

# Advent V



St. Aidan's Episcopal Church  
December 7, 2025  
10:00 a.m.

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Prelude

### Opening Hymn: Singing Songs of Expectation

*The Hymnal 1982 #527*

1 Sing - ing songs of ex - pec - ta - tion, on - ward  
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence, o'er his  
3 One the strain the lips of thou - sands lift as

goes the pil - grim band, through the night of  
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the  
from the heart of one; one the con - flict,

doubt and sor - row, march - ing to the prom - ised land.  
gloom and ter - ror, bright - ening all the path we tread:  
one the per - il, one the march in God be - gun:

Clear be - fore us through the dark - ness gleams and  
one the ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the  
one the glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the

burns the guid - ing light: trust - ing God we  
faith which nev - er tires, one the ear - nest  
far e - ter - nal shore, where the one al -

march to - geth - er step - ping fear - less through the night.  
look - ing for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.  
might - y Fa - ther reigns in love for ev - er - more.

Words: Bernard Severin Ingemann (1789-1862) tr. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924), alt. Music: *Ton-y Botel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944).

## Opening Acclamation

*Presider*

Blessed are you, holy and living one.

*People*

*You come to your people and set them free.*

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Deacon or Presider*

God of peace, your reign is revealed in the transforming of swords into ploughshares, the mending of rent garments, the binding up of broken hearts.

As we light these candles, come among us, open our hearts, infuse us with your life, that together we manifest your justice, your compassion, your peace.

*The Advent candle(s) is (are) lit as we sing.*

## Song of Praise: Peace Before Us

*Wonder, Love, and Praise #791, v. 1*

1. Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us,  
peace un - der our feet. \_\_\_\_\_ Peace with - in us,  
peace o - ver us, let all a - round us be peace. \_\_\_\_\_

Words: David Haas (b. 1957), based on a Navaho prayer. Music: David Haas (b. 1957). Copyright © 1987 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

## The Collect of the Day

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Presider* Let us pray.

***Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ opened wide gate of heaven, making plain the way that leads to eternal joy: Grant that we who have been buried with Christ in baptism and raised to new life may strive courageously for the freedom and peace of the world; through the same your Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.***

## The First Reading

*Lector* A reading from Isaiah (11:1-10).

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the  
ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his  
dwelling shall be glorious.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

## **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

*The Deacon or Presider introduces the Psalm and reads the Antiphon. All join in reading the bolded text.*

*Antiphon* The king shall have pity on the lowly and poor, and shall redeem their lives from oppression.

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God,\* and your righteousness to the King's Son;***
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously\* and the poor with justice.***
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,\* and the little hills bring justice;***
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people;\* he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.***
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,\* from one generation to another.***
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,\* like showers that water the earth.***
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish;\****  
***there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.***
- 18 Blessed are you, O God of Israel,\* who alone do wondrous deeds!***
- 19 And blessed be your glorious Name for ever!\****  
***and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.***

*Antiphon* The king shall have pity on the lowly and poor, and shall redeem their lives from oppression.

## **The Second Reading**

*Lector* A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (15:4-13).

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement

grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";

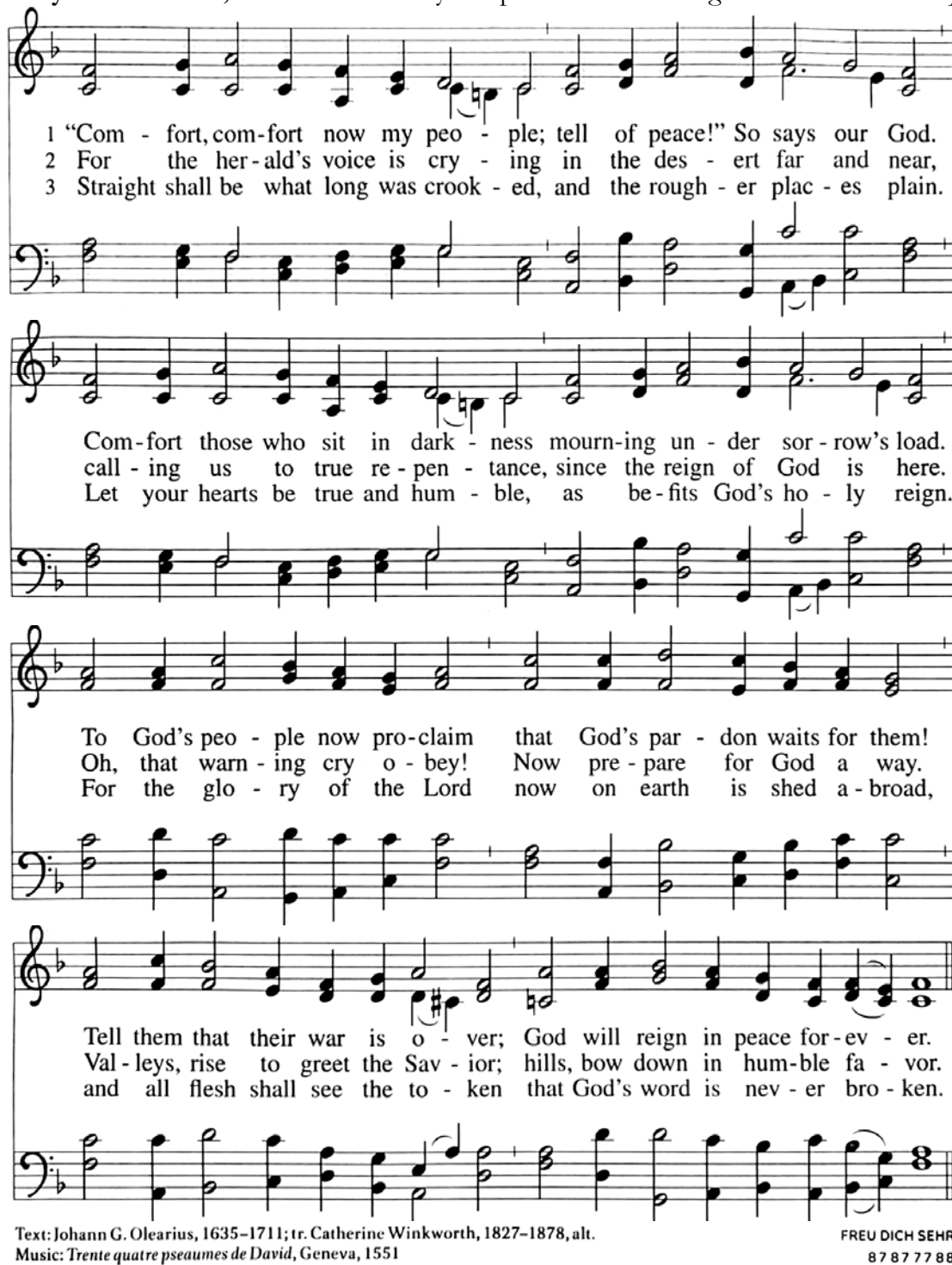
and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551

FREU DICH SEHR  
 87 87 77 88

## The Gospel

*Deacon or Presider*  
*People*

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew (3:1-12).  
***Glorify to you, O Christ.***

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
 Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.”

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Deacon or Presider      The Gospel of our Savior.  
People                      *Praise to you, O Christ*

## The Sermon

The Rev. Elaina LeGault

**Silence**      *After the sermon, a bell will sound to mark a brief period of silence. The bell will sound a second time to mark the conclusion of this time.*

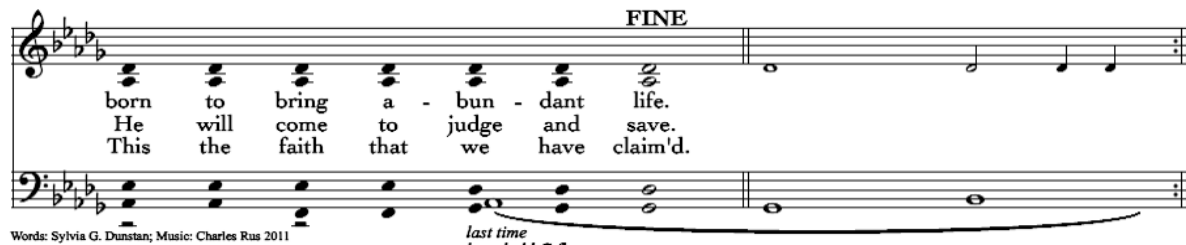
## Sung Creed

We be - lieve in God al - might - y,  
We be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fer'd,  
We be - lieve in God's own Spir - it,

Au - thor of all things that be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens,  
scourg'd and scorn'd and cru - ci - fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied -  
bond - ing all the saints with - in one church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly,

Keep - er of the sky and sea. We be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus,  
True Life there had tru - ly died. We be - lieve that on the third day  
where for - give - ness frees from sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion,

now for us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of Mar - y  
Christ was rais'd up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God's right hand.  
for the break - ing of death's chain, gives the life that's ev - er - last - ing.



## Prayers of the People

*Deacon or Presider*

God of hope, in this Advent season,  
When Christ your Son, Emmanuel, appears;  
may he find us not asleep or idle,  
but active in his service and ready to serve as his hands and feet in the world.

*Intercessor*

God of Faith, we pray for the universal Church and for the Church's work to bring light and love to a divided world.

*Deacon/Officiant/Presider shares the cycles of prayer from the Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church, the diocese, and our parish, inviting additional prayers.*

*Intercessor* In Jesus' name we pray,

*People* ***Help us to be people of peace and beacons of hope.***

*Intercessor*

God of Justice, we pray for immigrants and refugees throughout the world and in our community. May they be safe. Be with us in our commitment to practice sanctuary and care for our neighbors.

*Deacon/Officiant/Presider pauses and invites additional prayers.*

*Intercessor* In Jesus' name we pray,

*People* ***Help us to be people of peace and beacons of hope.***

*Intercessor*

God of Peace, we pray for the many conflicts that burden our world and endanger our siblings near and far. Inspire the world's leaders to seek lasting and peace-filled solutions.

*Deacon/Officiant/Presider shares our communal prayers for justice, inviting additional prayers.*

*Intercessor* In Jesus' name we pray,

*People* ***Help us to be people of peace and beacons of hope.***

*Intercessor*

God of Compassion, we pray for all who seek healing, particularly those who have requested our prayers. May they be surrounded by your love and care.

*Deacon/Officiant/Presider reads the names of those who have asked for prayers and invites additional prayers.*

*Intercessor* In Jesus's name we pray,

*People* ***Help us to be people of peace and beacons of hope.***

*Intercessor*

God of Hope, we remember those who have died. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Be with us in our sorrow.

*Deacon/Officiant/Presider shares the names of those who have recently died and invites additional prayers.*

*Intercessor* In Jesus' name we pray,

*People* ***Help us to be people of peace and beacons of hope.***



*Intercessor*

God of Joy, we pray in gratitude for the blessings of our lives and we reflect in wonder about blessings yet to come from your bounteous grace.

*Deacon/Officiant/Presider shares the names of those celebrating birthdays this week and invites additional gratitudes.*

*Intercessor*

In Jesus' name we pray,

*People*

***Help us to be people of peace and beacons of hope.***

*Presider*

Christ, Emmanuel,

you are our way, our truth, and our life.

We await your arrival in a world that hungers for your love.

We give thanks for your presence, your peace and your hope. ***Amen.***

## **The Confession and Absolution**

*Deacon or Presider*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*A space of silence is kept.*

*All*

***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*

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**

*Presider*

The peace of God be always with you.

*People*

***And also with you.***

*You are invited to share a sign of peace or if you are on Zoom, unmute and greet each other in the name of Christ.*

## **Announcements**

### **Offertory Sentence**

*Presider*

"I pray that God may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which God has called you." Let us bring offerings of our life and labor to God.

# Offertory: O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines

The Hymnal 1982 #597

## Introduction



1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our  
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the



hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and  
fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly



love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of  
graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -



hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re -  
mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac -



lease, till by God's grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's  
cord; the hope of peace shall be ful - filled, for all the



prom - ised reign of the peace.  
earth shall know the (Lord.)

## Final Ending



Lord.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL. 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Jerusalem*, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918) arr. Jane Wyatt (b. 1934). Copyright © 1916, 1944, 1977, Robertson Publications. Used by permission.

## The Liturgy of the Table

Presider

God be with you.

People

**And also with you.**

Presider

Lift up your hearts.

People

**We lift them to God.**

Presider

Let us give thanks to God.

People

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Presider*

Mystery of winter skies, we thank you in the darkening hours for opening our eyes to see your starlit beauty; for parting the wide heavens to send your gentle light; for offering your word to take our mortal flesh.

Christ was promised by those who shared your dream of peace; John the Baptist cleared his way with words of desert fire; Mary and Joseph accepted his coming with tenderness and faith; we know that he draws near again to reveal the in-breaking of your reign.

Now we take up the song of hope that we might awaken to his coming among us and the world be touched by the footfall of his glory:

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

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

#### *Presider*

We ask that your Holy Spirit fall upon us and upon these gifts, that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our Savior and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: ‘This is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me.’

In the same way after supper he took the cup, saying: ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.’

As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in taste and touch beyond what words can hold. Great is the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

*The Presider continues*

Therefore, in our eating and drinking we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ; we proclaim him as creation’s host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Savior, by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory be yours, Mother of blessings, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

#### **The Lord’s Prayer**

*Deacon/Presider* As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray,

*All*

*God 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. 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.*

## The Fraction

*The Presider breaks the bread in silence.*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

## The Invitation

*Lifting the bread and cup, the Presider invites the people, saying*

*Presider* The gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome at God's table.

*This Altar belongs to God and all are welcome to partake, wherever you are on your journey of faith.*

*If you choose to not receive the bread and/or wine, you are also welcome to receive a blessing;*

*simply come forward and cross your arms over your chest.*

*The Bread and Wine are given to the communicants with these words:*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven; The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

*During Communion, those present via Zoom are encouraged to pray the following prayer for Spiritual Communion that we have shared together throughout the pandemic:*

In union, O God, with your people at every altar of your Church, we offer you praise, giving thanks for your presence in the holy gifts of bread and wine. In our spatial distance we invite you to come spiritually into our hearts, nourishing and strengthening us as members of your body. Amen.

*The Deacon or Presider removes the bread and wine from the table.*

### Communion: Come and Fill Our Hearts

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship #528*

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community  
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
Text and music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

CONFITEMINI DOMINO  
PM

### Communion Chant: Another World Is Not Only Possible, She Is On Her Way (Ana Hernandez)

5 An-oth-er world is not on-ly pos-si-ble, she is on her way. On a

qui - et day I can hear her breath - ing. She is on her way.

Arundhati Roy Ana Hernández

## Postcommunion Prayer

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* ***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.***

## Healing Prayer

*The people are invited to share a request for healing prayer.*

*You may make a request for yourself or on behalf of another. The Presider then offers a prayer.*

## Blessing

*Presider*

The peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God; and the blessing of God, Source of all being, Incarnate Word and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. ***Amen.***

## Closing Hymn: 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.

## The Dismissal

*Deacon or Presider*  
*People*

Let us bless God.  
***Thanks be to God!***

## Postlude

### SOURCES

- Please note: We affirm that God embraces all genders, even when the texts of our tradition refer to God with male/masculine language.
- Cover Image: Cameron took this photo at St. Aidan's in Advent of 2020.
- The prayer for the Lighting of the Advent Wreath was written by Cameron for 2025, drawing on Isaiah 2:4 and 61:1.
- The Liturgy of the Word is from *Enriching Our Worship I* (New York: Church Publishing, 1998), 50-54.
- The collect is from *Collects For An Expanded Advent Season* © William H. Petersen, 2008. All Rights Reserved.
- Psalm translation is from the *CSF Office Book* (Community of St. Francis, 1995).



- The Sung Creed text is by Sylvia Dunston in *Wonder, Love, and Praise* #768. The music is by former St. Aidan's Music Minister Charles Rus.
- The Prayers of the People were written by The Rev. Margaret Dyer-Chamberlain with opening and closing prayers adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book, as offered in Episcopal Relief and Development's Advent Season prayers.  
[https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/worship-resources/let-us-pray/advent-season-prayers/?gad\\_source=1&gad\\_campaignid=21818266061&gbraid=0AAAAADzipdwrH8wJSNd\\_IDCBkLn41z324&gclid=Cj0KCCQiA5abIBhCaARIsAM3-zFWrBgREPet178Bsb0gYUo16TNTYpL7VbEMUGNX60LWTWQpuqptBIacaAowvEALw\\_wcB](https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/worship-resources/let-us-pray/advent-season-prayers/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21818266061&gbraid=0AAAAADzipdwrH8wJSNd_IDCBkLn41z324&gclid=Cj0KCCQiA5abIBhCaARIsAM3-zFWrBgREPet178Bsb0gYUo16TNTYpL7VbEMUGNX60LWTWQpuqptBIacaAowvEALw_wcB)
- The Confession and Absolution are from *Enriching Our Worship I* (New York: Church Publishing, 1998), 56.
- The Offertory Sentence draws from Ephesians 1:17-18.
- The Preface and Eucharistic Prayer are adapted from *Prayers for An Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare (New York: Church Publishing, 2009), 144; 133-134.
- The Post Communion Prayer is from *Enriching Our Worship I* (New York: Church Publishing, 1998, p. 69.)
- The adapted prayer for Spiritual Communion located in St. Augustine's Prayer Book, published by Forward Movement Press which can be found online at <https://news.forwardmovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Spiritual-Communion.pdf>.
- The Blessing is adapted from *The Book of Occasional Services* (New York: Church Publishing, 2003), 23.
- All music is reproduced with permission under the auspices of OneLicense number A-721562, unless otherwise noted.

## Serving St. Aidan's

The Rev. Cameron Partridge, *Presider*

The Rev. Elaina LeGault, *Deacon & Preacher*

Charles Rus, *Guest Musician*

Anne Benninger, Sarah Glover, Lee Hammack, Jacqueline Lewey, Mileva Lewis, Janet Lohr, Paul Nocero, Jim Oerther, Kateri Paul, Barbara Stevenson,

& perhaps you!, *Choir*

Nancy Sabin, *Marimbist*

JoEllen Brothers, *In-Person Greeter*

Peter Fairfield, *Zoom Greeter*

Peter Fairfield / Paul Nocero, *Lectors*

Kateri Paul, *Prayers of the People*

Young Qiu, *Eucharistic Minister*

Margie Wolcott, *Altar Guild*

Robert Geesey, *Sound / Zoom*

Elena Wong, *Bread Baker*

CoCo Lin, *Child Care*

## Announcements

### Extended Advent

Sunday, November 9, we began our observance of an extended seven-week Advent. This expanded Advent is part of a movement to observe Advent with greater intentionality, even as we continue to use the same readings assigned by the lectionary to the wider church. You can read the [rationale for this movement on the website of the Advent Project](#) or in *What Are We Waiting For: Reimagining Advent for Time to Come* by William Peterson. In a context where (a secularized) Christmas culture lurks everywhere – even before Halloween now! – an extended Advent *resists this spread, and its mischaracterization of the season*. Advent is not simply a countdown to Christmas. It is an embrace of the in-breaking reign of God. We share a longer Advent observance [with our Greek Orthodox neighbors](#), even as other Christian denominations take on this spirit of intentionality with slightly different framings: this part of the church year [has been called Kingdomtide in some Protestant traditions](#) and liturgical calendar of the Church of England is now in countdown to Advent, calling this Sunday the “Fourth Sunday Before Advent” (you can look at their church calendar [online here](#)). *Welcome to Advent.*

### Advent Formation Series

**PEOPLE OF PEACE: Grounding Ourselves in Nonviolence**

**Four Zoom sessions: Wednesday November 12; November 19; December 3; December 10**

### **6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer; 7 – 8:15 Program**

Amid the turbulence of our current political climate, we hear a lot about “peaceful protests” and “nonviolent resistance.” For the most part, our public conversation uses the term nonviolence to indicate merely the absence of something, rather than the presence of a courageous and active spiritual practice that confronts evil with love. In our Advent Wednesday evening series this year, we will ground ourselves in nonviolence by exploring the work of leaders whose faith has shaped and led this living tradition. Please join us on Zoom via the link for Evening Prayer. If you have questions or need the link, please contact Susan Spencer or Barbara Stevenson.

### **Music On the Hill presents "Ava & Friends**

#### **Tonight, Sunday, December 7, 2025 @ 7:30 PM**

Join us for a musical journey to Eastern Europe in a lively concert of Piano Trios and Duos by Dmitri Kabalevsky, Antonin Dvorak and Bohuslav Martinu. With a nod to their cultural roots, these innovative composers combined elements of their folk tradition with a classical overlay. Michele Walther, violin; Vicky Ehrlich, cello; Ava Soifer, piano. Tickets are \$25. To purchase tickets and for more info log on to [www.musiconthehill.org/tickets](http://www.musiconthehill.org/tickets). Limited number of comps available for church members.

### **Faithful Response to ICE in Our Neighborhoods**

#### **Prayer Vigil: Thursday, Dec. 18 | 8 to 10 a.m.**

You are invited to join St. John's, Oakland, [Genesis](http://www.genesis.org), our interfaith partners, and friends from across the diocese at our next action to respond to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). We will gather from 8 to 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18 at [630 Sansome](http://www.630sansom.com) (San Francisco Immigration Court). We will pray and sing, provide those waiting in line with coffee, water, and snacks, and toys and activities for children. To join us, please email the St. John's Action and Justice Team at [actionandjustice@stjohnsoakland.org](mailto:actionandjustice@stjohnsoakland.org). There will be a Zoom prep meeting on December 16 at 6 p.m. (you will receive a link when you RSVP). If you cannot make it to the meeting, a recording will be available. We look forward to seeing you there for this moment of solidarity and love.

### **More Opportunities for Solidarity with Immigrants**

Several local organizations offer opportunities to stand with immigrants facing Trump administration attacks.

**Faith in Action**([www.faithinactionba.org](http://www.faithinactionba.org)): Local branch of a national community-organizing group anchored in faith communities around the country. In the Bay Area they focus on housing and immigration. Opportunities include:

- **Immigration Court.** Accompany immigrants to their court hearings. You'll need at least conversational Spanish, and you'll be trained before you get started. For more information and the sign-up link: [www.faithinactionba.org/accompaniment](http://www.faithinactionba.org/accompaniment).
- **Rapid Response Network (203) 666-4472:** Faith in Action operates the San Mateo County Rapid Response phone network, providing information for immigrants and their supporters in the whole Bay Area, not just San Mateo. Call the number:
  - If you or a loved one has been detained by ICE
  - If you learn that someone has been detained by immigration enforcement
  - If you see ICE activity in the community
  - If you need accompaniment at an ICE Check-In or court appearance
  - If you need support filling out your asylum paperwork within the first year of entering the country
  - If you think immigration enforcement is contacting you by phone call or text message

**Immigration court demonstrations and vigils:** Several groups maintain a presence outside the immigration court at 100 Montgomery in downtown SF. Here are a couple:

- **Interfaith Court Vigil** ([www.im4humanintegrity.org/category/events/](http://www.im4humanintegrity.org/category/events/)): Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday every week. Sponsored by the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. Click here to sign up: [bit.ly/CourtVigilVolunteer](http://bit.ly/CourtVigilVolunteer).
- **Tuesday and Friday demonstrations:** Loosely organized, pretty confrontative demonstrations, called by Democratic Socialists of America and others.

**Immigration Court Observers:** The National Lawyers Guild trains non-lawyers to participate in observing and documenting what happens in immigration courts in S.F. Click here for more information: [nlg.org/programs-committees/nlg-sfba-programs/immigration-justice-program/](http://nlg.org/programs-committees/nlg-sfba-programs/immigration-justice-program/)

**Comprehensive action calendar:** ([www.actiontogetherwest.org/bayarea](http://www.actiontogetherwest.org/bayarea)) A project that grew out of the 2016 Pantsuits Nation group, this is a very well-maintained and up-to-date calendar of resistance activities in the Bay Area.

### **Blue Christmas Service is coming up Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 2 PM**

Christmas is a season of joy, yet for any number of reasons, from personal experiences to national or global events, some of us may feel "blue" as the season approaches. To acknowledge and make space for this experience, St. Aidan's has held a "Blue Christmas" service for the last several years. This year's service will take place at 2 PM on Sunday, December 21st. Come and join us for a service of readings, reflections, quiet contemplative space, and beautiful music. The service will be at St. Aidan's with a Zoom option for those who cannot join in person. The link will be the same as Sunday morning. Please reach out to the office if you need it: [office@staidansf.org](mailto:office@staidansf.org).

### **Sign-on Letter to the Presiding Bishop**

Several weeks ago a group of St. Aidanites met to reflect upon this moment in history, the impact of this political moment on our lives and relationships, and what ways we are called to act in response. Between the 8 and 10 AM services as well as after the 10 AM service, we have now met twice. At the second such meeting, the group used Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe's July 4<sup>th</sup> op ed, published in *Religion News Service*, as a grounding text for reflection. During that conversation the group decided to write to the Presiding Bishop thanking him for the boldness of his words and asking him to please continue speaking out, inviting more Christians to be "engines of resistance," bearing witness to the values of God's just reign. Print-outs of this letter will be at church this Sunday for people to sign on. If you cannot be present and would like us to add your signature, please let us know at [office@staidansf.org](mailto:office@staidansf.org).

**Wrestling with the Scriptures** meets every fourth Tuesday at 10:30 am (via Zoom). Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: [office@staidansf.org](mailto:office@staidansf.org).

### **Contemplative Prayer: Tuesday & Thursday from 9-10 AM via Zoom**

We offer Contemplative prayer via Zoom. Contemplative Prayer is silent with the beginning and ending marked by a bell. You can practice meditation, silent prayer, journal, or otherwise enjoy the collective quiet. Thank you to Susan Spencer for anchoring this practice. Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: [office@staidansf.org](mailto:office@staidansf.org).

### **Morning Prayer: Mon, Wed, Fri at 7:30 AM**

We offer Morning Prayer in hybrid mode (at church and via Zoom) on Mondays and Wednesday, and on Fridays via Zoom only. Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: [office@staidansf.org](mailto:office@staidansf.org).

### **Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 6:30 PM via Zoom**

We offer Evening Prayer via Zoom. Readings for the day are from the Episcopal Church's daily lectionary or calendar of saints, and the service includes a brief reflection time on the readings. Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: [office@staidansf.org](mailto:office@staidansf.org)

**Mask Policy:** We respect the preference of anyone who feels safer by masking. We continue to monitor public health advisories and may modify our mask policy, as appropriate. Please pray for the health and safety of all our members and friends as we continue to navigate this challenging time.

**To add an announcement to the weekly bulletin of the Flame, please send your edited text no later than 11:00 am Wednesday to [office@staidansf.org](mailto:office@staidansf.org)**

## **Calendar for the Week of December 7, 2025**

Sunday, December 7	Holy Eucharist at 8 AM (In Person) & 10 AM (Hybrid) Music on the Hill at 7:30 PM
Monday, December 8	Morning Prayer (Hybrid) at 7:30 AM
Tuesday, December 9	Contemplative Prayer (via Zoom) at 9 AM
Wednesday, December 10	Morning Prayer (Hybrid) at 7:30 AM Evening Prayer (via Zoom) at 6:30 PM Advent Series (via Zoom, EP link) at 7 PM
Thursday, December 11	Contemplative Prayer (via Zoom) at 9 AM Kaffeeklatsch (via Zoom) at 3 PM
Friday, December 12	Morning Prayer (via Zoom) at 7:30 AM Food Pantry (at church) from 1-2 PM
Saturday, December 13	Women's Spirituality Group (via Zoom) at 10:15 AM Good News Gardens at 12:30 PM

## St. Aidan's Vestry

Barbara Stevenson, *Senior Warden*;  
Lee Hammack, *Junior Warden*  
Dave Frangquist, *Treasurer*;  
Susan Spencer, *Clerk*  
Gilbert Chavez, Sarah Glover, Janet Lohr,  
Roya Rettberg, Margaret Tait, Margie Wolcott

## Staff e-mail addresses

Cameron: [rector@staidansf.org](mailto:rector@staidansf.org)  
Cary: [office@staidansf.org](mailto:office@staidansf.org)

## St. Aidan's Prayers

### In Your Prayers, Please Remember:

**In acknowledgment that** St. Aidan's is located within the unceded ancestral land of the Yelamu tribe of the Ramaytush Ohlone people, with gratitude for their ongoing relationship with this holy place.

**In the Episcopal Church:** For Sean our Presiding Bishop; for Julia, President of the House of Deputies, and for the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** For the Anglican Church of Australia.

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** For Austin, our bishop; for Religious Orders in this diocese: the sisters at the Community of St. Francis, the brothers at the Society of St. Francis, and those who belong to the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.

**In our Parish Cycle of Prayer:** For the Diamond Diners ministry.

**For those with birthdays this week:** Jack, Ivy, David, Jack.

**For all** striving for mental and emotional balance and wholeness, and for their families and friends.

**For those who have asked for our prayers:** Albert T, André E., Aubrey M., Cindi G., Darren, Dave & Mariana & Dante G., Debbie C., Denise, Felicia F., George C., Harlean D., Isaac C., Jaime, Janice T., Jean W., Jelly J., Jenny M., Jill, Jim O., Joe, Joelle, John, Judy B., Julie A., Ken E., Liz S., Lucinda G., Lynne and Meg S., Margarita, Marc L., Mark, Matthew G., Melissa W., Mercedes, Michaela, Milo R., Mina Marie, Owen, Patricia, Pete M., Peter G., Rocky V. and Ruth S., Ron B., Stephanie M., Tawanda, Zakaria E.

**For** our ongoing work against intersecting forms of oppression, particularly racism and transphobia, and in affirmation of human dignity.

**For our work in the world** in our daily lives and for the ministries of the Friday Food Pantry and Diamond Diners.

**For our congregation** as we embrace our call to practice sanctuary: may we commit ourselves to prayer, education, and support for immigrants to this country and for all who are estranged, excluded, or threatened in 21st century America. We pray in thanksgiving for the numerous gifts our refugee and immigrant siblings have brought, and continue to bring, to this country.

**For all** who are struggling in this time of intensified injustice and polarization in our country and around the world: for strengthened relationships and deepened commitment to our common life and the well-being of our planet.

**For those who have recently died:** Paul Marcus, Lovie Spencer, Dick Young, Kim Fellner, Gayle Rosenkrantz, Audrey DeLoache, Lois Roach, Shirley Sabin, and Angela Hunkler.

*To place a name on our prayer list, please contact the church office at 415-285-9540, ext. 3 or [office@staidansf.org](mailto:office@staidansf.org). Names of the living are printed by first name and will be kept on the prayer list for four weeks. To keep someone on the list for longer, please notify the office.*



## St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

101 Gold Mine Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131  
[www.staidansf.org](http://www.staidansf.org) (415) 285-9540