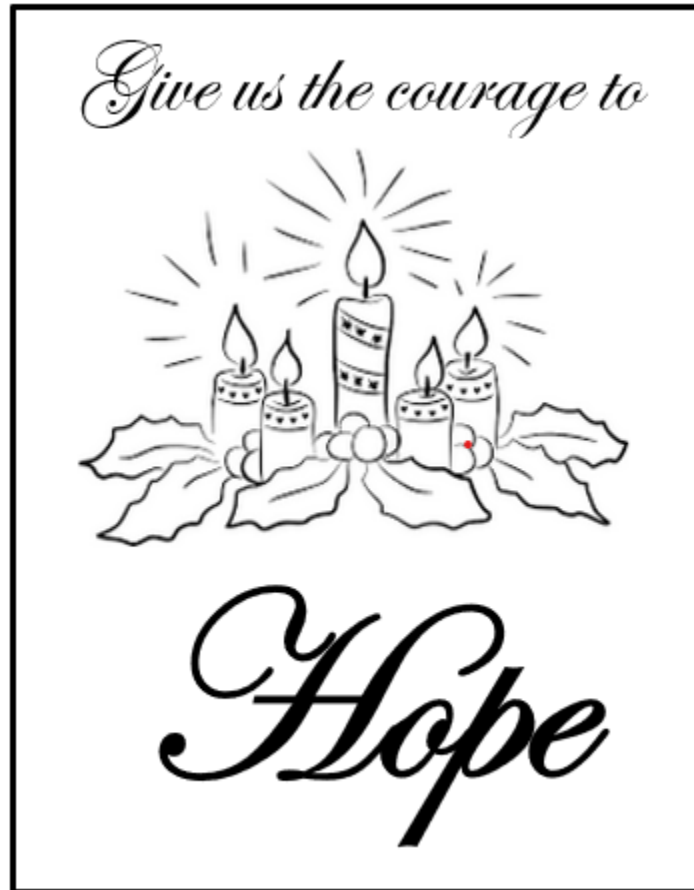


The First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024 **10:15 a.m.**

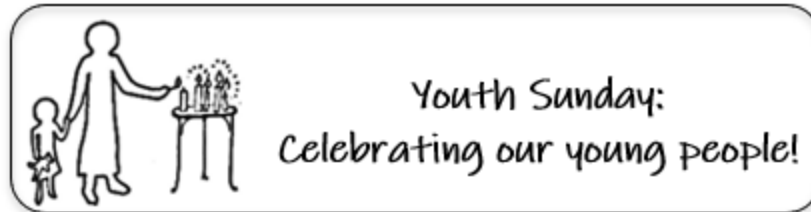


Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to
Connect with God and one another,
Grow in faith and understanding, and
Serve the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded



The Liturgy of the Word of God

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

Prelude

Song from "A Lamb's Tale"
Children's Choir

✠ **Processional Hymn**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Hymnal #56

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. (*Refrain*)

4. O come, O Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny!
That trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. (*Refrain*)

2. O come, thou 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*)

5. O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. (*Refrain*)

3. O come, O 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*)

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel

Words: Latin, ca. 9th century
Music: *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, 15th century

✠ **The Opening Acclamation**

Blessed are you, holy and living God.

You come to your people and set them free. Amen.

✠ **Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle**

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of hope.

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. (*Psalms 33:20*)

Let us pray.

Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen.

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; Ky - ri -
 Chri - ste, Chri - ste, e - le - i - son; Chris -
 Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; Ky - ri -

5
 e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.
 te, Chris - te, e - le - i - son.
 e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

♠ The Collect

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 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. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

Psalm 25:1-9

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
 let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
 let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
 and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
 for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
 for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness,
O LORD.

7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

Children's Chapel

✠ Sequence Song

"Advent Litany"
Come, Come Emmanuel
Come Emmanuel

✠ The Holy Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon: Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

✠ **The Nicene Creed**

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.

✠ **Prayers of the People**

As we prepare ourselves to joyfully celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation at Christmas, let us present our prayers to God.

O Lord our God, you created a wonderful world, and we thank you for its indescribable beauties; we pray for all that is broken in the world because of human actions. As we look for the last coming of Christ, we pray you to heal this world in which we can see a glimpse of your beauty and power. In Jesus' name, **hear our prayers.**

O Lord our God, through Christ's incarnation, passion, and resurrection you redeemed humankind and united in one body all races, nations, and people of the earth. We pray for all our brothers and sisters in humanity; we pray also for all the leaders of the world that they may work for the common good of all your children. As we prepare ourselves to joyfully celebrate the Incarnation, **hear our prayers.**

O Lord our God, you send your Church to share Christ's love to all the peoples of the earth; we pray for your Holy Church scattered around the world; guide, inspire, and strengthen all your children, Sean, our presiding bishop, Carrie, our bishop and all ministers, that together, we may bring hope, peace, joy, and love to the world. As we prepare ourselves to joyfully celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, **hear our prayers.**

O Lord our God, with the Incarnation of your Son, you showed us that humankind is infinitely precious in your eyes, and your Son taught us that all we do to the least of his brothers and sisters we do it to him. Look with compassion on all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, especially Sherry, Jenny, Molly, Bill, Ernest, Rich, Kadaj, Mary, Rick, Kathy, Kevin and those we name now silently and aloud, that they may feel your loving and healing presence. *(silence)* As we prepare ourselves to joyfully celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, **hear our prayers.**

O Lord our God, we rejoice with those having birthdays this week, especially Dorothy, Ellen, and Wilson, send your blessings upon them as they begin a new year. As we prepare ourselves to joyfully celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, **hear our prayers.**

O Lord our God, we pray for those who rest in your eternal light and peace, and those we name now silently or aloud, *(silence)*. As we prepare ourselves to joyfully celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, **hear our prayers.**

Celebrant: O Lord our God, prepare in us a mansion for your Son, that at Christmas we may be ready to joyfully welcome Emmanuel, God with us, and equipped to share the angels' good tidings, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

✠ Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Celebrant: 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

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

O God, our times are in your hands: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send your blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.
Psalms 50:1

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan this QR code:



Offertory

"Come To Us"

Chorus:	2. We know not where this journey leads
Come to us	We follow just our dreams
Jesus come to us	We travel far that we might kneel
Come to us	Before a newborn King
Jesus Jesus come	

1. For a world filled with darkness	3. Unto us a shining star
Longs to see Your light	A sign for all to see
For a world of despair	That unto us a child is born
Awaits that hopeful night	Born to set us free

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✠ Presentation Hymn

"Doxology"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures
5 Here - be - low Praise God a - bove ye heav - enly Host. Praise
10 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
15 ma - nu - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

✠ The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 1 (from *Enriching Our Worship*)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your beloved Son to

redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

♣ Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

Hymnal #S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
 might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
 full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

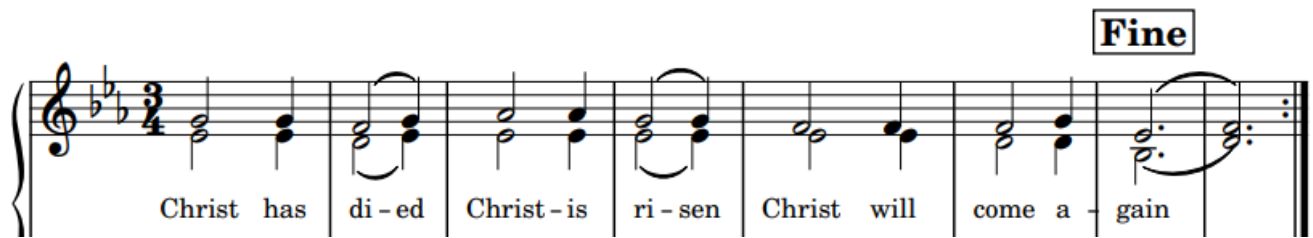
Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made

mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.



✠ The Lord's Prayer

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 Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

✦ Fraction Anthem

“Jesus, Lamb of God”

Hymnal #S164

Deutsche Messe: F. P. Schubert



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

The Communion

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion in front of the altar. Gluten-free communion wafers are available on demand. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest. To receive the wine, you can either drink from the common cup or dip your host held by the second Eucharist minister on both sides of the priest.

Communion Music

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

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
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

2. Born thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now thy gracious kingdom bring
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne

You're our joy
You're our hope

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(REPEAT)

Ending
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

“Wait for the Lord”

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; keep watch; take heart!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second staff contains the melody for the second line: 'Wait for the Lord; keep watch; take heart!' The word 'watch' is underlined in the lyrics. The music consists of chords and single notes, with some rests.

✠ Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

✠ The Blessing:

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he, whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, be rewarded with unending life at his second Advent. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

✠ Recessional Song

“Find Us Ready”

Refrain:

Find us ready Lord, not standing still.
Find us working and loving and doing your will.
Find us ready lord, faithful in love,
building the kingdom that's here and above
building the kingdom of mercy and love.

2. We must make straight the path,
God's love revealed.
With sin cast aside,
God's mercy alive,
fear not for here is your God.

1. We must wait for the Lord
for we know not the time.
So here and today
we gather and pray
discovering love in our midst.

3. Lifting up those bowed down,
we prepare for our God.
Rejoice in the Lord,
for hope has been born
in hearts where our God finds a home.

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✠ The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Worship Assistants	December 1	December 8
Organist	Donna Parker	Mary Butler
Musicians	Praise Ensemble	Adult Ensemble
Ushers	<i>2 needed</i>	<i>2 needed</i>
Acolyte	Ellen Anderson	Alex Corns
Lector	Olivia Carpenter	Kevin McIntyre
Chalicians	Susan Considine, Helen Lang, John Holbert, <i>1 needed</i>	Kevin McIntyre, Jim Fariss, Jill Horn, <i>1 needed</i>
Worship Slides	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden	Jeanne Cox
Audio Visual	Gabriel Hoff	Gabriel Hoff

December Altar Guild: Team 4

Kim Tompkins Charlie Aler Beverly Baker Jenny Beeker Helen Lang

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Susan Considine, in thanksgiving and celebration of son, Sean's birthday, and in loving memory of Jim Parker.

Attendance: November 24:

8:00 am - 28 10:15 am In-person - 72 YouTube - 4 Facebook - 1 **Total: 105**

Readings for Next Sunday: The Second Sunday of Advent - C

Baruch 5:1-9 Canticle 16 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

Church of the Ascension | 23 North Court Street | Westminster, Maryland 21157

The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson, Rector

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