

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SANTA CLARITA

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Prayer of Meditation

Before the service begins, we encourage you to use the following for meditation.

What do you know for sure? What has been God's revelation to you that remains a constant? What specifically is the bedrock of your faith in Christ that can keep you stable amidst "the changes and chances of life"? Cling to the rock. -Br. Curtis Almquist, SSJE

Prelude

Simple Gifts

American Folk Tune arr. by John Carter

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Holy and Gracious God, we pray that as we light this candle so, too, will a fire of Hope be kindled in our hearts. May we hold this Hope gently, as we are urged to stay awake and be ready for a most amazing event! As we prepare to receive the Christ Child, may we be ever mindful of our love for you, and Yours for us. This will keep the flames of Hope burning in this Advent season. We pray all this in the name of Emmanuel. **Amen.**

Entrance Hymn #58

"Lo! he comes, with clouds descending"

St. Thomas

1. Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for our sal -
 2. Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in dread - ful
 3. Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his daz - zling
 4. Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -
 va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him,
 bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the pow'r and glo - ry;
 swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ia!
 pierced and nailed him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing,
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture,
 claim the king - dom for thine own: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

THE WORD OF GOD

Priest: Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People: **You come to your people and set them free.**

Said 3 times:

Priest: Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
People: **Have mercy upon us.**

The Collect of the Day

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Priest: 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 LESSONS

The First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

Reader: Bethani Clark

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."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9

Reader: Marv Aardahl

- 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 Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Reader: Marv Aardahl

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul 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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #56

“O come, O come, Emmanuel”

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
2. O come, thou Wis - dom from _____ on high, who or - derest all things might - i - ly;

that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God _____ ap - pear.
to us the path of know - ledge show, and teach us in her ways _____ to go.

Refrain
Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The Gospel Reading Luke 21:25-36

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

People: **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."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Christopher Montella
Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

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

Reader: The Mackey Family

My friends, may God strengthen your hearts in holiness. Trusting in God, let us pray, “O come, o come, Emmanuel; be our hope and our salvation.”

God our hope, make us increase and abound in love for one another. Keep your Church on the paths of love and faithfulness.

Silence

Intercessor: O come, o come, Emmanuel;

People: Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. May all the world know your peace and safety.

Silence

Intercessor: O come, o come, Emmanuel;

People: Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, you place signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. Give us the eyes to see, the wisdom to prepare, and the faith to trust in you.

Silence

Intercessor: O come, o come, Emmanuel;

People: Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity restored: bring the people of this region—from city, village and town—together in a spirit of love and respect.

The congregation may add their own thanksgivings.

Silence

Intercessor: O come, o come, Emmanuel;

People: Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, remember your compassion and love. Heal and restore the sick and the suffering, the anxious and the grieving. We pray for all those on the prayer list especially Cis & husband, Tamara, Betty, Bill, and Dylan.

The congregation may add their own petitions.

Silence

Intercessor: O come, o come, Emmanuel;

People: Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, keep us blameless before you that we may meet the coming of our Lord Jesus with joy. May we, and all who have died, rise to life immortal with all your saints. We pray for those who have died especially Ginny, Lee, Ruben and Michael.

Silence

Intercessor: O come, o come, Emmanuel;

People: Be our hope and our salvation.

Priest:

O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Members of the congregation who are joining us via livestream are encouraged to post "Peace be with you" in the comments or to use the "like" or "love" reaction button to take part in the virtual exchange of God's peace with the rest of the congregation at this time.

Welcome and Announcements

We are pleased to celebrate the following birthday: Michael Branda on November 23rd, James Torres on November 30th, Kathy Gonzales on December 4th.

Offertory Prayer

The People say together:

Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Now, help us to be grateful, accountable, and, with praise and thanksgiving, to give of ourselves generously, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Offertory

People Look East
St. Stephen's Parish Choir

Besancon Carol arr. by Craig Phillips

Presentation

Old 100th

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures," with chords G, D, Em, Bm, G, D, G, D, Em above it. The second staff contains the second line: "here be - low. Praise God, you hosts in heav'n a -", with chords C, G, D, Em, D, G, Am, G/B, C, F#dim/A above it. The third staff contains the final line: "bove; Praise God the Trin - i - ty of Love. A - men." with chords Em, D/F#, G, C#dim/ED, C, G/D, D7, G, G7, C, G above it. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

Sanctus Hymn #S 128

Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, _____
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

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. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those**

who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Priest: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

*All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set belongs to God.
Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey you are welcome to receive the Bread made holy.*

The church teaches that temporal isolation cannot constrain the sacrament's ineffable power. Calling us to "massive, corporate, spiritual communion,"

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Priest and People say together:

O Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

Communion Music

Keep Your Lamps
St. Stephen's Parish Choir

Spiritual arr. by Andre Thomas

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

**God of new beginnings,
you draw near to us in word and sacrament
to strengthen and renew us;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit,
may your light so shine through us**

that all may welcome your Son at his coming.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Emmanuel. Amen.

Blessing

Know that the ever-present mystery we name God
is in your past forgiving you,
in your present loving you,
and in your future meeting you.
And may the blessing of the Source of life, love and hope,
the Word of life, compassion and wisdom
and Breath of life, grace and truth
surround, sustain and surprise you,
this day and all your days. **Amen**

Closing Hymn #66

“Come, thou long expected Jesus”

Stuttgart



1. Come, thou long ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
3. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet A King;
4. By thine own e - ter - nal spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Dismissal

Priest: As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve God.

People: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

From *The Hymnal 1982*, #58 “Let he comes with clouds descending”, Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)
Music: *St. Thomas*, melody att. John Francis Wade (1711–1786); harm. att. Vincent Francis Novello (1781–1864). #56 “Come, O come, Emmanuel” Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811–1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright: Music: Both accompaniments copyright © 1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. #66 “Come, thou long expected Jesus”, Charles Wesley (1707–1788).
Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmody Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793–1870), alt.
Doxology – Music: Old 100*, melody from *Psaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. After Louis Bourgeois (1510?–1561?).