



**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](http://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](mailto: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.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.

- 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.)*

**SEQUENCE SONG** (*sing twice*) *Living in the Light*

Joan & Wilson Somers

The musical score is written in G major, 4/4 time, and consists of three staves. The lyrics are: "Liv-ing in the light of God's on - ly Son\_ now that we have Je - sus we can live in His Love Liv - ing in the light of God's on - ly Son\_ now that we know Je - sus we can live in His love\_". Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, D, Em, Bm, C, G/B, Am, D, G, D, Em, Bm, C, G/B, D(sus4), G.

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**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.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord  
*People* **Praise 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  
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.*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures  
here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - jice! Re - jice! Em -  
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Chords: Am Bm7 Em Am Em B7 Em A7 D Em  
D Bm G C Am D7 G D Em Bm G  
C D7 Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674  
Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL  
LM with Refrain

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](mailto: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,

**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.  
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**

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks 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.*