



**ST. DAVID'S ON-THE-HILL
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Liturgy of the Word of God
December 20, 2020**

The Reverend Jennifer Kezirian West, Priest

The Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Celebrant: Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory forever. Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Savior of all.

Blessed be God forever.

Opening Hymn: Many are the light beams

WL&P 794

1 Many are the light beams from the one light. Our one light is Jesus. Many are the light beams from the one light; we are one in Christ.

2 Many are the branches of the one tree. Our one tree is Jesus. Many are the branches of the one tree; we are one in Christ.

3 Many are the gifts given, love is all one. Love's the gift of Jesus. Many are the gifts giv'n, love is all one; we are one in Christ.

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity: 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.**

Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek: give us humble and contrite hearts. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb: be planted also in our hearts and lives. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary, that she might become the God-bearer: Fill us with your heavenly gifts. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen our to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day: 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 forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

A Reading from First Samuel

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more,

as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Celebrant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

- 1 Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

Second Reading

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! **Amen.**

Celebrant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Jennifer Kezirian West

Prayers of Intercession

In peace, we pray to your, Lord God. (Silence)

For all people in their daily life and work for our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community the nation, and the world; for all who work for justice, freedom and peace, we especially pray for our service members: Jake Knight, Elizabeth Butler, Matthew Paiva and George Frank, **let us pray to the Lord.**

For the just and proper use of your creation; for the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression. We commend to your protection our first responders who are on the front lines during this COVID Pandemic especially Lynne Schoer, Cheryl Boscia, Lyndsey Bain and Alan Cotnoir.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; for those who minister to the sick, the friendless and the needy. We remember those who are sick especially Angelica, Diane, John, Carol, Bob, Jim, Vincent, Martha, Michael, Richard, Lauren, David, Frank, Bob, MJ, Brad, Paul, Ronnie, Donald, and Elanor.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; for all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely our presiding Bishop and for all bishops and other ministers; for all who serve God in his Church. For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. (Silence)

Hear us, Lord; for your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. (Silence)

We will exalt you, O God our King; and praise your name forever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. (Silence)

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; who put their trust in you.

Let us say the Lord's Prayer together

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. *Amen.*

The Agape Meal

A Prayer and Thanksgiving for Bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; you have fed us with the bread of life in the Body of your Son. Feed us now with your presence among us and your presence in your Word. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power forever and ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Wine

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of Jesus Christ, crucified yet risen. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you forever and ever. **Amen.** (*Please eat and drink together in silence for a few moments.*)

With love and compassion,
come, Lord Jesus.

With judgement and mercy,
come, Lord Jesus.

In power and glory,
come, Lord Jesus.

In wisdom and truth,
come, Lord Jesus.

The *Peace*:

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you

Advent Blessing

Dismissal: As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Closing Anthem: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” **H 56**

4 O come, thou Branch of Jesse’s tree, free them from Satan’s tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o’er the grave.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Isarel!

5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Isarel!

6 O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

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The Liturgy of the Word is adapted from the Anglican Church of England
Prayers of the People from The Book of Common Prayer
The Agape Meal is from the Book of Occasional Services