

MORNING PRAYER

ADVENT FOUR

DECEMBER 20, 2020

PRELUDE: THE ANGEL GABRIEL (BASQUE CAROL, ARR. EDGAR PETTMAN)

OPENING SENTENCE

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

CONFESSION OF SIN

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.

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

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

V: Lord, open our lips.

R: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia

THE VENITE

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

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Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

THE PSALMS APPOINTED

PSALM 24 *Domini est terra*

- 1 The earth is the LORD'S and all that is in it, *
the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 ***For it is he who founded it upon the seas *
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.***
- 3 Who can ascend the hill of the LORD? *
and who can stand in his holy place?
- 4 ***Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, *
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what is a fraud.***
- 5 They shall receive a blessing from the LORD *
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."
- 6 ***Such is the generation of those who seek him, *
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.***
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 ***Who is this King of glory? *
"The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle."***
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 ***Who is he, this King of glory? *
"The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory."***

PSALM 29 *Afferte Domino*

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 ***Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.***

- ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴ ***The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.***
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ ***He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.***
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁸ ***The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.***
- ⁹ And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ ***The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.***
- ¹¹ The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM 2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 15: THE SONG OF MARY *Magnificat Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *

to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A READING FROM ROMANS 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN #56: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (VV.1-4)

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be

born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Lisa Frost-Phillips

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
***the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.***
***I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only son, our Lord.***
***He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.***
***He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.***
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
***He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.***
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

THE PRAYERS

V: The Lord be with you.

R: ***And also with you.***

Let us pray.

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*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Sam and Anne our Bishops with all bishops, priests, and deacons. We pray for the Diocese of Costa Rica. We also pray for Pastor Holman and Dickerson Chapel AME.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for our President, our Congress, and our State Government. We pray for an easing of violence and for the spirit of peace to prevail. We pray for the feeding ministry of Orange Congregation in Mission.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. We pray for the work of the Eno River Association.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable in Orange County. We pray for inmates, first responders, and healthcare workers. We pray for educators, students, and parents of school-aged children. We pray for families unable to gather over the holidays.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for those in our parish family, especially: Jackie, Mildred, Katherine, Lois, Tom, Molly, Jim, Rowen & Jan, Ann, Anne, Daisy,

Tom, Champe, Keyon, Andy & Barrie, Patrick, Laura, Sandra, Bartow, Joseph, Robert, Tricia & Don, Nell, Janice, Kim & Sandy, and Ludie.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Melvin Simmons, that your will for them may be fulfilled, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN #56: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (VV.5-8)

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

2 Corinthians 13:14

SUNDAY FORUM: THE ANNUNCIATION: Lisa+ will lead us on a guided meditation on our Gospel lesson for the 4th Sunday of Advent, the Annunciation as told in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 1:26-38). There will be time for quiet reflection as well as for sharing.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday (12/20): Advent Four

- **Morning Gathering for Worship & Formation including:**
 - **9:00** Gathering (Worship Zoom)
 - **9:15** Morning Prayer
 - **10:15 Children's Programming** (Formation Zoom)
 - **10:15 Sunday Forum** (Worship Zoom): The Annunciation
- **Youth Christmas Party** (Formation Zoom); 4pm

Monday (12/21):

- **Education for Ministry** (Formation Zoom); 6:30pm
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Tuesday (12/22):

- **Morning Silence** (Worship Zoom); 7:30am Gathering for Silent Meditation

- **Visio Divina** (Meeting Zoom); 7:00pm
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Wednesday (12/23):

- **Morning Prayer** (Worship Zoom); 8:00am
- **For Those Who Live Alone** (Meeting Zoom); 5:00pm / Margaret Brill hosting
- **Choir** (Meeting Zoom); 7:00pm
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Thursday (12/24)

- **Christmas Pageant** (Worship Zoom); 4:00pm
- **Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service** (Worship Zoom); 8:00pm

Friday (12/25): Christmas Day

- **In-person Christmas Day Eucharist** (In front of the Fellowship Hall); 11:00am
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Sunday (12/27)

- **Morning Prayer** (Worship Zoom); 9:15am
- **Women's "Singing" Circle and Compline** (Worship Zoom); 7:00pm

PLEASE MASK UP IF YOU COME INTO ANY OF THE BUILDINGS ON THE CHURCH PROPERTY!!

IN-PERSON, OUTDOOR EUCHARISTS

Our next, in-person, outside Eucharist is scheduled for Wednesday, the 30th at Noon. It will be in the Memorial Garden where we can accommodate 24 easily. To sign up, first fill out [the health screening form here](#). Masks are required and physical distancing must be observed. We expect to continue having Wednesday Eucharists as long as the weather allows.

VISIO DIVINA ON TUESDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 22

This Advent, join me, Amy Peterson, for Visio Divina! We'll meet once a week to share artwork and images related to the week's lectionary texts, and we'll reflect together on the Scripture and what the art shows us about it. If you're interested, email Amy Peterson (coamyp@gmail.com) for more details.

Tuesdays at 7pm: December 22 - reflecting on Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- * 4:00pm Christmas Pageant (Worship Zoom)
- * 8:00pm Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols (Worship Zoom)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

- * 11:00am in front of the Fellowship Hall (registration required/fill out the [health screening form here](#))

ST. MATTHEW'S PODCASTS ARE BACK: [HTTPS://STMATTHEWSHILLSBOROUGH.ORG/PODCAST/](https://stmatthewshillsborough.org/podcast/)

- **THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY I:**
Amy and David discuss the early church as described in Acts Chapter 2, shortly after the Pentecost event. The verses discussed are Acts 2:37-47.
- **THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY II:**
We continue our look into the community in the early Church of Acts. This week I'm joined by Father Robert and we discuss the story of Ananias and Sapphira, who lie to Peter about the amount of their money they are giving to the fledgling Church. We discuss why the call

to honesty and truthfulness in the church community is so critical and why this story unfolds the way that it does. We also talk about what possibilities might open up for the Church today if we took on a posture of extreme truthfulness and charity within the community.

- **ST. MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY: AN INTERVIEW WITH JENNIFER PEAK**

ORANGE CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION

Providing Beef Stew to Orange Congregations in Mission Food's Pantry is a commitment St. Matthew's has made and kept for years now. We hope that you will consider contributing to OCIM's Holiday meals for Christmas. Bring your donated items by the church anytime. Drop them in the basket under the alcove of the Hayden Building or leave them by one of the doors.

PRAYER LIST

We pray for all who are sick, or in any need or trouble, remembering especially the following members of our parish family: Jackie Fredericks, Mildred Pruessing, Katherine Nelson, Lois Horn, Tom Vail, Molly Zaragoza, Jim Fesperman, Rowen & Jan Grant, Ann Burdette, Anne Weaver, Daisy Huffman, Tom Sinn, Champe Davis, Keyon Hutson, Andy & Barrie Wallace, Patrick Craft, Laura Middlebrooks, Sandra Poffenbarger, Bartow Culp, Joseph Riddick, Robert Fruehwirth, Tricia & Don Hill, Nell Schrader, Kim Richardson & Sandy McBride, and Ludie White.

And these others for whom our prayers are desired: Melanie Maupin, Betsy Zaragoza, Gene & Lillian Thompson, Derek Kendall, Harry Dula, Mathew Thomas, Arnold Thomas, Gail Clifford, Dorothy Garton, Erin Vaughan, Bob Caldwell, Baylor Pisano, John Charton, Lucy Gradowski, Ken Foland, Savannah Fonvielle, Colleen Paisley, Ben Mueller, Richard Haase, Linda Saterfield, Chip Joyner, John Logan, the Spurlocks, the Tuckers, Anna Lawrence & Dan Bass, Fred Edoughs, Timothy, Gogi, Bob, Laura Merrill, Jeannine Beardslee, Brooke Harnisch & Dan Roberts, Amy, Evelyne Accad, Amalia, Maddie Powers, Joe & Pat McDonald, Allie, John & Rachel Hougom, Richard Stevens, Mary Beth, Sam Hammond, Mary Armbruster, Karl & Janice Eicher, and Knox Efland.

We pray for all doctors and nurses, service workers, inmates, and the unemployed. We pray for educators, students, and parents of school-aged children. We pray for families facing separation during the holidays.