



St. James' Episcopal Church

December 22, 2024

5 pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at this table.

The Service of the Light

In Advent, we light the candles of the Advent wreath to mark time as we journey together to the celebration of Christ's birth and await his return.

Presider Blessed be God, Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life.

People And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever.

Presider Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel."

People Restore us, O Lord.

Presider We give you thanks and praise, O Lord, for making us a new family, a new creation in Christ.

(We light the first candle of the Advent wreath, the Prophets' candle.)

Today, as we light the Prophets' Candle, we ask that you would open our hearts and minds to your insistent call to love and peace, and we give you thanks for the witness of those who have gone before us.

(We light the second candle of the Advent wreath, the Holy Family candle.)

As we light the Holy Family Candle, we ponder the mystery and joy of human kinship, your first gift to each born into this world.

(We light the third candle of the Advent wreath, the Shepherds' candle.)

As we light the Shepherds' Candle, we remember that in the midst of our ordinary lives you call us to be bold messengers of joy.

(We light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath, the Magi candle.)

As we light the Magi Candle, we ask that your wisdom would renew the face of the earth and draw all of the nations into your peace.

Presider Our hope is in God who makes us one.

People Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

O Mar - y, O Mar - tha, O Mar - y, ring dem bells.

O Mar - y, O Mar - tha, O Mar - y, ring dem bells, I

hear arch - an - gels a rock - in' Je - ru - sa - lem, I hear arch - an - gels a

Fine
ring - in' dem bells. 1. Church get - tin' high - er! Rock - in' Je - ru - sa - lem!
2. New Je - ru - sa - lem!—

D.C.
1. Church get - ting' high - er! ring - in' dem bells.
2. New Je - ru - sa - lem!—

Presider Holy One,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.
Lord, have mercy.

People Lord, have mercy.

Presider Lord Jesus,
 you are the light of the world:
 cleanse and heal our blinded sight.
 Christ, have mercy.

People Christ, have mercy.

Presider Holy Spirit,
 you give us light in our hearts:
 renew us in faith and love.
 Lord, have mercy.

People Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie Eleison

LEVAS 239

Leader
 Ky - ri - e

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri -

Chri - te

e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, e - le - i -

Ky - ri - e

son. Chri - ste, e - le - i - son. Ky - ri -

e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

The Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

God, faithful and true, make us eager with expectation, as we look for the fulfilment of your promise in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Hear this prayer for your love's sake.

Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.

The First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

Lector A reading from the Book of Micah.

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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15 The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

S 247

Antiphon
Unison or harmony

1. My soul pro - claims the great - ness
of the Lord, my spi - rit re - joic - es in
claims the great - ness of the Lord, my
God my Sa - vior; for he has looked
spi - rit re - joic - es in God
with fa - vor on his low - ly ser - vant.

Cantor 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.

The Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

Lector A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

The angel Gabriel

H265

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!

The Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
 People **Praise and Glory to God.**

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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to Christ, the Word.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Robby Vickery, Assisting Clergy

Please stand as you are able.

The Celebration of Faith

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?
People **I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People **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.**

Commitment to Christian Service

Presider Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God. From the beginning, believers have continued in the apostles teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.
Will you commit yourself to this life?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you forgive others, as you are forgiven?
People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you seek to love your neighbor as yourself, and strive for peace and justice?
People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ in your daily life and work?
People I will, with God's help.

Presider With the whole Church will you proclaim by word and action the Good News of God in Christ?
People I will, with God's help.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor God, who is near, we come closer to the stable, seeking to witness your incarnation. Guide us in our journey.
Lord, in your mercy,
People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor God of mercy, keep your Church faithful and vigilant. May we trust in the arrival of our Redeemer, and may we share in the work and wonder of your beloved community.
Lord, in your mercy,
People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor God of Elizabeth, fill us with your Spirit that we may grow in radical openness to the signs of new creation. Embolden our voices and give our words power so that we may speak love, joy, justice, and truth.
Lord, in your mercy,
People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor God of Mary, who scatters the proud and raises up the lowly, upend the injustice of our world through love. To those in positions of power bring insight and compassion, and, to those despondent, bring hope and comfort and help in the time of need.
Lord, in your mercy,
People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Loving God, you are with us in our darkest moments. May your presence be a salve upon all places and peoples wounded or anguished in this season. Be with us in our merriment, as we offer glad tidings of great joy to a world in need of your good news.
Lord, in your mercy,
People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Into your abundant heart, O God, we offer the cares and thanksgivings of our hearts. For what shall we give thanks today? *(Pause to rejoice in thanksgiving with the community.)*
For whom shall we pray? *(Pause to hear the prayers of others and to offer your own.)*

We give thanks for those who have gone before us. Whom shall we remember and not forget? *(Pause to hear the prayers of others and to offer your own.)*

Lord, in your mercy,

People

Hear our prayer.

Presider

In a world that yearns for the dawn of the Christ, our prayers give voice to our need for redemption. Answer our need, O God, fill our hearts, hasten the time of your advent, and give us patience as we await that day when your Son, Jesus Christ, will be all in all, for it is in his holy name that we pray. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Presider

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

In the silence, we are invited to examine the brokenness in our own lives and in the world and to pray that, with God's merciful help, we might set our feet upon paths of repentance.

People

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.

Presider

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you, pardon you and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,

People

to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Presider

The peace of God be always with you.

People

Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.

As we share a sign of Christ's peace, please be mindful of each other's varied boundaries.

Announcements and Blessings

Offertory

We offer our gifts to God: our lives, our abilities, our resources.



Instead of passing the plates during the offertory, we invite you to make an offering through the Offering Box in the Narthex/lobby or by using the QR code.

Holy Communion

Please stand as you are able.

Presider The Lord is here.

People **God's Spirit is with us.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Presider In your coming among us the day of our deliverance has dawned, and through Christ you will make all things new. Christ is now our peace, our freedom, and our future.

Therefore with people of every nation, tribe and language, joyfully we give you thanks and sing:

Sanctus

LEVAS 256

Leader (piano) Ho - ly,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



Please stand or kneel.

Presider All glory and honor to you, God of grace, for you gave your only Son Jesus Christ once for all on the cross to be the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

The night before he died he took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Therefore, loving God, in this sacrament of the suffering and death of your Son, we now celebrate the wonder of your grace and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Memorial Acclamation

People **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Presider Redeemer God, rich in mercy, infinite in goodness, we were far off until you brought us near and our hands are empty until you fill them. As we eat this bread and drink this wine, through the power of your Holy Spirit feed us with heavenly food, renew us in your service, unite us with Christ, and bring us to your everlasting kingdom. O the depths and the riches of your wisdom, O God: how unsearchable are your judgments and untraceable your ways.

People **From you, and through you, and for you are all things. To you be the glory forever.**

The Great Amen

LEVAS 261

The musical score for 'The Great Amen' is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are in a soprano or alto register, and the piano accompaniment is in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are: 'A - men, A - men, A - men, A - men, A - men, A - men, A - men.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

The Lord's Prayer

New Zealand Prayer Book

Presider As Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

People **Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples
of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the bread in silence.

Lamb of God

LEVAS 270

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a steady accompaniment of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The vocal line is in a soprano or alto range. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of".

God, you take a - way the sins of the

world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sins of the

world: grant us peace.

Presider We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
People We who are many are one body, for we all share one bread.
 Presider Wherever you are on your journey of faith,
People You are welcome at this table.

Please follow the guidance of the usher to approach the altar to receive communion. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

My Lord, what a morning

LEVAS 13

Harmony

My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing, O

Fine

my Lord, what a morn-ing, When the stars be-gin to fall.

Unison

1. You'll hear the trum - pet sound, _____
 2. You'll hear the sin - ner mourn, _____ To wake the
 3. You'll hear the Chris - tian shout, _____

na - tions un - der - ground, Look - ing to my God's right

hand, When the stars be - gin to fall.

D.C.

Prayer after Communion

Presider We praise and thank you, Creator God,
for you have not left us alone.
You come to us, Emmanuel,
God with us.
Each time you come to us
in the broken bread and the cup we share.
In time or out of time you will be revealed
and we shall see you face to face.

People **Give us courage, God our strength,
to see your Christ in all who suffer,
to be hands to the helpless,
food for the hungry,
and rescue for the oppressed. Amen.**

A Night Prayer for Advent

Presider Lord, it is night.

People **The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the Presence of God.**

Silence

Presider It is night after a long day.

People **What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.**

Silence

Presider The night is dark.

People **Let our fears of the darkness of the world and our lives rest in you.**

Silence

Presider The night is quiet.
People Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace.

Silence

Presider The night heralds the dawn.
People Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.
In your name we pray. Amen.

The Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Christ is coming

LEVAS 6

The musical score for 'Christ is coming' is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a single treble clef with a common time signature (C). The piano accompaniment is written in two staves, treble and bass clefs, with a common time signature (C). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: 'Christ is coming: Prepare the way.' The first system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The second system begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by the lyrics 'Christ is coming: Prepare the way.' and ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The word 'Fine' is written above the final double bar line of the second system.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Christ is coming". It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 2/4. The lyrics are "Christ is _____ com-ing. Christ is _____ com-ing." The piano accompaniment is written in two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one flat. It features a steady 2/4 rhythm with chords and moving lines in both hands. The piece concludes with a double bar line and the marking "D.C." (Da Capo).

The Dismissal of the Community

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 People **Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

Prayer List

The Prayer List is prayed on a regular basis by our Monday night Intercessory Prayer Group. We invite you to incorporate praying the list into your own prayer practices. To add a name to the prayer list, email prayerbox@stjamesaustin.org. Prayer requests from the website will be auto-forwarded to the pastoral care ministry and the office.

We pray for (3 weeks list): Wesley Curtis, Emma McPherson, Gloria Kennedy, and the Bradshaw family.

We also pray for those with long-term needs: Barbara Brown, Kevin Reed, the Rev. Dr. Sondra Coleman, Cliff Keeling, Historic St. Matthias Episcopal Church, Asheville, NC., Geneva Elliott, Larry Schanki, Amy, Horace Bledsoe, Jeremy and Shelby, Jimmy Alexander, Mahealani, Robin Clough Powell, Melinda King, John Baxton, Mary Ellen, Curt Jones, James Gibson, Michele Bondy, Jeremy Alexande, Donna Plowman, Johann and Susanna, Judy Jenkins, Nancy Gabin, Wiley Williams, Michael Hughes, Anqet, Susan Gunn, BJ Taylor, Russel Taulli, Pedro E., Robin Fuller, Kisa Niewenhuis, Frank Weir and his family, Candice Brown, Jacob Schumacher and his family, Shirley Gordon, Bowen W., Vanessa Williams, Jim Burgess, Cindy, Jason and Jalen Castillo, Niesha Jones, Truitt Ray, Jerry, Marty, Emma McPherson, Pat, Kamilah Myrie, Tom and Dee Esquivel, Sammie A. Eppright, David Batty, Samuel Carothers, Anna Pecorino, Philip and family, John White, Brigitte Rhedin, Dan Shaw, Kirk Richter, Raymond Coleman, Cecilia Harris, Lily Thomas, Sandra Gilkey, Leslie Rose, Sean Calloway, Miles Calloway, Carrie Eppright-Givens, Clayton Givens, Roland Brown, Joy Roswell, Gaye Evans, Rose Watley, Carolyn Caffrey, Joseph Naranjo, Margaret Ann Bledsoe, Brandy, Andrea, Vanessa, Lorenza, Mrs. Lakeyshia Brown, Pam

Beachley, Stephanie Smith, Elizabeth Sherar Gammon and Steven Sherar, Rebecca Kary, Sherry Ward, Carrie Schumacher, William Collier, Adrian Spears, Mark Werner, Myrna, Evelyn Marie Taylor, Nellie White, Gail Jackson, Richard Ezell, Mary Glennie, Edith Conde and family, Jacob Blake, John Paul Guajardo, Richard White, Andre Watkins, Jana Murphy, Justin Howell and his family, Bruce Blackwell, Doug Lawrie, Tara Turner, Gertrude Fowler, Claudette Milne, Frankie Scott, Mark McCrary, Kési Anderson, Rev. James Palmore, Cleo B. , Jason A., Reed B., Angelina, Mike C., Diane Hoffman, Brian M, Joyce, Ganelle, Noah, Thor, Troy, Allissa, Charlene Moore, Eugenia Hayes, Tim and Shalmah, Carol Daughtry, Rachel and Daniel, Rebekah, Diane Neill, Cecile, Mildred Grimble, Margie Lawson, Melvin Alfred, Natrice Harding, Anne Osbourne, Richelle Easley, Patricia Harding, Brandon Williams, Joey Ramirez, Marvin Sykes, Max and his mother, Paul Gill, Samuel Kraemer-Dahlin, Jacquelyn Ferrell Mccadden, Ursula Ferrell Jackson, Ronnie Yarmuck, Bertha Malone, Samah Al Adawi, Hazel Livingston, Arthur Shelton; and for all who are incarcerated and for their families, and all the refugees throughout the world. God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

We pray for all who have died, including the Rev. Daryl James, Juanita Ross, and Norman Lanier Miller.

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

4pm Holy Communion with Children's Pageant

6 pm La Santa Eucaristía

9 pm Lessons and Carol Eucharist by Candlelight

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

10 am Holy Communion with Carols

For more information, go to stjamesaustin.org.

Announcements

Don't forget to turn your pledge cards in for 2025. You may drop them in the offertory box.

You can make your pledge using the QR below. If you need to know your remaining 2023 balance, email the office at office@stjamesaustin.org.



Sunday, December 29 Join us for our Kwanzaa celebration in the narthex immediately following the 10:30 am service.

Tuesday, December 31, 6 pm

Join us for Watch Night, a service of prayer on New Year's Eve.

Sunday, January 5, Second Sunday of Christmas

Texas Poet Laureate Amanda Johnston will be visiting us as we make a very special presentation at the 10:30 service as part of the "Praise Songs for the People" Project.

Monday, January 6, Ordination of The Rev. Addison McMillan, 7 pm

The Rev. Addison McMillian will be ordained to the priesthood at St. James'. Let the people rejoice.

Volunteers needed!

Welcome Table needs volunteers for Neighbor 2 Neighbor. Did you know that we have been distributing almost as many bags of food on Tuesdays as we did during the height of the pandemic? The need is great! Small teams of work colleagues are welcome. Contact Emily at Emily@welcometableaustin.org for more information.

Emergency Pastoral Care Line • 512•677•7991