

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LITURGY OF THE WORD, RITE II

November 29, 2020 10:30 AM

The Rev. Merrill Wade, Interim Priest The Rev. Jim Enelow, Deacon Melissa Brackin, Senior Warden Ms. Mi-Young Kim, Music Director

The mission of St. George's Episcopal Church is to worship God and share our faith through word, action, and service.

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE WITH US. In this difficult and uncertain time, our commitment to one another as the Body of Christ is more important than ever. We are blessed to be able to join together in prayer, even as we are unable to be together in person as we would wish. Our online services are all available from the Online Worship page of our website.

Today is the Rev. Jim Enelow's last Sunday as Deacon of St. George's. We hope you can join us for our Zoom Coffee Hour after the service, when we'll all have the chance to wish him well in this next season of his life.

Today we begin a NEW CHURCH YEAR with the First Sunday of ADVENT. Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation. During these four weeks before Christmas, our worship, hymns, and readings focus on the coming of Christ – not only his coming as a babe in Bethlehem, but also his Second Coming, and his coming into our lives today and every day. We mark this season in a variety of ways that you'll notice during the worship services and also with some special times for our parish family to gather virtually. For those who follow the lectionary readings, this Advent signals a switch to Year B for the Sunday readings. Have a blessed Advent!

GUIDE TO ABBREVIATIONS

H – 1982 Hymnal

G – Gather Hymnal

BCP – Book of Common Prayer

ADVENT WREATH LITANY

After the ringing of the church bell, the service begins with the Advent Wreath Litany in the home of a St. George's family (previously recorded).

Reader Here begins our service for the First Sunday of Advent.

Blessed are you, God of our salvation; you promised to raise up a righteous

branch.

People One who would bring justice and righteousness to the land, so that we might

live in safety.

Reader As we light this candle, kindle in us the fire of your justice and righteousness,

People and make us blameless before you at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with

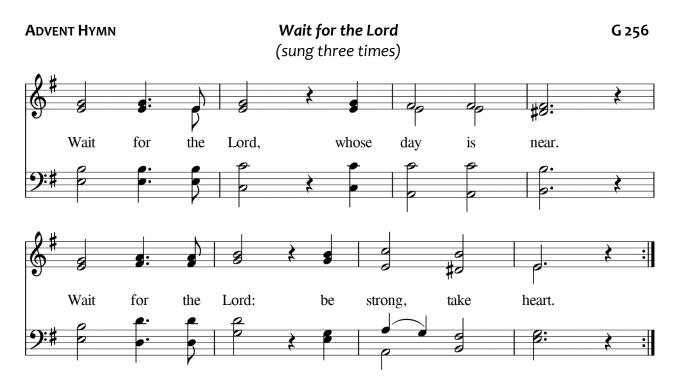
all the saints.

Reader Let your face shine on us and bless us that we may be saved.

All Amen.

The family lights one candle on their Advent wreath.

At St. George's, one candle on the Advent Wreath is lighted, and the congregation sings:



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We keep silence in watchful expectation.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.

Amen.

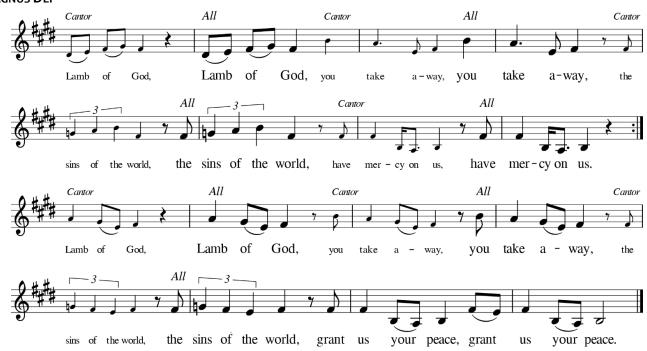
Officiant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are

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.

People Amen.

AGNUS **D**EI



Music: J. M. Wade. Used by permission.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY BCP 211

Officiant The Lord be with you. People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

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.

People Amen.

FIRST READING ISAIAH 64:1-9

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18 QUI REGIS ISRAEL

Please join in reading the psalm in unison.

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; * you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, * and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, * the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; * give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

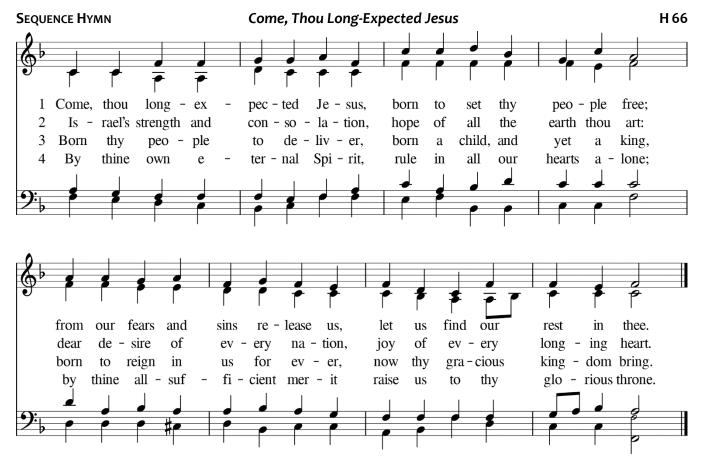
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Reader A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788).

Music: Stuttgart, melody from Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesange, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

THE HOLY GOSPEL MARK 13:24-37

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People Glory to you, Lord 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."

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

THE SERMON THE REV. MERRILL WADE

NICENE CREED BCP 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

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

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM II

BCP 385

Deacon

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for the Lusitanian Church; for Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Andy, Jeff, Hector, and Kai, our Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

(Silence)

Deacon

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

(Silence)

Deacon

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison, especially Edna, August, Gladys, Charles, Rolando, Ralph, Kirk, Divesh, Rosie, IxChel, Mary, Ada, Anita, Ben, Aaron, Rochelle, Jon, Tom, and those suffering from COVID-19. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

(Silence)

Deacon

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

(Silence)

Deacon

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Dick, John, and those who have died from COVID-19. Pray for those who have died.

(Silence)

Deacon

I ask your thanksgivings for Scott, Terry, Brian, and Ryan as they celebrate birthdays, and for all the blessings of this life.

(Silence)

Deacon

I ask your prayers and intercessions for the life of this congregation.

(Silence)

Deacon

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

(Silence)

Officiant

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

People

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.

Officiant Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and

especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in

justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

Officiant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the

prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

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

People 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.

Officiant 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.

People Amen.

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

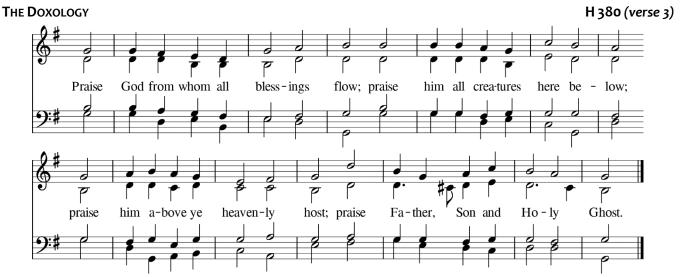
People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

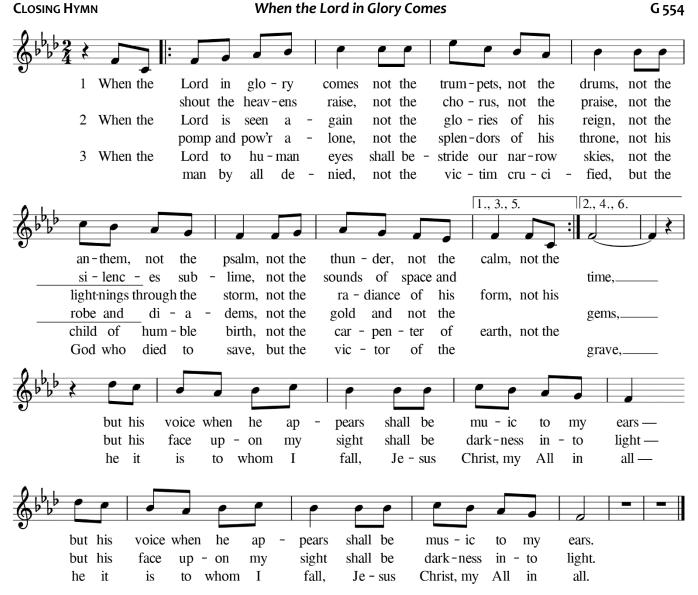
FAREWELL TO JIM ENELOW

THE OFFERTORY

Recognition and thanksgiving for gifts of time, talent, pledges and other donations



Words: verse 3, Thomas Ken. Music: Old 100th, melody from Pseaumes octante trois de David, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).



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DISMISSAL

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE Cortège MI-YOUNG KIM
Flor Peeters

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The altar candles are given by the Pewitt Family, in memory of Lawrence Pewitt.

After the service, please join us for our **Zoom Coffee Hour** (password: Christ). In addition to our usual time of fellowship with other St. George's parishioners, we will have a chance to say goodbye to our deacon, the Reverend Jim Enelow.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING

For those who are sick or facing medical issues, especially:

Edna BludauKirk HoffmanAnita RodmanAugust Dolan-HendersonDivesh ManoharBen SearsGladys DykesRosie MartinezAaron Strong

Charles Foster IxChel Morrison Rochelle & Jon Winkle

Rolando Gonzalez Mary Parker Tom Wooten

Ralph Hausser Ada Pewitt Those suffering from COVID-19

For those who have died and their families, especially:

Dick Eppler Those who have died from COVID-19

John Albert Junk

For those facing difficult circumstances

For those serving in the armed forces and their families, especially:

Maddison Worcester

Those who celebrate birthdays, especially: Those who celebrate anniversaries

Scott Lucy (Nov 29) Brian Wolfe (Dec 3)
Terry O'Donnell (Nov 30) Ryan Wagner (Dec 4)

In the Anglican cycle of prayer:

In the Diocese of Texas cycle of prayer:

The Lusitanian Church, Hope, Houston
The Right Reverend Jorge Pina Cabral, Bishop San Mateo, Bellaire
San Romero, Houston

Names newly added to the list of prayer requests are in bold.

Names can be added to this list by emailing Jennifer at <a href="mailto:stepochem:s



THE SUNDAY BANNER - November 29, 2020

- ❖ VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR Immediately after the service each Sunday, you are invited to join our Zoom Coffee Hour (password: Christ) to share a brief time of fellowship with other parishioners.
- ❖ FAREWELL TO DEACON JIM Our beloved deacon Jim Enelow has been called to St. Augustine's of Canterbury in Benton Harbor, Michigan, beginning on December 1st, where his wife has been called as rector. We are so grateful to have had Jim serve our church and be such an important part of our community. We are sorry to see him go but excited for Jim and Cynthia as they start on their next adventure. For the past few weeks he has been assisting Cynthia as she has begun her duties as rector of St. Augustine's, but he is back with us today for one last time. Please join us TODAY at our Zoom Coffee Hour after the service to thank Jim for his service and friendship, say goodbye, and wish him well.
- COMPLINE Join us for in-person, outdoor Compline services on Sunday evenings at 5:15 pm.

 Compline is a beautiful evening prayer service, led by our Interim Priest Merrill Wade. The services are limited to approximately 20 people and require registration. To attend, please register online.

 (Some notes about the services themselves: Compline will last approximately 15-20 minutes and will be held at the rear of the playground. If you wish to sit, please bring your own chair; you are also welcome to stand. Masks and social distancing will be required, and bathrooms will not be available. Please bring a Book of Common Prayer or a device to access Compline online.) We look forward to seeing you in person!
- ❖ WEDNESDAY WEAVINGS Join us for St. George's adult discussion group this Wednesday, December 2nd, from 7:00-8:00 pm, via Zoom. We are currently reading and discussing The Way of Love. All are welcome to join the group for discussion and a closing service of Compline. Frances Rickard will send the reading along with the Zoom link to the group's email list before the meeting. If you are not on the list and would like to receive the email, or if you have any questions, please contact Frances at fajrickard@gmail.com.
- * ADVENT EVENING CLASSES You are invited to participate in three Thursday evening classes led by the Rev. Merrill Wade in December. The classes will meet via Zoom at 7:00 pm beginning this Thursday, December 3rd, and continuing on December 10th and 17th. Participants will study the Advent Season with a deep dive into the Scriptures through the lens of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). The first class will look at the Advent as a time of expectant waiting and will examine today's Gospel reading (Mark 13:24-37, found on page 6 of this bulletin) and Collect of the Day (found on page 211 of the BCP and page 3 of this bulletin). The Zoom link will be emailed to the congregation later this week; to be added to the email list, contact Jennifer at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.
- ❖ ADVENT BLUE BAGS Advent is here! Time to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of Light! We are challenged this year to find new ways to keep our old traditions. Since KidsWord can't meet in person, we want to offer families with children some things that you can use in Advent observations at home. So this year we're giving out Blue Bags to all our church families with children! Blue Bags have an Advent calendar, patterns for paper ornaments, Advent devotions, and a Pageant song book. We also have a limited supply of Advent wreaths and candles, available upon request. Please contact Jan Phillips at janphillips62@gmail.com to arrange a time to come by the church and pick up your family's Blue Bag.

- CHRISTMAS OUTREACH This holiday season, we have been given the opportunity to help feed the hungry by raising money for \$20 H-E-B gift cards to give to the 35 residents of Casa Marianella and the 70 residents of St. George's Court. That's a total of 105 gift cards, so our goal is to raise \$2,100. This is an ambitious reach for our congregation, but the needs in our community are great, and we want to help! Because of the pandemic, Outreach will purchase all the gift cards. To participate in this project, we encourage you to donate online at the St. George's Donation page by indicating the amount of your gift in the appropriate section (Christmas Outreach, either Casa Marianella or Angel Wreath for St. George's Court). You may also mail a check to the church office (made out to "St. George's Episcopal Church," with "Christmas Outreach" in the memo line), but be aware that check deposits may be delayed. Because of our funding strategy, we will accept donations through the twelve days of Christmas. If we do not receive enough donations, we will fund the gift cards from general Outreach funds. If we receive more than enough for the cards, we will divide the extra between Casa and the Court to be used in their feeding programs. For more information about this project, or to offer to help, please contact Sarah Campbell at cowmarket2@gmail.com or Alice Nelson at mzlsnlsn@gmail.com.
- ❖ 172ND DIOCESAN COUNCIL The Episcopal Diocese of Texas will hold its annual Diocesan Council virtually this year, on Friday, February 26th, and Saturday, February 27th, 2021. In order to elect our delegates to Diocesan Council, we will hold a parish-wide vote for this year's delegates via email. St. George's delegation to Diocesan Council consists of the Senior Warden, three elected delegates serving three-year terms, and two alternates serving one-year terms. We currently need to elect one or two delegate and two alternates. Any adult member in good standing may serve as a delegate, and anyone interested is encouraged to put your name forward as a nominee. If you would like more information about Diocesan Council or about what being a delegate entails, or if you're interested in serving, please contact Melissa Brackin at melissaaeason@gmail.com. And watch for a delegate election email the first week of December.
- ❖ POINSETTIAS St. George's will be adorned with poinsettias for our celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord and throughout the Christmas season. We invite you to make an offering for poinsettias, perhaps in a loved one's memory or in thanksgiving for a person or other blessing in your life. The Poinsettia Donation Form is available online. Names of donors, along with any memorials or thanksgivings (optional), will be listed in the Christmas service bulletins. Be sure to complete the form by Thursday, December 17th in order to have your name and dedication listed in the bulletins. The suggested donation is \$20 per plant. Donate online at St. George's Donation page by indicating the amount of your gift in the appropriate section (Designated Gifts, Altar Guild, write "Poinsettias" in the notes section), or send a check made out to "St. George's Episcopal Church" with "Poinsettias" in the memo line to the church office.
- 2021 FLOWER/CANDLE DONATION CALENDAR St. George's 2021 Online Flower/Candle Donation Calendar is now available. To give altar flowers for one or more Sundays in 2021, or altar candles for one or more months, visit the online Online Donation Calendar and enter your name and, if you wish, your dedication, next to the week of your choice. You can give flowers in honor of someone, in celebration of an important event, in thanksgiving for a blessing in your life, or in memory of loved one. A donation of \$35 is requested. You can make your donation online or by check. To give electronically, visit the St. George's Donation page, scroll down to "Designated Gifts" / "Altar Guild," and enter the amount of your donation. Make checks made payable to St. George's, with "Altar Flowers/Candles" in the memo line, and mail it to the church office.
- HOLIDAY WREATHS As we officially embark on the holiday season please considering supporting St. George's Episcopal School by purchasing a gorgeous fresh holiday wreath! Purchase a wreath online by Tuesday, December 1st, and you can pick it up at St. George's on December 2nd and 3rd.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMON LIFE

PRAYER IN TIMES OF TRANSITION

God of love, in this interim time, we pray for our parish family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, imaginative about our future, and daring in our faith. As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. All this we pray, empowered by the love of Jesus Christ, Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY BCP 815

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK **BCP 260**

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, November 30

Tuesday, December 1

Wednesday, December 2

Thursday, December 3

Friday, December 4

Saturday, December 5

Sunday, December 6

7:00 pm Wednesday Weavings

7:00 pm Advent Evening Class

10:30 am Liturgy of the Word

5:15 pm Compline

Saint Andrew the Apostle

Charles de Foucauld, Monastic and Martyr, 1916

Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, 1637

Francis Xavier, Priest and Missionary, 1552

John of Damascus, Priest and Theologian, c.760

Clement of Alexandria, Priest and Theologian, c.210

Nicholas of Myra, Bishop, c. 342

THOSE WHO SERVE

Officiant/Preacher - The Rev. Merrill Wade Deacon - The Rev. Jim Enelow Organist/Pianist – Mi-Young Kim Media Coordinator – Brad Dieringer Advent Wreath Lighting – The Stevens Family Singers – Elaine Hosage, Frances Rickard Reader - Frances Rickard

St. George's Episcopal Church

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