

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LITURGY OF THE WORD, RITE II

DECEMBER 13, 2020 10:30 AM

The Rev. Merrill Wade, Interim Priest 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 Third 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 Third Sunday of Advent.

Blessed are you, God of our salvation;

you promised to send your messenger to prepare the way,

People and to turn the shame of the outcast into praise.

Reader As we light these candles,

kindle in us the fire of your Holy Spirit

to make known your deeds among the nations

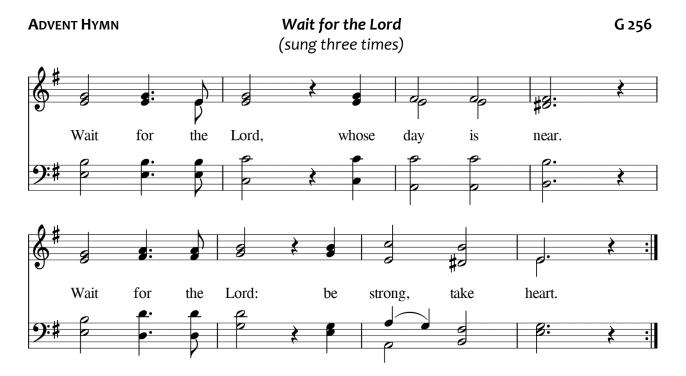
People and to sing for joy when you are in our midst.

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

All Amen.

The family lights three candles on their Advent wreath.

At St. George's, three candles on the Advent Wreath are lighted, and the congregation sings:



Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taizé Community, 1984. Tune: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994). © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-719358. All rights reserved.

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.

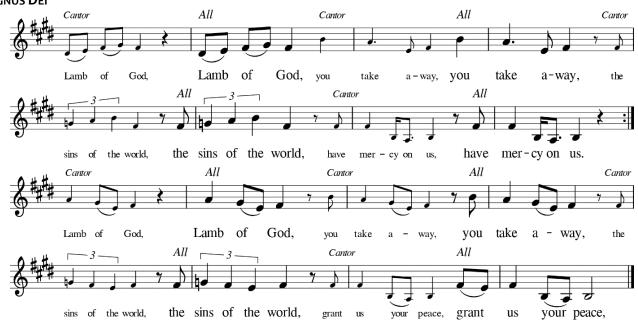
Officiant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are

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 212

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

Officiant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory,

now and for ever.

People Amen.

FIRST READING ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;

to provide for those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord GoD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

PSALM 126 IN CONVERTENDO

Please join in reading the psalm in unison.

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, * then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, * and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
 "The LORD has done great things for them."

- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, * and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, * like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears * will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, * will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

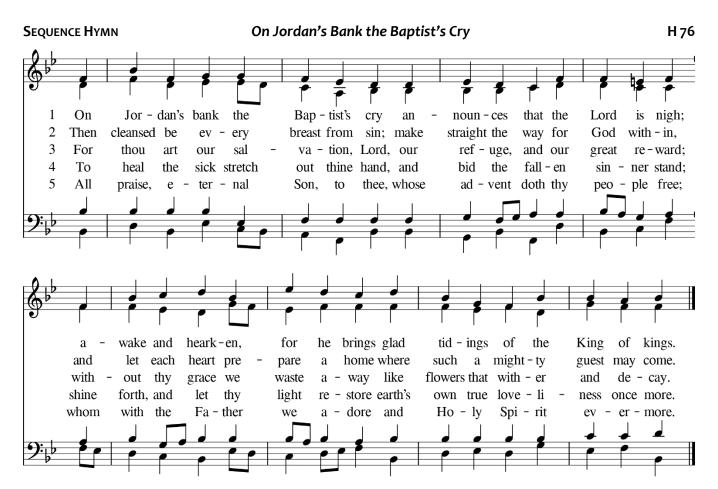
SECOND READING 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

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

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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



Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876), alt. Music: Winchester New, melody from Musicalishes Hand-Buch, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

THE HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 1:6-8,19-28

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Officiant 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

Intercessor I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for the Church of the Falkland Islands; 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)

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

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

(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, Nancy, Hortencia, Joan, Maggie, and those who have died from COVID-19. Pray for those who have died.

(Silence)

Intercessor I ask your thanksgivings for Raul, Janna, and Belinda, 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 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

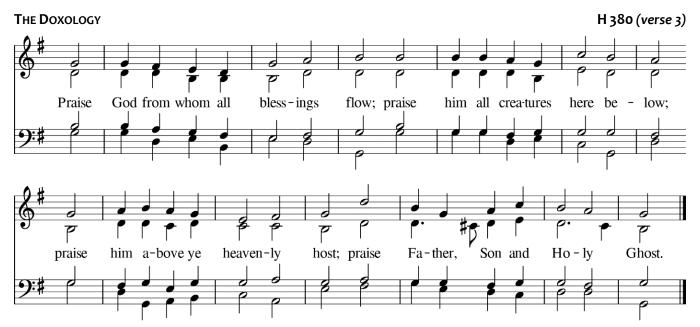
Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

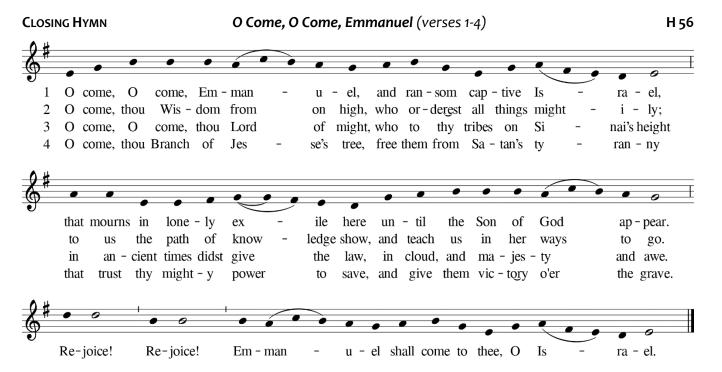
THE OFFERTORY

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?).

THE BLESSING



Words: Latin, ca. 9th century; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: Veni, veni Emmanuel, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th century.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890).

DISMISSAL

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE Dream MI-YOUNG KIM
Flor Peeters

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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:

August Dolan-Henderson Divesh Manohar Aaron Strong

Gladys Dykes Rosie Martinez Rochelle & Jon Winkle

Charles Foster IxChel Morrison Tom Wooten

Eva Harpst Mary Parker Those suffering from COVID-19

Ralph Hausser Ada Pewitt Kirk Hoffman Ben Sears

For those who have died and their families, especially:

Rolando Gonzalez Hortencia Rodriguez **Maggie Straub**

Nancy Johnson Joan Savage 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:

Those who celebrate anniversaries

Raul Carrera (Dec 15) Belinda McGhee (Dec 18)

Janna Cormier (Dec 17)

In the Anglican cycle of prayer: In the Diocese of Texas cycle of prayer:

The Church of the Falkland Islands, St. Francis', Houston

The Right Reverend Timothy Thornton, Bishop St. John the Divine, Houston

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

Names can be added to this list by emailing Jennifer at steporgeaustin@gmail.com.



THE SUNDAY BANNER - December 13, 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.)
- ★ WEDNESDAY WEAVINGS Join us for St. George's adult discussion group this Wednesday, December 16th, 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 Our Thursday evening Advent classes led by the Rev. Merrill Wade conclude at 7:00 pm this Thursday, December 17th. Participants are studying 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 closely examine the texts in the New Testament that refer to or tell the story of the birth of Jesus. To prepare, please read through the birth narratives available in the first few chapters of all four gospels. In addition, please read the Collect of the Day for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the first Collect for The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day, both found in the BCP on page 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 is the same as in previous weeks, and it will also be emailed to the congregation later this week; to be added to the email list, contact Jennifer at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.
- * CHRISTMAS OUTREACH Your response to the Outreach Committee's request for funds to provide HEB gift cards to the residents of Casa Marianella and St. George's Court has been truly inspiring! With more than \$1,300 raised so far, we are less than \$700 from meeting the goal of \$2,100. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated. There is still plenty of time to make a gift, if you are able to do so. You can 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.

- ❖ 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 If you are interested in serving as a delegate to the annual Diocesan council of the Diocese of Texas (or would like more information about what that entails), please contact Melissa Brackin at melissaaeason@gmail.com. Diocesan Council will be virtual this year, on Friday, February 26th, and Saturday, February 27th, 2021. In order to elect our Council delegates, we will hold a parish-wide vote for this year's delegates via email. Watch for a delegate election email soon!
- ❖ POINSETTIAS St. George's will be adorned with poinsettias from Down Home Ranch 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 this 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 Donation Calendar and enter your name and dedication next to the week or month of your choice. You can give flowers or candles in memory or honor of a loved one, in celebration of an important event, or in thanksgiving for a blessing in your life. A donation of \$35 is requested. 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 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 18th, 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.
- ❖ GIVING TO ST. GEORGE'S It's not too late to make a pledge to support St. George's in 2021! You can pledge online or by mailing your pledge card to the church office. (Contact Jennifer in the church office at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com if you need a pledge card.) Now is also a good time to think about completing your 2020 pledge, if you haven't yet done so. You can pay your pledge (as well as make other donations) at the St. George's Donation page. (You can also pay your pledge by check, but please note that check deposits may be delayed. Any checks received after December 31st, regardless of the date on the check, will be recorded as contributions for 2021 for tax purposes.) If you are not sure about the status of your 2020 pledge, please contact our financial secretary, Samantha Stevens, at samanthahstevens63@gmail.com. We are grateful for your financial support as we work to stay connected in these challenging times.

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, December 14 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting John of the Cross, Mystic and Monastic Reformer, 1591

Tuesday, December 15

Nino of Georgia, Missionary, c.332

Wednesday, December 16 7:00 pm Wednesday Weavings

Thursday, December 17 7:00 pm Advent Evening Class Dorothy Sayers, Apologist and Spiritual Writer, 1957

Friday, December 18

Saturday, December 19

Sunday, December 20 10:30 am Liturgy of the Word Katharina von Bora, Church Reformer, 1552 5:15 pm Compline

THOSE WHO SERVE

Officiant/Preacher – The Rev. Merrill Wade
Organist/Pianist – Mi-Young Kim
Vestry Person of the Day – Melissa Brackin
Media Coordinator – Brad Dieringer
Advent Wreath Lighting – The Dieringer Family
Singers – Stephanie Craven, Jan Phillips
Reader/Intercessor – Melissa Brackin

St. George's Episcopal Church

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