

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LITURGY OF THE WORD, RITE II

DECEMBER 6, 2020 10:30 AM

The Rev. Merrill Wade, Interim Priest Melissa B Ms. Mi-Young Kim, Music Director

Melissa Brackin, Senior Warden , 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 <u>Online Worship</u> page of our website.

Today is the Second 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 **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 Second Sunday of Advent.
	Blessed are you, God of our salvation; you promised to send your messenger to prepare the way,
People	by building a highway straight and level and by preaching a baptism of repentance.
Reader	As we light these candles, kindle among us the refiner's fire, purify us of sin,
People	and bring the good work begun in us to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.
Reader All	Let your face shine on us and bless us that we may be saved. Amen.

The family lights two candles on their Advent wreath.

At St. George's, two candles on the Advent Wreath are 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 DEI



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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

- Officiant The Lord be with you.
- People And also with you.
- Officiant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.

FIRST READING

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

ISAIAH 40:1-11

BCP 211

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

Please join in reading the psalm in unison.

Benedixisti, Domine

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, * you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people * and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, * for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, * that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; * righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, * and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, * and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

SECOND READING

2 PETER 3:8-15A

Reader A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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



Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920). Music: Bereden väg för Herran, melody from Then Swenska Psalmboken, 1697.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Тне	S ermon
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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 T	PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM II BCP 38	
Intercessor	I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for the Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain; 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. <i>(Silence)</i>	
Intercessor	I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace. (Silence)	
Intercessor		
	(Silence)	
Intercessor	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)	
Intercessor	I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Rolando, John, Joan, Hortencia, and those who have died from COVID-19. Pray for those who have died. (Silence)	
Intercessor	I ask your thanksgivings for Katie and Lexie as they celebrate birthdays, and for all the blessings of this life. (Silence)	
Intercessor	I ask your prayers and intercessions for the life of this congregation. (Silence)	
Intercessor	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.	

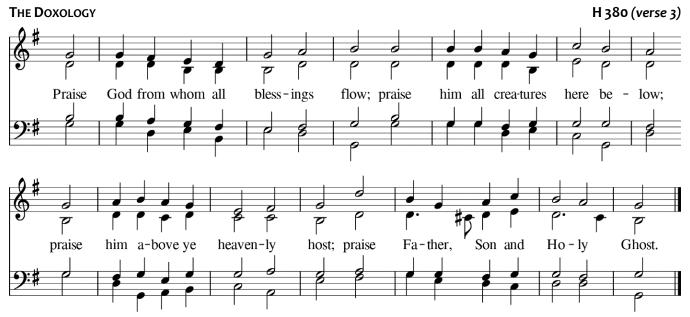
Officiant People	Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Officiant People	Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
Георіе	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 People	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

Officiant	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People	And also with you.

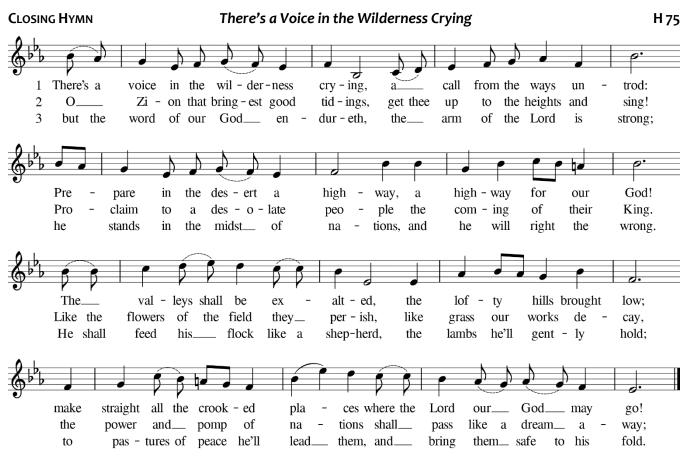
ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY	Recognition and thanksgiving for gifts of time, talent, pledges and other donations
	needen and channing for gives of chine, calence preages 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?).

THE BLESSING



Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt.

Music: Ascension, Henry Hugh Bancroft (b. 1904).

DISMISSAL

OfficiantAlleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Choral Flor Peeters

MI-YOUNG KIM

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The altar candles are given by the McGhee Family, in thanksgiving for Katie and Lexie on their 19th birthday.

After the service, please join us for our **Zoom Coffee Hour** (password: Christ), a brief time of fellowship with other St. George's parishioners.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING

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

Divesh Manohar
Rosie Martinez
IxChel Morrison
Mary Parker
Ada Pewitt

Ben Sears Aaron Strong Rochelle & Jon Winkle Tom Wooten Those suffering from COVID-19

For those who have died and their families, especially:

Rolando Gonzalez	Joan Savage
John Albert Junk	Hortencia Rodriguez

Those who have died from COVID-19

For those facing difficult circumstances

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

Maddison Worcester

Those who celebrate birthdays, especially:

Katie McGhee (Dec 6) Lexie McGhee (Dec 6)

In the Anglican cycle of prayer:

The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain, The Right Reverend Carlos López-Lozano, Bishop

Those who celebrate anniversaries

In the Diocese of Texas cycle of prayer:

Santa Maria Virgen, Houston St. Andrew's, Houston St. Christopher's, Houston

Names newly added to the list of prayer requests are in bold. Names can be added to this list by emailing Jennifer at <u>stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com</u>.



THE SUNDAY BANNER – December 6, 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.
- 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.)
- ADVENT EVENING CLASSES Our Thursday evening Advent classes led by the Rev. Merrill Wade continue at 7:00 pm this Thursday, December 10th. Participants will study the Advent Season with a deep dive into the Scriptures through the lens of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). This week's class will look at the nature of prophecy in the Hebrew Scriptures and the emergence of John the Baptist as the prophet who pointed to Jesus. To prepare, please read three prophetic proclamations from Isaiah which read on the first three Sundays of Advent Isaiah 64:1-9, Isaiah 40:1-11, and Isaiah 61:1-11. And from the gospels, please read the accounts of John the Baptist in Mark 1:1-8 and John 1:6-8, 19-28. We will also look at the Collects of the Day for the First and Second Sundays of Advent, found in the BCP on pages 211-212. If you are unable to prepare in advance please do not let that stop you from participating, as the participants will read most of the texts together in class as well. 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.
- WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP Please join us for our next meeting on Saturday, December 12th, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, via Zoom. We will discuss The Paris Seamstress, by Natasha Lester. All St. George's women are welcome to attend even if you haven't read the book! We hope you can join us for interesting conversation and our book discussion. The Zoom invitation will be sent out to the group's email list prior to the meeting. To be added to the list, or with any questions, please contact Sandra Villalaz at 512-762-8349 or sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com. Happy reading!
- 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.
- 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 weeks of December.

- 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. 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.
- POINSETTIAS St. George's will be adorned with poinsettias from <u>Down Home Ranch</u> 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 <u>Poinsettia Donation Form</u> 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 17**th in order to have your name and dedication listed in the bulletins. The suggested donation is **\$20 per plant**. Donate online at <u>St. George's</u> <u>Donation page</u> 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.
- CHRISTMAS PAGEANT This year for the Christmas Eve Pageant, we boldly venture into video land, with your help. Please think about what role your child would like to play in the Nativity story. We need Angels, Shepherds, and Queens and Kings bearing gifts. And we would love to have a Mary and Joseph in the same family, so they can be photographed together! Have your child(ren) dress in a costume from home (or contact Jan Phillips at janphillips62@gmail.com to arrange to borrow one from St. George's), and take a picture in character. Send your photo to Suzette Puckett at cshpuckett@austin.rr.com by this Wednesday, December 9th, and we will include it in a video for the early service on Christmas Eve. You can even send a photo from a Christmas past! Then, tune in to the St. George's Facebook page at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve to attend our pageant service and celebrate Christ's nativity. Feel free to share the link with grandparents or other friends and family, near or far.
- 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 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. To give electronically, visit the <u>St. George's Donation page</u>, scroll down to "Designated Gifts" / "Altar Guild," and enter the amount of your donation. Make checks payable to St. George's, with "Altar Flowers/Candles" in the memo line, and mail it to the church office.
- INTERIM PRIEST'S OFFICE HOURS Merrill Wade is keeping office hours at St George's on Fridays, and he will be in the office next Friday, December 11th, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Feel free to contact him at merrill76@utexas.edu or 512-454-2523 ext 2; he will check voice mail daily during the week. When in the office, he would love to meet parishioners on the porch of the Wright House or some other socially distanced setting; contact him to set up a time in advance.

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

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

BCP 815

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.



THOSE WHO SERVE

Officiant/Preacher – The Rev. Merrill Wade Organist/Pianist – Mi-Young Kim Media Coordinator – Brad Dieringer Advent Wreath Lighting – The Schuster Family Singers – Elaine Hosage, Periwinkle Schuster, Jan Phillips Reader/Intercessor – Mary Stewart Miller

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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