

**St. Gregory's Episcopal Church**  
**The First Sunday of Advent**  
**December 3, 2023**

**THE ANGELUS**

*The Angelus is a traditional Christian devotion offered before Holy Eucharist and Morning and Evening Prayer in honor of the Incarnation. It is usually accompanied by the ringing of the church bell (in three sets of three for each versicle, response, and Hail Mary, followed by one set of nine for the concluding prayer). You may pray it as the bell rings, or use the silence to prepare for worship in your own way.*

*The first three bells*



V. The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary,  
R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now  
and at the hour of our death. Amen.

*The second three bells*

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R. Be it unto me according to your word.

Hail Mary, full of grace...

*The third three bells*

V. And the Word was made flesh.  
R. And dwelled among us.

Hail Mary, full of grace...

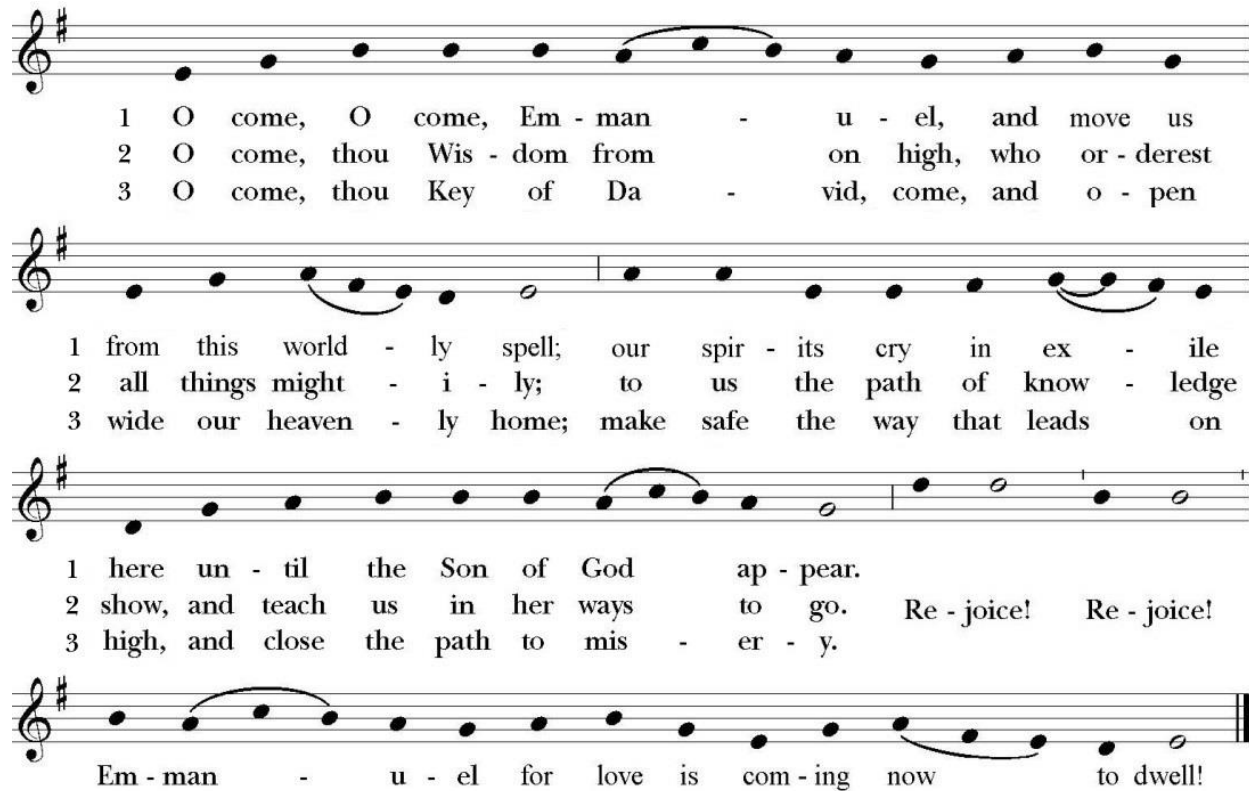
*The nine bells*



V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,  
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## HYMN IN PROCESSION



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and move us  
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 3 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen

1 from this world - ly spell; our spir - its cry in ex - ile  
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
 3 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 3 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.

Em - man - u - el for love is com - ing now to dwell!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th, cent.; adpt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright ©1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Verse 1 and refrain adpt. Katherine HawkerSelf, liturgyoutside.net

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

*p*

With-in our dark-est night, you kin-dle the fire that nev-er dies a -

*mf* *p*

way, nev-er dies a - way. With-in our dark-est night, you kin-dle the

*pp* *fine*

fire that nev-er dies a - way, nev-er dies a - way. With-in our dark-est

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.  
*People*        **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*     Let us pray.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty god, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the holy spirit, one god, now and forever. *Amen.*

## THE FIRST READING

*Isaiah 64:1-9*

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

<i>Reader</i>	Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
<i>People</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

**THE RESPONSE** (*chanted in unison*)

*Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18*

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a | **flock**; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the | **cherubim**.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Man|asseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to | **help us**.
- 3 Restore us, O God of | **hosts**; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be | **saved**.
- 4 O Lord God of | **hosts**, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your | **people**?

- 5 You have fed them with the bread of | **tears**; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to | **drink**.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our | **neighbors**, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to | **scorn**.
- 7 Restore us, O God of | **hosts**; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be | **saved**.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your | **right hand**, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for your|**self**.
- 17 And so will we never turn a|**way from you**; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your | **Name**.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of | **hosts**; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be | **saved**.

## THE EPISTLE

*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

## GOSPEL ALLELUIA



Music: Based on VENI EMMANUEL, Stephen Pishner, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

## THE GOSPEL

*Mark 13:24-37*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

**THE SERMON**.....*The Rev. Matthew Wright*

### **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.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The leader introduces the prayers, saying*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, singing:

Come in your full - ness. We bring our long - ings.

Life - giv - ing Lord, hear our prayer. prayer.

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*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Deacon says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

*Minister and People*

Most merciful God,  
 we confess that we have sinned against you  
 in thought, word, and deed,  
 by what we have done,  
 and by what we have left undone.  
 We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
 have mercy on us and forgive us;  
 that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
 to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Priest says*

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

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant*      The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People*          **And also with you.**

*The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Parish announcements may be made.*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM *(sung by choir)*

### DOXOLOGY

If\_\_\_ in your heart you make a man - ger for Love's birth, then\_\_\_

God will once a - gain be - come a child on earth. If\_\_\_ earth.\_\_\_

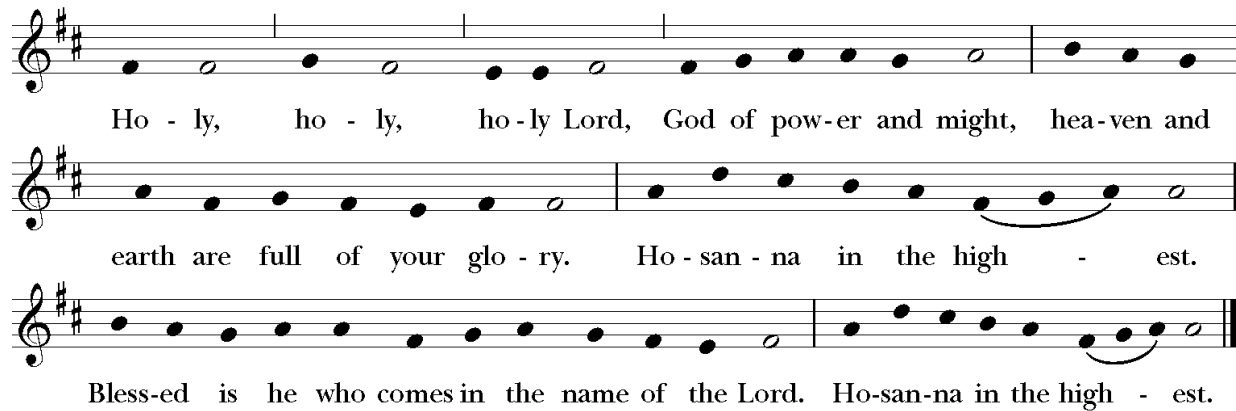
Words: Angelus Silesius (17th century); Music: Ana Hernandez

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*          **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*      Lift up your hearts.  
*People*          **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*          **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**



It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and all company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



*The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.*

...therefore, according to his command, O Holy One,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory.**

*The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.*

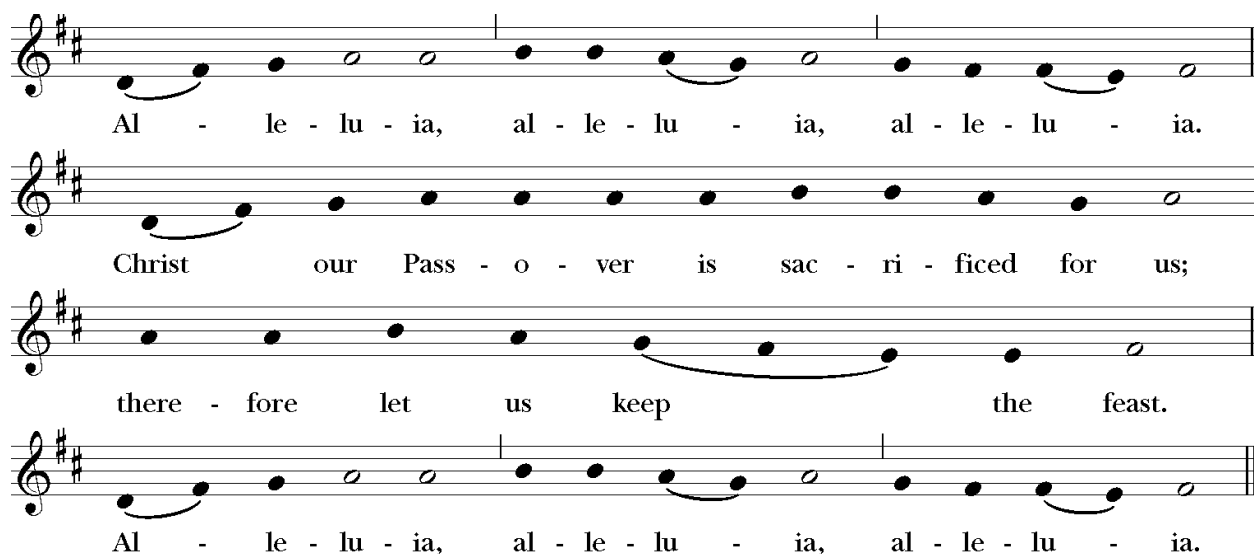
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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 forever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A brief silence follows. All then joining in singing*



*If you are unable to physically participate in Communion, you may offer a Prayer of Spiritual Communion during this time.*

### **A Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
 you have graciously accepted us as living members  
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
 and you have fed us with spiritual food  
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
 Send us now into the world in peace,  
 and grant us strength and courage  
 to love and serve you  
 with gladness and singleness of heart;  
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **THE BLESSING**

### **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

1 "Sleep - ers, wake!"      A      voice      a - stounds      us,      the  
 2 Zi - on hears      the      watch - men sing - ing;      her  
 3 Lamb of God,      the      heavens a - dore      you;      let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: "A -  
 heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she  
 saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their  
 wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her  
 harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -  
 Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -  
 ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!  
 rious: her as star is with risen, her light grows bright.  
 tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in  
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate  
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and  
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and  
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to

has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."  
 heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.  
 greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Copyright © 1982, by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

*Celebrant* Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.  
*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!