Ryan Lightfoot	Nancy Steward
Dru	Trish Morgan	Susan
Ed	Christina Morris	Sydney and Troy
Sharon Ellington	Paul Mosier	Ed Tebow
Jim Freeman	Deborah Nelson	Sarah Tracy
Tom Freeman	Joy Nelson	Tyler and Dru
Agatha Gasperoni	The Nichols Family	Donna Walters
Myrna Gowman	Pam	Mary Jo Watson
John Greiner	Babette Patton	Pat Westervelt
Steve Hammontree	Patty	Gordon Welch
Aimee Hanneman	Penny	Will
Kimberly Hopper	Peter	Ginny Wynn
Dr. J	Monte Pratt	
Jack	Mathew Reynolds	

Christmas and Epiphany Services

Sunday, December 24, 10:15 am – Fourth Sunday of Advent - Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 24, 10:30 pm – Choral Prelude and Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25, 10:15 am – Christmas Day Spoken Eucharist

Tuesday, Dec 26, Noon – Feast of St. Stephen

Wednesday, Dec 27, Noon – Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Thursday, Dec 28, Noon – Feast of Holy Innocents

Sunday, December 31, 10:15 am – First Sunday after Christmas

Monday, January 1, 5:30 pm – Feast of the Holy Name

Saturday, January 6, 5:30 pm – Feast of the Epiphany

Altar Gifts

Altar Flowers and Music Gifts will be found in the back of the bulletins for Christmas Eve Mass and Christmas Day.

Anniversaries

28 Dana Billingsley and Jim Bellingham

28 Kathleen and Robert Grafton Ferguson

Announcements

Correction - Sunday School News: The adult forum has completed their study of Matthew. The confirmation and new member class, the youth and the children's classes will meet through December 10. With the exception of the adult forum, **Sunday School will break from December 17 through January 7** and reconvene on January 14. **The adult forum will reconvene on Sunday, January 7 to begin their study of Mark.**

We have been invited by the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma to honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday Jan. 15! They are doubling the capacity of their volunteer shifts on this day! Our shift is 9:30 - noon. Children as young as 8 can attend. Look for the signup sheet in the narthex through Dec 31.

We are continuing Bake Sales with proceeds going to an important new ministry. We are raising funds to purchase an adult-sized changing table. **Please help us raise these funds** by bringing your favorite baked goods to sell and/or purchasing some goodies when you are here on Sundays.

WELCOME VISITORS: We are so happy you joined us today. We invite you to complete a visitor card that you will find at the ends of each pew, and drop it in the offertory plate when it comes your way.