

MY SOUL SINGS IN GRATITUDE  
I'M DANCING IN THE MYSTERY OF GOD  
THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY ONE IS  
WITHIN ME AND I  
AM BLESSED, SO  
TRULY BLESSED.

THIS GOES  
DEEPER  
THAN HUMAN  
THINKING  
I AM FILLED WITH  
AWE AT LOVE  
WHOSE ONLY  
CONDITION IS TO  
BE RECEIVED.

THE GIFT IS NOT  
FOR THE PROUD  
FOR THEY HAVE NO ROOM  
FOR IT. THE STRONG  
AND SELF-SUFFICIENT  
ONES DON'T HAVE  
THIS AWARENESS

BUT THOSE WHO KNOW  
THEIR EMPTINESS  
CAN REJOICE IN  
LOVE'S FULLNESS

IT'S THE LOVE  
THAT WE WERE  
MADE FOR,  
THE REASON  
FOR OUR BEING  
IT FILLS  
OUR INMOST  
HEART SPACE  
AND BRINGS TO  
BIRTH IN US,  
THE HOLY ONE.

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Modern Magnificat written by Joy  
Cowley based on Luke 1:46-55. Art  
and lettering by Robert Henry.

December 22, 2024  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

## Worship Leaders December 22, 2024

**Presider** The Rev. Nic Mather

**Musician** Riki Davis

**Acolyte** Juice Quiroz

**Altar Guild** Becky Edmiston, Lisa Harrington

**Reader** David Piper, Christopher Ortiz

**Greeter** Janice Stixrud

**Chalice Bearer** John Edmiston

**Usher** John Brugman

**Vergers** Garry Beauregard

**Vestry Presence** Katherine Beauregard, David Piper

**Coffee Hour** Robin Swecker, Alison Askeland



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:** \_\_\_\_\_



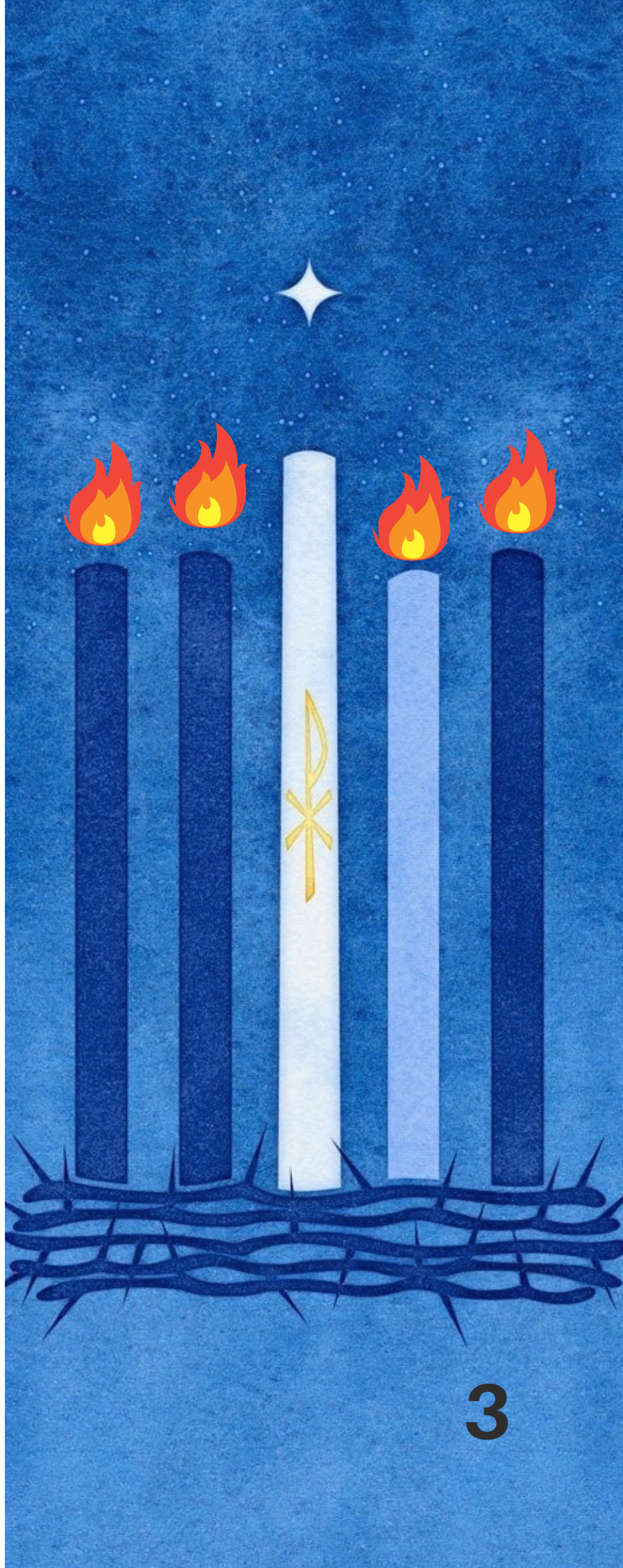
# An Invitation to Pause & Listen

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 4: Baubles & Glitter.** We celebrate the coming joy of Christ with our final preparations of our wreath.


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






# Creator of the stars of night


*The Hymnal 1982, #60*



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
2 In - sor - row that the an - cient curse  
3 When this old world drew on toward night,  
4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now  
5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,  
\* 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;  
6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free  
3 not as a mon - arch, but the child  
4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 we pray you hear us when we call.  
2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.  
3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.  
4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).



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.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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.**

A reading from **Micah 5:2-5a**

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,

whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

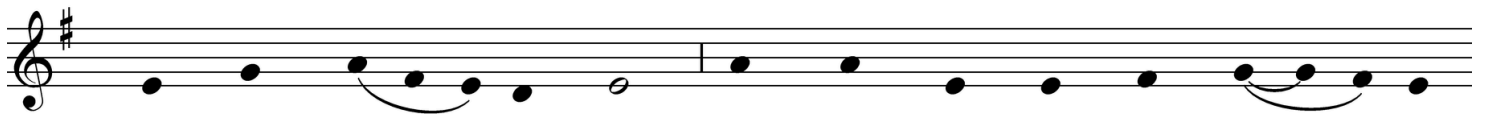
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

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

**Thanks be to God.**



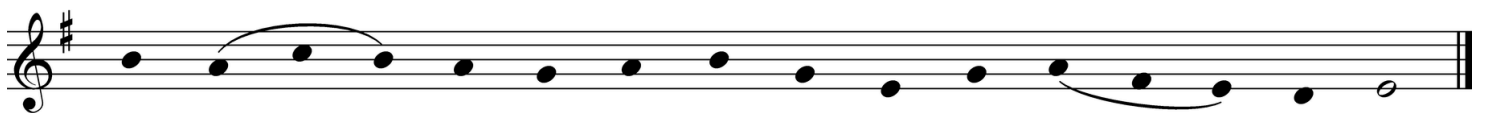
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



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

*The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.*

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).



The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According to Luke.

**Glory to you O Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of Our Savior.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

**Sermon--Fr. Nic Mather**

# 9

# 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:* May our hearts leap for joy as we again assemble in prayer to await the Lord's coming. With Mary, may our souls proclaim God's greatness as we say, Come Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the church: As the celebration of your incarnation draws near, we remember the many ways your revelation is lifted up in the world and we pray for our siblings in Christ throughout the world, and especially for those whose very faith endangers their lives. Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

For an end to violence, oppression, and injustice: As you lead us, Lord, from darkness to light, may we be among those who exalt the lowly and fill the hungry with good things, rooting out the proud of heart and drawing courage from the power of your arm. Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

For our own spirits: May our hearts be magnified and made much bigger than we think possible. May this season of Advent stir in us such faith that we exert ourselves to be your light in a darkened world. Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

For this community: May we be enriched by welcoming the stranger and be drawn to a bright future in service to you, while also remembering and honoring those in the past who guided us into faith. Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and suffering. May they find healing and peace. Especially we pray for David Hughey, Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Jim Halliday, Larry Riley, Tammy Robinson, and those you name either silently or aloud. *Pause.* Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

For the dead and those on the threshold of death. May they and we be welcomed into the place of glory our Lord has prepared for us. Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:* Lord we gather up the prayers of this household, confident in your promise to be with us always. Guide us in wisdom and faith; that we might live into the life created for us, trusting in your will. All this we ask through your Son, our redeemer, Jesus, who is your Christ. **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--**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
arr. Heather Zurcher  
Lisa Sudar, Oboe

# 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.

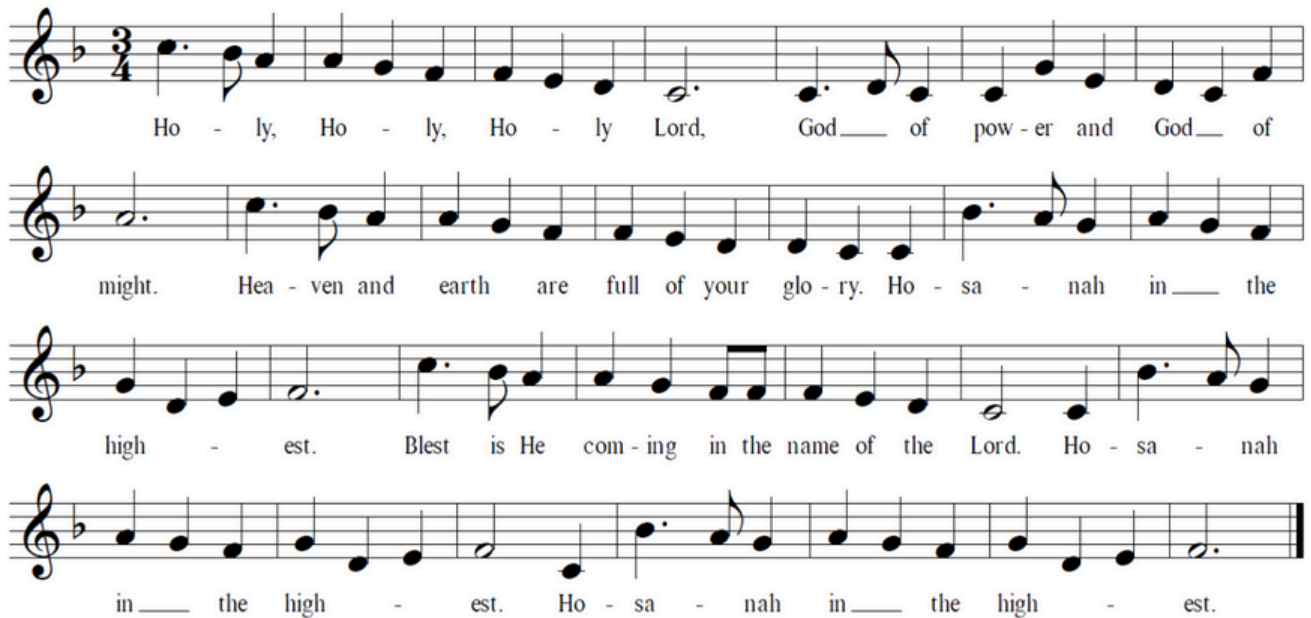
We are forming, forming, forming and nothing can stop us.

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

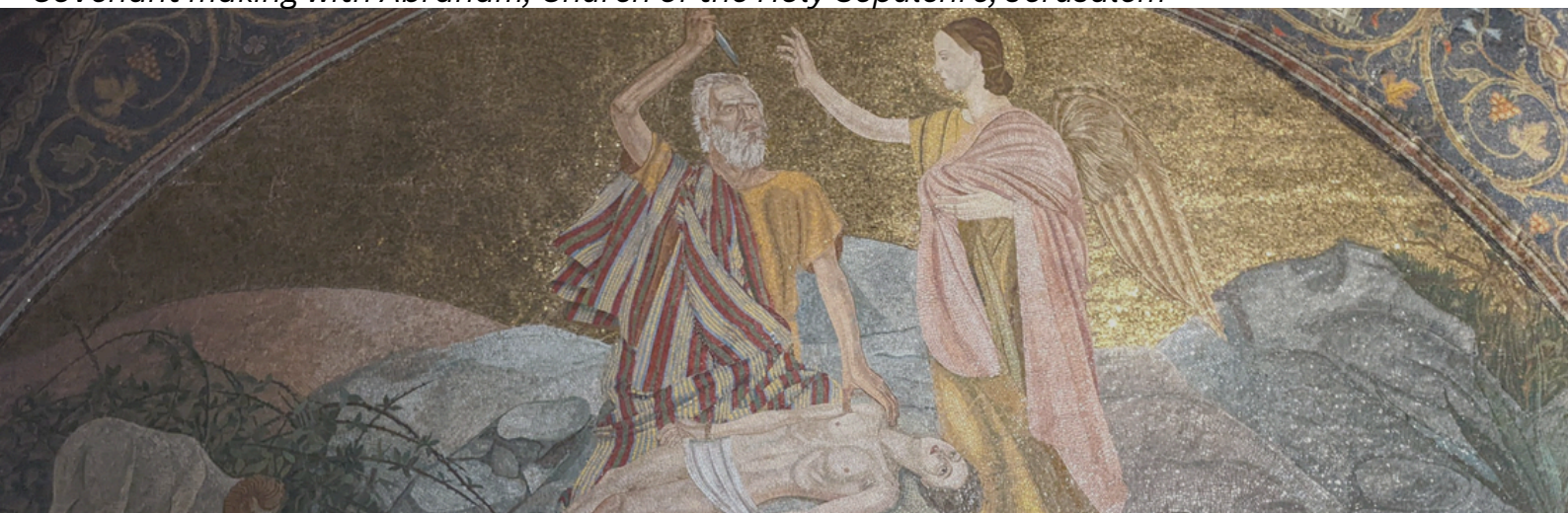


Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and God of  
might. Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - nah in the  
high - est. Blest is He com - ing in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - nah  
in the high - est. Ho - sa - nah in the high - est.

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.**

**15**

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

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!

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 leave the bread in your hand and the chalice minister will intinct for you. 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.**

**T**HE WORD BECAME FLESH,  
AND DWELT AMONG US.



# The angel Gabriel from heaven came

The Hymnal 1982, #265

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 9LD, England.



# 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)!*

**Cocoa Cookies & Carols is TONIGHT! 5pm-6pm!**  
All are invited and welcome!  
Bring a plate of cookies to share if able!  
We hope to see you tonight for carol singing!

# People, look East

Wonder Love and Praise, #724



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour - ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.



Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). Music: *Besançon Carol*, harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944).



A detailed illustration of a Nativity scene. In the center, the Virgin Mary sits on a wooden manger, holding the infant Jesus. Joseph stands behind the manger. To the right, a brown cow and a grey donkey look on. In the foreground, a man kneels in prayer, holding a lamb. To the left, a man plays a flute. The background shows a town on a hillside under a starry night sky. A large waterfall cascades down the center of the scene, and several angels with halos are visible in the sky above.

# CHRISTMAS @ ST. STEPHEN'S

CHRISTMAS EVE,  
TUESDAY DECEMBER 24  
4 PM GRAB-BAG PAGEANT &  
EUCHARIST

CHRISTMAS DAY,  
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25  
10:30 AM  
EUCHARIST CELEBRATION  
CHRISTMAS COMFORTABLE  
ATTIRE WELCOMED!