

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 8, 2024
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Worship Leaders December 8, 2024

Presider The Rev. Nic Mather

Musician Riki Davis

Acolyte Juice Quiroz

Altar Guild Robin Swecker

Reader Lloyd Solon, Rob Sudar

Greeter Wes Henricksen, Lauren Henricksen

Chalice Bearer

Usher Greg Lopic

Verger Mary Hoover

Vestry Presence Robin Swecker, Lisa Sudar

Coffee Hour D Rowley, Mel Wright



We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation want to respectfully **acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People**, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Cowlitz and Chinook People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths.

St. Stephen's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love and service to **welcome all people just as God created you**. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!



Connect with St. Stephen's!

Please leave your name and email/phone number and Fr. Nic will connect with you this week with an invitation to enjoy a cup of coffee on us!

Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Your Email: _____



An Invitation to Pause & Listen

You are invited to listen to the story shared today as an opening into our observance of this season of Advent.

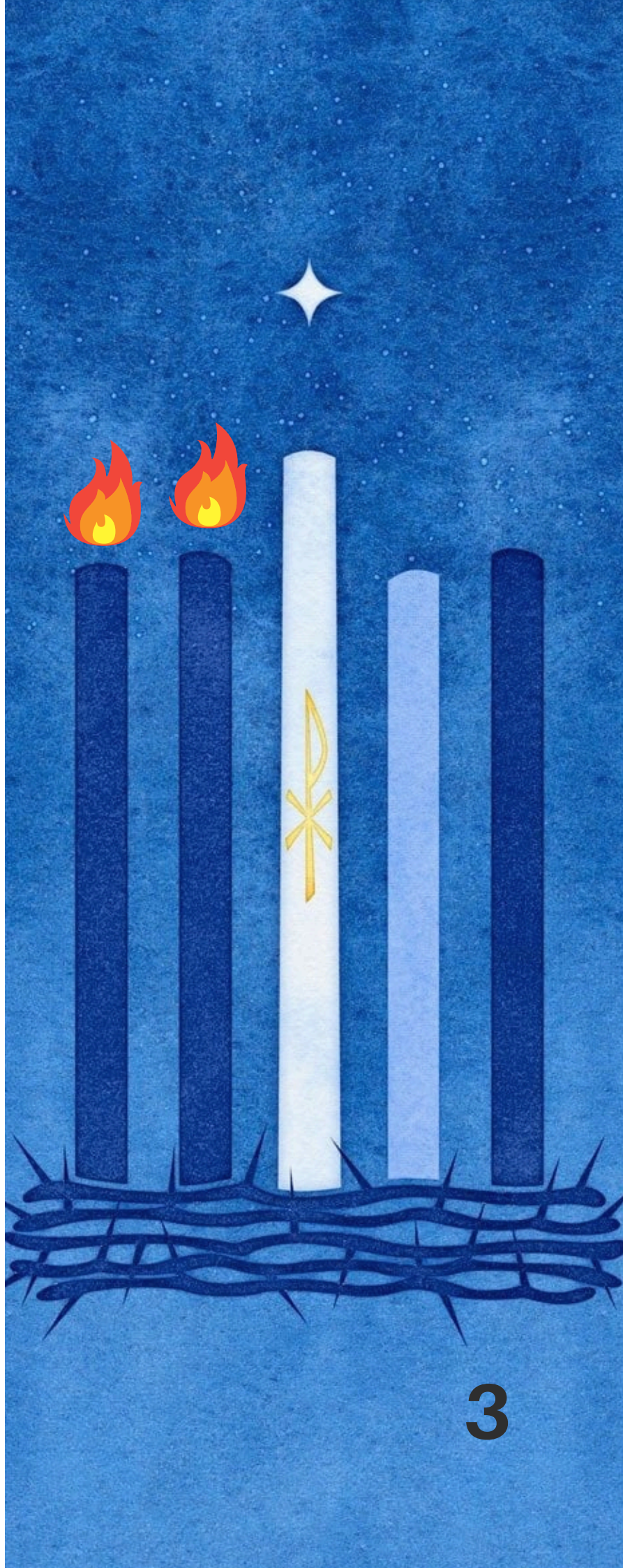
During the opening hymn you are invited to bring forth your elements to add to the Advent wreath.

Week 2: Greens. Evergreens represent the strength of our faith and the promise of the eternal life that is to come through the new life of Christ.

Week 3: Pinecones & Holly

Week 4: Baubles & Glitter

Following the placing of their branches, all children are invited to follow the children's cross to the parish hall for Sunday School



On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

The Hymnal 1982, #76

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

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

The Wind that Stirs the Sea to Sing



1. The wind that stirs the sea to sing, to surge and soar and drum,
2. A - rise and blow from God's deep core, a stea - dy driv - ing gale, —
3. Then with your flame and wind ig - nite the hope we sing and pray:



is e - choed in the prayer we bring: O Ho - ly Spi - rit, come!
and fill this church for - e ver - more with faith that will not fail!
that we will fol - low Christ the light, the truth, the life, the way!


O Ho - ly Spi - rit, come! —
With faith that will not fail! —
The truth, the life, the way! —

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: John Tirro, b. 1966

Text ©2015 Oxford University Press, Music ©2017 Mondo Zen Music.

5



A star in the ceiling of a shepherd's
cave in Bethlehem

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

Thanks be to God.

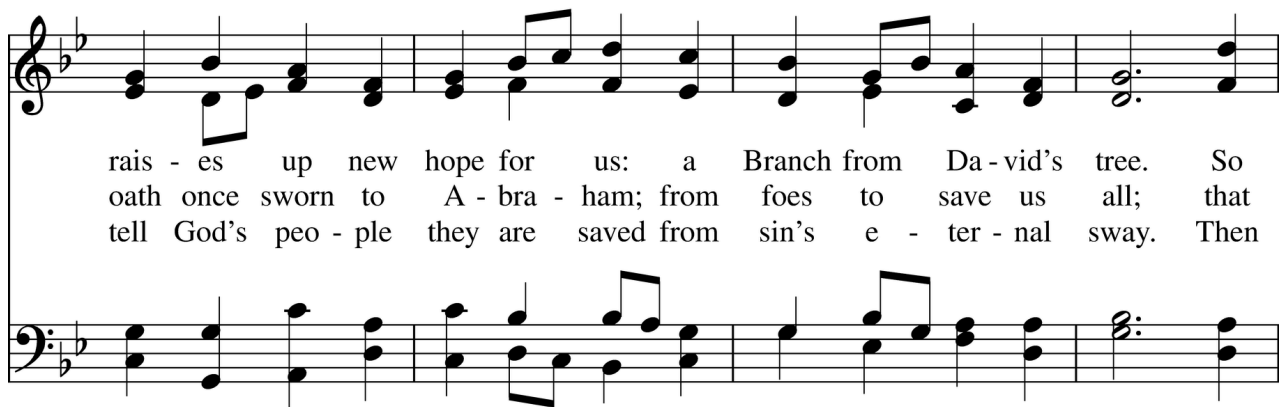
Jesus as a child at The Creche Orphanage Bethlehem



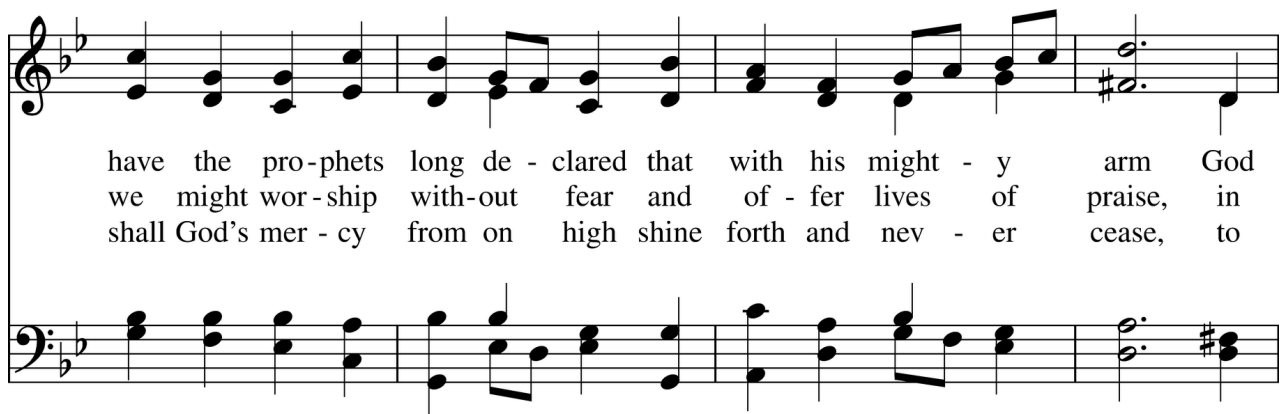
Canticle 16



1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free and
2. With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call, the
3. My child, as pro - phet of the Lord you will pre - pare the way, to



rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree. So
oath once sworn to A - bra - ham; from foes to save us all; that
tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway. Then



have the pro - phets long de - clared that with his might - y arm God
we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise, in
shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease, to



would turn back our en - e - mies and all that wish us harm.
ho - li - ness and right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.
drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Music: *Shepherd's Pipes*, Annabeth McClelland Gay (b. 1925).

O Come, O Come, Great Mystery

Advent Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia

O come, O come Great Mys - ter - y All

minds are op - en, hearts set free En - light - en us to hear your voice. Send

us all peace, and urge us to re - jice We wait, we hope, we

yearn, we pray for you to o - pen us and make all things new.

We wait, we hope, we yearn, we pray for you to

o - pen us and make all things new.

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia

The musical score is written on a single staff in 4/4 time, featuring a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins with a repeat sign and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words connected by hyphens across lines. The melody is simple and repetitive, suitable for a church acclamation.

Melody: VENI, EMMANUEL, French Procession, 15 cent.

Arrangement: Lacey Brown, b. 1981

Text: Lacey Brown, b. 1981

©Lacey Brown 2021

The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According to Luke. **Glory to you O Christ.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of Our Savior.
Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon--Fr. Nic Mather

10

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

Celebrant: Holy God, wherever we are, you are there. Stir our hearts wherever we may go that we may see you and offer thanksgiving for the life you have given us. Hear these prayers we offer as we say, Come Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

For the church in every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of God's people, those next to us here, those in neighborhood churches, and those worshipping today across the globe. Help us to grow into a unity of mission and ministry in our common devotion to Christ that we might be faithful witnesses of your love.
Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

For those in civil authority: That they be guided by hope and not fear.
Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

For this faith community; amid joys and sorrows: Let us remember those who have gone before us; those who have sacrificed for us. Let us give thanks for this gathering of God's people and for the renewal of life we are given. Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and stars that shelter the night: May our eyes be open to the beauty around us. Help us to protect and nurture the creation and ever proclaim its wonders.
Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

For those at greatest risk among us: Let us pray for those who are lonely or neglected, and for those facing illness and disability. Especially we pray for David Hughey, Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Lois Larson, and those you name either silently or aloud. *Pause.*
Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, especially Steve Larson, and for those who are dying, and for those who grieve, that they might find hope in your promise of lasting life.
Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place and time, and guide us to Christ, preparing the way for us by making every valley filled and every mountain low. **Amen.**

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.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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 Christ be always with you.
And also with you!

The Offertory

God of our future, whose compassion is unlimited, all that we have is yours and to you we shall render account for all you have given us. As we offer you these gifts we enjoy from your bounty, grant that we may live well, love generously, and seek first your kingdom, on earth as in heaven, through Jesus Christ our most kind Judge and Savior. **Amen.**

Offertory Music--"Every Valley" by Joseph Martin, St. Stephen's Choir

HOLY EUCHARIST



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 truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. 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:

Icon--Mary: Love Forever Being Born by Kelly Latimore

Inspired by this poem by Sr. Ilia Delio:

"What do the stars say?

The light that meets our eyes after millions of years summons us to look beyond.

The dark that hovers over us is filled with light.

That underneath the appearance of the stable heavens is the bubbling energy of the universe.

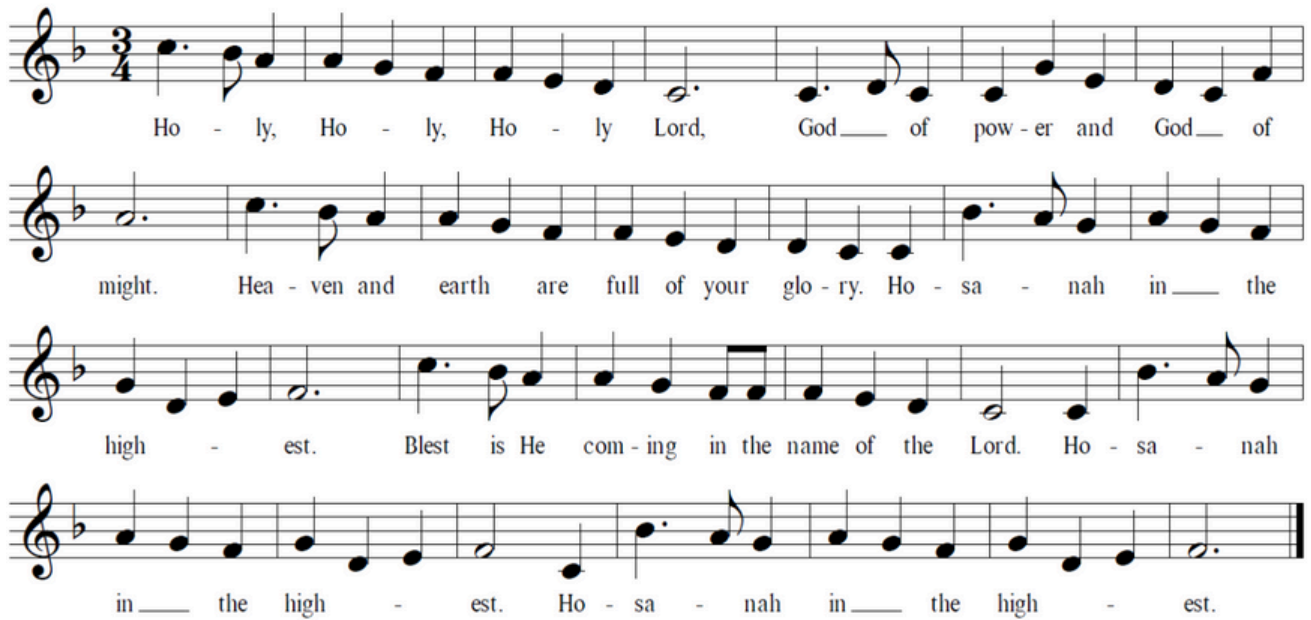
We are forming, forming, forming and nothing can stop us.

There is a palpable power of attraction, pulling us toward we-no-not-where.

Love alone is the guide of the universe and the whole universe is in the human heart.

Tend to the heart and the power of love will name itself as God."

Sanctus

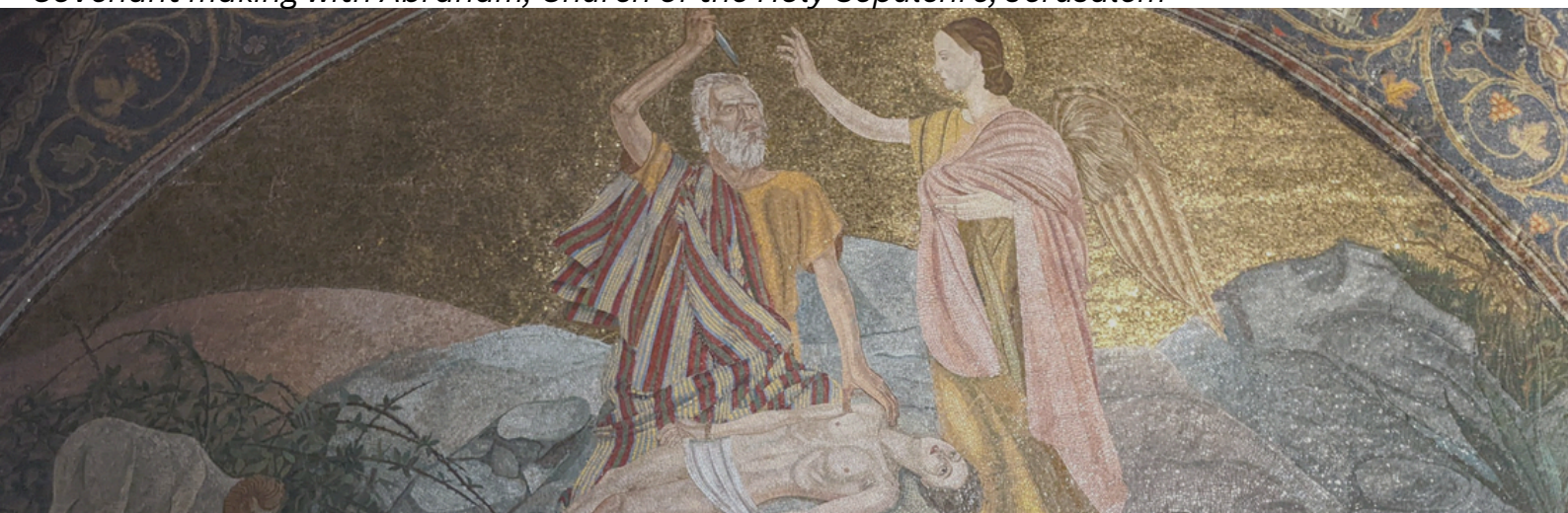


Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and God of
might. Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - nah in the
high - est. Blest is He com - ing in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - nah
in the high - est. Ho - sa - nah in the high - est.

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.

Covenant making with Abraham, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem



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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The birthplace of Christ
Church of the Holy Nativity, Bethlehem



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 the Blessed Mother Mary, Stephen and 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. **Amen.**

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.**

When dark is the world today,
This Child brings
the world the light. MB

Fraction (to the tune of Greensleeves)

What feast of love is offered here
What banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life
What gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
The bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!

17

The Gifts of God, for the People of God.

You are invited to come forward and receive Eucharist at this time. We will be sharing wine from a common chalice, so if you would prefer intinction please let the priest know so that they may intinct in a separate chalice reserved for this practice. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request.

For those joining via Live-Stream:

*A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist
(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor

As you go to the sick and homebound, take with you not only the sacrament that we have celebrated, but also the Word of God which we have heard, as well as the affection of this parish community. Ask for the prayers of those whom you visit in return. Go, now, with God's peace and blessing. **AMEN.**

THE WORD BECAME FLESH,
AND DWELT AMONG US.

Warm the Time of Winter

Verses



1. When the wind of win-ter blows, bring-ing times of
2. When we shiv-er in des-pair, when the chill of
3. When in days of fall-en snow, change con-founds or



sol-i-tude, fill the si-lent, ic-y night;
death comes near, hold us, Spir-it, calm our fear,
love burns low, from the ash-es may there rise



be our hearts' com-pas-sion. Ho-ly Light,
while the eve-ning deep-ens. Ho-ly Light,
phoe-nix of our grow-ing.



warm our night; warm the time of win-ter. Ho-ly Light,



warm our night; warm the time of win-ter.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: Lori True, b.1961, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.



Postcommunion

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.

Holy eternal Majesty, Holy incarnate Word, Holy abiding Spirit, Bless you
for evermore. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

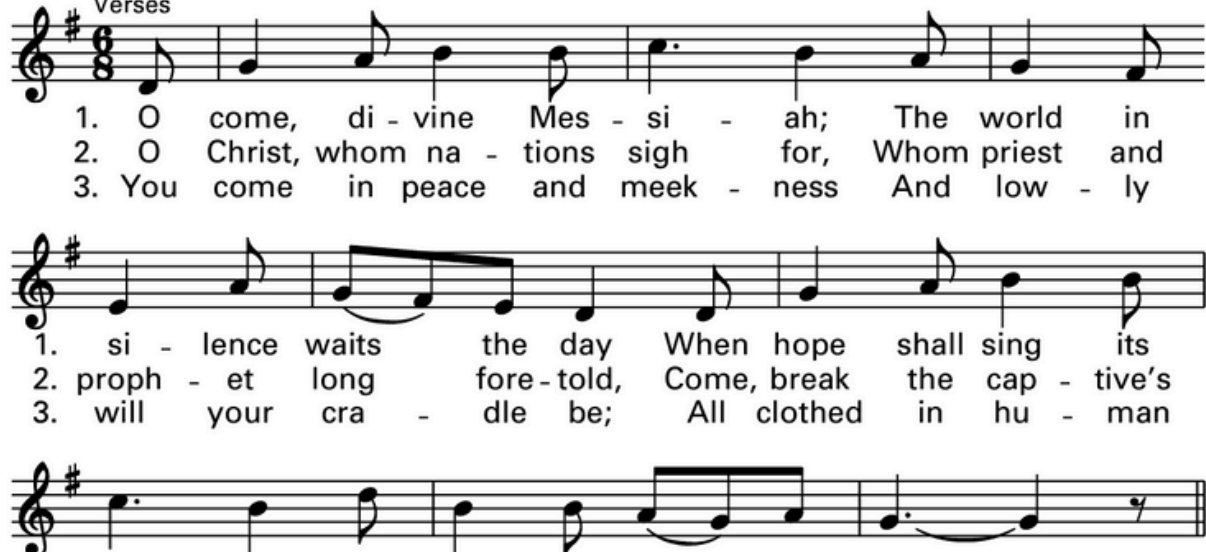
*Following the closing hymn you are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for
Coffee Hour!*

*If you are new today, please take a welcome packet, chocolate bar, and
coffee mug (found at the front door)!*

O COME, DIVINE MESSIAH

VEÑEZ, DIVIN MESSIE

Verses

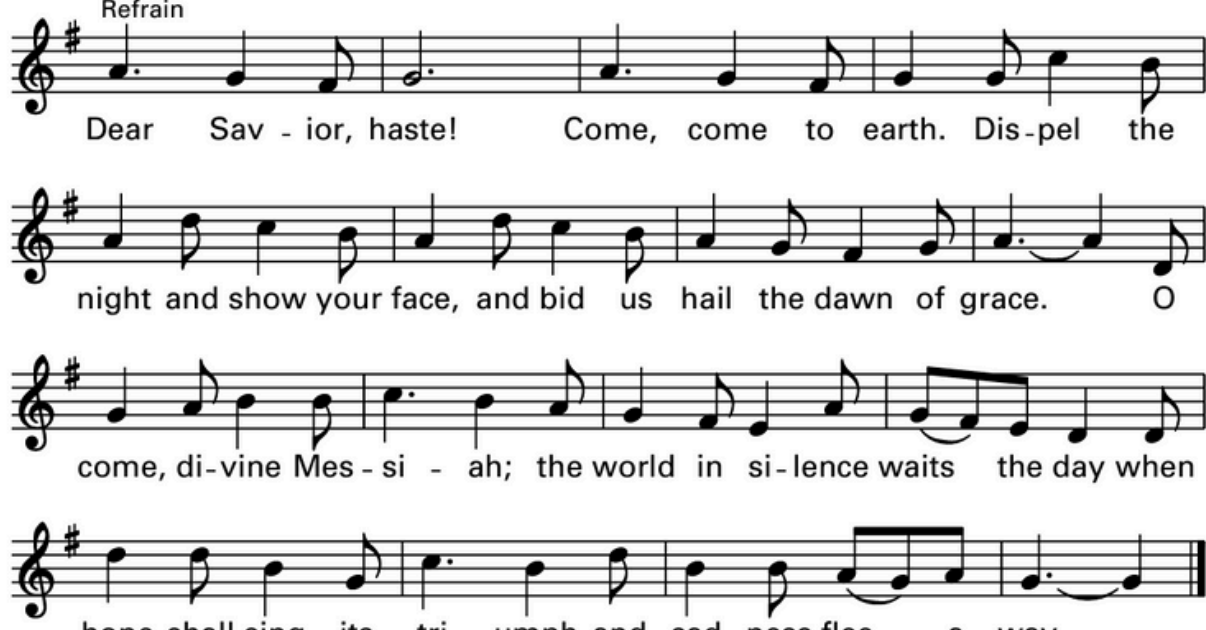


1. O come, di - vine Mes - si - ah; The world in
2. O Christ, whom na - tions sigh for, Whom priest and
3. You come in peace and meek - ness And low - ly

1. si - lence waits the day When hope shall sing its
2. proph - et long fore - told, Come, break the cap - tive's
3. will your cra - dle be; All clothed in hu - man

1. tri - umph And sad - ness flee a - way.
2. fet - ters, Re - deem the long - lost fold.
3. weak - ness Shall we your God - head see.

Refrain



Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the
night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace. O
come, di - vine Mes - si - ah; the world in si - lence waits the day when
hope shall sing its tri - umph and sad - ness flee a - way.

Text: 78 76 with refrain; Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663-1745; tr. by S. Mary of St. Philip, 1877.
Music: Trad. French Carol, 16th cent.

Christmas Flower Offerings

The floral adornment of the church is made possible by your donations. If you would like to make a contribution, use the envelopes in the pews or turn it into the office by December 18th. Please make sure that the names of those being memorialized are legible.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
Presented at **3:00 PM**
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1428 22nd Ave. Longview, WA

**A BEETHOVEN
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

Musicians Don Kirkpatrick, violin;
Austin Bennett, cello; and Grant Mack,
piano will present two Beethoven trios
followed by Longview's own Barbara Lee
Stuart singing a selection from "Messiah".

To finish, the audience will get their own
chance to perform with some Christmas
carols. Come join the fun!

**Columbia
River
CHAMBER MUSIC
Festival**

crfest.org Admission is free, with donations accepted

Advent Ash Wednesday Ascension Holy Cross

**Q U I E T
D A Y S**

12/18 3/5 5/29 9/16

**Join us for our First
Quiet Day of the
church year,
Wednesday
December 18**

Quiet Days follow a
structure of prayer
and intentional
silence:

9am Morning Prayer,
9:30am Reflection,
10am-2pm
Intentional Silence,
2pm Prayer



Outreach for Seafarers



Ditty Bag Collection & Seafarer Dinner

Saturday December 21

6pm-8pm

All Welcome!

Please bring a side or dessert!



December 21 @ 6pm

Ditty bags due to office by Thursday December 19!



Cocoa, Cookies, & Carols

Sunday December 22

5pm-6pm

All Welcome!

Bring cookies to share if able!



CHRISTMAS @ ST. STEPHEN'S

CHRISTMAS EVE,
TUESDAY DECEMBER
24

4 PM GRAB-BAG
PAGEANT &
EUCCHARIST

CHRISTMAS DAY,
WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 25

10:30AM EUCCHARIST
CELEBRATION
WEAR YOUR
CHRISTMAS
JAMMIES!