



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Sunday December 13, 2020

**The Third Sunday
of Advent**

9 am Episcopal Service of the Word

You are welcome at
St. George's Church:
Regardless of race,
nationality,
sexual orientation,
gender expression,
or tradition.

December 13, 2020

The mission of the Church is to
restore all people to unity with God
and each other in Christ.
- Book of Common Prayer, pg. 855

Welcome to St. George's!

Whether you are worshiping online or in person, we are glad you are here.

Handicap-accessible restrooms are available by the church office. Please ask any usher for directions.

Connect with Us

During this time of staying apart, we are finding new ways to connect. If you'd like to find out more about St. George's, please fill out an online Newcomer Card on our website at: bit.ly/stgnewcomer.

To stay up-to-date on the latest news and events, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, The St. Georgian: bit.ly/stgnews.

Request Prayer

We share in each other's joys and concerns. Send us your prayer requests at: bit.ly/stgprayer.

Giving

Your gifts help fund our ministries and serve the community. You can give by check, electronically or text to give (send a text message with the dollar amount [e.g. \$50] to: 540.701.4133). For assistance, contact Business Manager Ben Hicks: ben.hicks@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.

Celebrating Generosity

As of Tuesday, December 8, we have received 261 estimates of giving. Thanks be to God. Please return your household estimate as soon as you can so that we can celebrate everyone's generosity in thanksgiving to God and in support of St. George's ministries. www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net/2021giving



St. George's
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Formation for All Ages

**"Make me to know your ways,
O Lord; teach me your paths."
Psalm 25:4**

Learning and Growing in Christ

No matter where you are on your faith journey, there's a place for you here.

We offer a number of faith formation opportunities for all ages. You are invited to visit or join at any time.

Worship Schedule:

*New schedule begins for Advent.
See our website for reservations and updates*

Sundays:

9 am: This livestream service features liturgies from the *Book of Common Prayer* and *Enriching Our Worship*. It premieres on YouTube Live at 9 am and is posted on Facebook after the service ends.

10 am: Adult formation via Zoom
www.zoom.us/join or call
929.205.6099

Webinar ID: 392 738 239

Password: 107758

11 am: Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom
(same login as formation)

8 pm: Sung Compline on Facebook
Live via our [Compline Facebook page](#).

Thursdays:

12 pm: Noon Prayer on Facebook Live

Children Formation Videos:

<http://bit.ly/stgchildrenvideos>

For Youth Ministry offerings, please contact Hecti Musa
(hecti.musa@stgeorgesepiscopal.net).

What Are You Looking For?

We'd love to get to know you and to hear your story. Speak with an usher or greeter or contact the church office (office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net).

The Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2020

from the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP), and *Enriching Our Worship*, supplemental liturgical materials approved by the Episcopal Church.

During the prelude, we invite you to prepare for worship by observing silence or taking time for private prayer.

Greeting and Welcome

Prelude

Hymn 437: "Tell out my soul"

Birmingham

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!

Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put
to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!

Make known his might, the deeds his arm
has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name -- the Lord, the Mighty One.

Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore!

Opening Acclamation for Advent

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: You come to your people and set them free.

Celebrant: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:29-31

The Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Celebrant: 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.**

Celebrant: We now light the candle(s) of the advent wreath, a visual symbol marking the progress of this season of watching for the light of Christ to come into the world. *The Advent Candle(s) are lit.*

Song of Praise: S96: "Lord have mercy"

Franz Schubert

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Word of God

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect (Prayer) of the Day

BCP 212

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 6:1 - 4, 8 - 11

Common English Bible translation (CEB)

The Lord God's spirit is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim release for captives, and liberation for prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and a day of vindication for our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for Zion's mourners, to give them a crown in place of ashes, oil of joy in place of mourning, a mantle of praise in place of discouragement. They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, planted by the Lord to glorify himself. They

will rebuild the ancient ruins; they will restore formerly deserted places; they will renew ruined cities, places deserted in generations past. I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and dishonesty. I will faithfully give them their wage, and make with them an enduring covenant. Their offspring will be known among the nations, and their descendants among the peoples. All who see them will recognize that they are a people blessed by the Lord. I surely rejoice in the Lord; my heart is joyful because of my God, because he has clothed me with clothes of victory, wrapped me in a robe of righteousness like a bridegroom in a priestly crown, and like a bride adorned in jewelry. As the earth puts out its growth, and as a garden grows its seeds, so the Lord God will grow righteousness and praise before all the nations.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Alleluia: Hymn "Soon and very soon"

Andre Crouch

Sung twice

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King.
Soon and very soon, we are going' to see the King,
Hallelulah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John 1:6 - 8, 19 - 28

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Common English Bible translation (CEB)

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light. This is John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?" John confessed (he didn't deny but confessed), "I'm not the Christ." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" John said, "I'm not." "Are you the prophet?" John answered, "No." They asked, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John replied, "I am a voice crying out in the wilderness, Make the Lord's path straight, just as the prophet Isaiah said." Those sent by the Pharisees asked, "Why do you baptize if you aren't the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered, "I baptize with water. Someone greater stands among you, whom you don't recognize. He comes after me, but I'm not worthy to untie his sandal straps." This encounter took place across the Jordan in Bethany where John was baptizing.

Deacon or Priest: The Gospel of our Savior.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

*Adapted from St. George's Prayer Guild and "Advent Prayer" by Cricket Hall
The Leader and People pray responsively*

May this Advent season of slowing down and waiting for the light of Christ, be a time for us to hold the world in our hearts.

We pray for all the nations of the earth and for all those in authority, that there may be justice and peace for all. For our national leaders in this time of transition, and for grace and kindness between neighbors. Lighten our darkness, O God...

People: And listen to our prayer

We pray for the Church, all its ministers, lay and ordained, and for God's guidance as we bear witness to the Good News in the world. Lighten our darkness, O God...

People: And listen to our prayer

May this time of waiting be a time of thoughtfulness and introspection. We take this moment to give thanks for all that God has made, and ask for the wisdom to be good stewards of all the gifts in our care. Lighten our darkness, O God...

People: And listen to our prayer

For an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. For all who are ill and caring for them. For all those whose lives have been turned upside down. For the wisdom and will to do what is helpful and loving, especially toward those who are vulnerable. Lighten our darkness, O God...

People: And listen to our prayer

As we wait for the arrival of Christ, we pray for all who, through death, have joined Christ in new life. Lighten our darkness, O God...

People: And listen to our prayer

In the stillness and quiet, we offer all other prayers on our hearts. *Pause for several moments.* Lighten our darkness, O God...

People: And listen to our prayer

The Celebrant concludes:

O God who is revealed in darkness and light, hear the prayers of your people; lighten our darkness with the hope of your grace promised through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

All are now invited to exchange a sign of peace with a wave or bow.

Announcements

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. We invite you to share your gifts in support of our ministry within and beyond our congregation. You may place your gift in the offering plate. You can also give online (bit.ly/stggive) or text to give (send a text message with the dollar amount [e.g. \$50] to: 540.701.4133).

Hymn 72: "Hark! The glad sound"

Richmond

1 Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,
the Savior promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

2 He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved Name.

Celebrant: Let us now join in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

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.

Prayer for the Power of the Spirit Among the People of God

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

The congregation responds **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Announcements

For details on these events
and more visit
stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Christmas Worship Schedule

Our worship services for Christmas are on [our website](#). We are planning virtual worship (YouTube Live, Facebook, Zoom) and also a socially distanced outdoor service. Please stay tuned for more information. We will update our website and share details in our weekly e-newsletter.

300th Anniversary - Commemorative Items

We have Christmas Ornaments (\$30) and St. George's notecards (\$15) available for purchase online for pickup on Dec. 7, 15, and 21 from 2 - 4 pm in front of Faulkner Hall. These beautiful custom pieces make a great gift and proceeds go towards our 300th Anniversary Celebrations. [Order yours here.](#)

Blue Christmas - Dec. 20 at 5:30 pm

This service will create sacred space, acknowledging the imprint that grief leaves in one's heart while also remembering that we worship a God who is with us even in the darkest of times. We invite you to bring a candle and lighter / matches. Upon joining, you will be in a waiting room and admitted once the service starts Join us via [Zoom](#). Meeting ID: 832 3575 7033 or Dial in 929.205.6099.

Gratitude Offering

As we give thanks for all that God has done for us and for the special people in our lives. we invite you to make a special Gratitude Offering to St. George's. Typically in Advent, we invite memorial or honor gifts to help decorate the church for Christmas. This year, we invite you to make an offering to support our overall ministry. You can make your gift in several ways:

- 1) Sending a check to the church office
- 2) Visit our [Giving Page](#) and select Gratitude Offering
- 3) Give via text by texting "Funds" to 540.701.4133.

Please be sure to include who you wish to honor or remember with your gift. We will celebrate our gratitude together by publishing these names at Christmas. Please make your gift by December 15th to have your honoree's name included.

End of Year Giving

if you would like to request a summary of your giving (pledge as well as other gifts) to St George's so far this year, please contact business manager [Ben Hicks](#) via email or 540.898.1586.

Announcements

For details on these events
and more visit
stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Priority Registration for St. George's Episcopal Preschool

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is coming up soon. Special Priority Registration for families who registered their child for the 2020-2021 school year will open on January 4, 2021. Priority Registration for alumni families and St. George's parishioners will open on January 15, 2021. Open Registration begins on February 1. Since the preschool is currently closed due to the pandemic, a virtual tour will be available. Please contact [Danielle Davis](#) or visit sgpreschool.wordpress.com for more information.

Blessings to Bob Miller!

December 16 is the Rev. Bob Miller's 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. We will host a celebration at some point in the future for our retired priest associate.

Vestry Interest Meeting

We will host another meeting for anyone interested in learning more about serving on the vestry today, Sunday December 13 at 5:00 on Zoom. Contact [the Rev. Joe Hensley](#) for information. Nominations are requested by December 24, and our election will be January 24, 2021.

St. George's Prayer List

"Prayer is powerful"
James 5:16

Regarding the Prayer List: We strive to extend the power of the congregation's prayer to those who feel they would benefit from its embrace. Please submit prayer requests in writing. New additions this week are in italics. For rehabilitation, concerns, and grace and assistance lists, we keep a name on the list for 1 month, unless asked to do otherwise. If a name is removed that should still be on, please contact the church office to have their name returned to the list.

Pray for our leadership:

For our bishops, Justin, Michael, Susan, Porter, and Jennifer; for Joe, Areeta, Will and David our clergy; for those who are priests and pastors in our community; for our staff—John, Ben, Jan, Nicholas, Amy, Danielle, Lisa, Achim, Hecti, Laurel, Barbara, Emily, and Riley; and for our Vestry.

Pray for those expecting babies:

Andrea Wilkins and Thomas Cunningham, daughter of Marsha Wilkins; Hunter and Katie Guerin, son of Jane and Newton Guerin; Jordan and Chris Hinkebein; Katie and Eamonn Sheil, daughter of Mary and Bob Ryan; Philip and Peyton Carter, son of Bob and Laurie Carter.

Pray for those recently born:

Aidan, son of Jason Hudson and fiancée Sam, grandson of Mary and John Vreeland; *Richard Callahan Larkin, son of Lilian and Eddie Larkin.*

Pray for those recently died:

Joseph Goyena, Muriel Sproul, Serena Gentry, *Janet Clark.*

Pray for All who are affected during the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

All those sick with the novel corona virus and their loved ones, those who have died, health workers and chaplains, undertakers, food workers, internet service workers, educators, social service providers, families at home adjusting to new routines and roles, homeless neighbors with nowhere to shelter, government and community leaders, all who are out of work, and so many others.

Pray for healthcare workers and first responders:

Dr. Betsy Schinstock, Dr. Heather Masters, Cameron Simmons, Elizabeth Anderson, Morgan Ellis, Leilani Blose, John Gleason, Brad Houck, Jeffrey French, Susan Larson, Randi Thompson, Robin Rose, Zach Rose, Suzanne Simmons, William McNitt, Heidi Taft, Charlotte Martin, Philip Pendleton, Dr. John Chinault, Dr. Mark Macedon, Dr. Jeniffer Huhn, Dr. Joe Lee, Amy Bogardus, Kristen Brandford, Dr. Matthew Whitehurst, *Trish Stenger.*

St. George's Prayer List

"Prayer is powerful"
James 5:16

Pray for those serving our country overseas:

Ian Patrick Hume, Andrew Rodriguez, Robert BP Thompson, Jr.

Pray for homebound parishioners:

Bill Poole, Judy Barton, All persons in care facilities who cannot receive visitors right now, Anne Brooks Brauer.

Pray for those in rehabilitation or in convalescence:

Al Sharp, Kitty Lacey, Kathleen Pool, Steve Cronk, Virginia Boyd, Dottie Davis, Wayne Harman, Marion Zimmerman, George Barnick, Bill Poole, Barbara Perry, Anne Irving, Jim Weber, Jennifer Dorigatti, Barbara Willis, Chris Forzano, Nancy Behrmann, Drew Gundlach, Anne Lloyd, Rev. Anthony Parrish, Manoj Yeolekar, Bill Green, *Shanon Berry*.

Pray for those with ongoing concerns:

Arya Holmes, Molly Myers, Wayne and Dot Morris, Scott Boyd, Paris Swisher, Tom Pugh, Pam Allen, Just Thompson, Sheree Clark.

Pray for those who need God's grace and assistance:

Matthew P, Keith, Anne, Hunter, and Addison Darlak, Sandra Bock, Neda Beal, Family of Joseph Goyena, Susan, Blose / Nicholas Families, Arrington Mixon, *Dick Roth, Frances O'Connor*.

Pray for those in discernment: Kris Boyd.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: St. Andrew's, Burke; Emmanuel, Rapidan.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury); The Rt Rev. Timothy Thornton - Bishop to the Forces and Bishop to the Falkland Islands

Pray for: Our Little Roses (Honduras); Notre Dame Parish and School (Port-au-Prince, Haiti), Père Frantz Cole; Red Door Young Adult Ministry; SAWs Virginia; Rev. Ōshin Jennings, No Barriers Zen Temple; Micah Ecumenical Ministries (our work to do justice, love, mercy, and walk humbly with our God along with other congregations in Fredericksburg).

Pray for: St. George's Preschool.

Pray for: Stephen Ministers, St. George's lay pastoral care visitors, and their ministry of spiritual and emotional support for others in the congregation.

Contact Staff

For pastoral emergencies:
540.361.8573

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Rector
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The Rev. Areeta D. Bridgemohan
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John Vreeland
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Vestry

If you have questions or concerns,
please reach out to our Vestry
(elected lay leaders).

Sheryl Stroud Bryant, 2020

Senior Warden, Fellowship,
300th Anniversary
540.220.5161
ssbryantjr@gmail.com

Terry Dorn, 2020

Junior Warden, Buildings and Grounds
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Janice Brunson, 2020

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Jason Kunkler, 2022

Worship and Music, Newcomers
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Trip Lloyd, 2020

Youth Formation
540.310.0069
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James Maxfield, 2021

World Mission, Communications,
Youth Formation
540.841.7874
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Ralph Powell, 2021

Finance
540.368.5777
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Caroline Pritchard, 2022

Children's Formation
912.667.1961
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Josue Rivera-Orellano, 2022

Preschool Board Liaison
787.914.1107
josue.arnel@gmail.com

Tres Seaver, 2021

Pastoral Care
540.429.0999
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Matt Stover, 2021

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540.371.4253
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Stuart Whitford, 2022

Connections, Stewardship
540.903.7035
stuwhitford@gmail.com

Serving This Sunday

Thank you to our worship leaders
serving today. If you would like to
volunteer, contact the church office:
office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.

Clergy:

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr.
The Rev. Areeta D. Bridgemohan
The Rev. William S. Dickinson

Preacher:

The Rev. Areeta D. Bridgemohan

Lector:

David Durham

ASL Interpreter:

Caroline Stimpson

Music:

Dick Juergens
Abby Martinez
Diane Powell
Ralph Powell
Achim Loch

Videographer:

Nicholas Perron

Social Media Host:

Amy Bogardus

St. George's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr., Rector
The Rev. Areeta D. Bridgemohan,
Associate Rector
The Rev. Will Dickinson,
Curate

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