

Welcome to the Church of the Advent! If you are visiting with us, please know we are honored by your presence! We invite you to complete a guest card, which will allow us to remain in contact with you and provide you with additional information. You may place your completed card in the offering plate, or you may give it to our priest as you are leaving. On our website (www.adventks.org), you will find an up-to-date calendar of all church ministries and activities, and you may sign up to receive our weekly email. If you are interested in learning more about the Church of the Advent, the Episcopal Church, or the Christian faith, please contact our priest (Tim Johnson) at (610) 444-4624 or rector@adventks.org. **Again, welcome!**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS JANUARY 5, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

(Our liturgy is taken from the Book of Common Prayer.)

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

BELL CHOIR PRELUDE We Shall Overcome

arr. Cheryl Robinson

OPENING HYMN

The First Noel #109, vs. 1,2 & 6 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

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

Psalm 84

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! * My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; * by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

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3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! * they will always be praising you.
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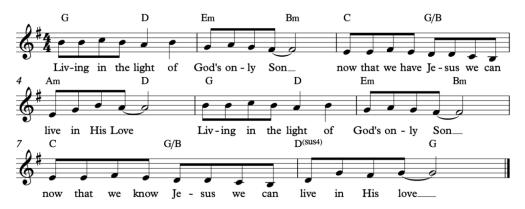
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! * whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, * for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, * and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; * hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; * and look upon the face of your Anointed.

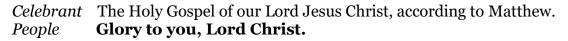
THE SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

(Please stand as you are able for the sequence song and the Gospel.)





GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother: and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CelebrantThe Gospel of the LordPeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

SEQUENCE SONG (*sing once*)

Living in the Light

Joan & Wilson Somers

HOMILY

The Rev. Tim Johnson, Rector

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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 c come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Please kneel, remain standing, or be seated for the prayers and confession.)

Response to each petition: May your Kingdom come on earth.

THE PEACE (Please stand as you are able for the Peace.)

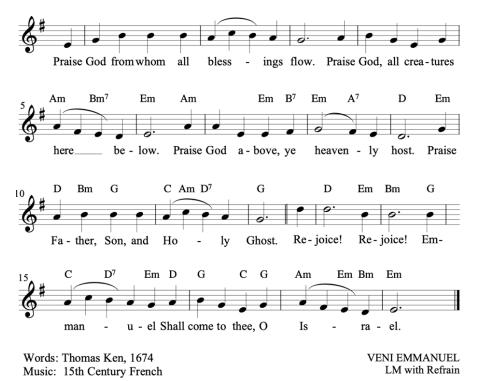
Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you. *People* And also with you.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY:

Come, Christians, Join to Sing Advent Handbell Choir arr. Lloyd Larson

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS (Please stand as you are able for the Doxology.)



Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website http://www.umcworship.org. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Eucharistic Prayer B from the Book of Common Prayer)

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere...

...who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

Sanctus~129

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Powell

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

(Please kneel, remain standing, or be seated for the remainder of the prayer.)

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love...

...Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

We remember his death; we proclaim his resurrection; we await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all...

...By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen!**

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

as we forgive those who
trespass against us.
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.

Celebrant This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

People Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Lo, how a rose Ave Maria Praetorius Arcadelt **POST COMMUNION PRAYER** (Please stand or kneel as you are able.)

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

WE RETURN TO THE WORLD

THE BLESSING

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN Away in a Manger #27 in in Lift Every Voice and Sing (black & red hymnal)

DISMISSAL

CelebrantGo in peace to love and serve the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Pastorale

Darius Milhaud

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WORSHIP SUPPORT

Celebrant: The Reverend Timothy A. Johnson, Rector + Lector / Sub Deacon: Dick Sanford Eucharistic Minister: Deb Peterson Director of Music: Wilson G. Somers Handbell Choir Director: Leon Spencer

Pastoral Emergencies – If you have a pastoral emergency requiring the assistance of a priest, please contact the church office during office hours. Outside of office hours, please contact the Rev. Tim Johnson directly at 484-730-1988.