



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Sunday December 20, 2020

**The Fourth 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 20, 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.

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 Monday, December 14, we have received 266 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:

Formation for all ages will take a break December 27 and January 3. See our [website for the holiday schedule](#).

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
(hector.musa@stgeorgesepiscopal.net).

What Are You Looking For?

We'd love to get to know you and to hear your story. Contact the church office (office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net).

The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 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 56 (St. 1 - 4): "O come, O come Emmanuel"	<i>Veni, Veni Emmanuel</i>
1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear. Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.	3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes of Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe. (Refrain)
2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. (Refrain)	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 (Refrain)

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

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 for ever. **Amen.**

II Samuel 7:1 - 1, 16

Common English Bible translation (CEB)

When the king was settled in his palace, and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "Look! I'm living in a cedar palace, but God's chest is housed in a tent!" Nathan said to the king, "Go ahead and do whatever you are thinking, because the Lord is with you." But that very night the Lord's word came to Nathan: Go to my servant David and tell him: This is what the Lord says: You are not the one to build the temple for me to live in. In fact, I haven't lived in a temple from the day I brought Israel out of Egypt until now. Instead, I have been traveling around in a tent and in a dwelling. Throughout my traveling around with the Israelites, did I ever ask any of Israel's tribal leaders I appointed to shepherd my people: Why haven't you built me a cedar temple? So then, say this to my servant David: This is what the Lord of heavenly forces says: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be leader over my people Israel. I've been with you wherever you've gone, and I've eliminated all your enemies before you. Now I will make your name great—like the name of the greatest people on earth. I'm going to provide a place for my people Israel, and plant them so that they

may live there and no longer be disturbed. Cruel people will no longer trouble them, as they had been earlier, when I appointed leaders over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. And the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make a dynasty for you. Your dynasty and your kingdom will be secured forever before me. Your throne will be established forever.

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 Luke 1:26 - 38

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Common English Bible translation (CEB)

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom." Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?" The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. Nothing is impossible for God." Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Deacon or Priest: The Gospel of our Savior.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

The Rev. William S. Dickinson

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: "Christ is Coming"

Christ is coming, prepare the way! (4X)

Christ is coming! (4X)

Christ is coming, prepare the way! (4X)

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).

Office Note

Our office closes at 12 pm on Dec. 24 and will reopen on Dec. 30. We will be closed Dec. 31, and reopen on Jan. 4. If you have a pastoral emergency and need to speak with clergy, please call or text 540.361.8573.

Blue Christmas - Today 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.

Twelve Nights of Christmas Prayers

We invite you to connect in a community of prayer, December 25 through January 5. We will gather from 8 - 8:30 pm by phone to share in seasonal reflection, meditation, and prayer led by St. Georgians. Celebrating the birth of Christ in an especially challenging time, we pray for the needs of the world and seek grace together. To access the call: dial 301.715.8592. When prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 838 7199 7224. Then when prompted, enter the passcode: 093396. To mute and unmute yourself, press *6.

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. Thank you for submitting year-end donations by December 31.

Announcements

For details on these events
and more visit
stgeorgesepiscopal.net

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.](#)

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.

Serving the Vestry

The Vestry is the leadership committee for the parish. St. Georgians - like yourself - offer their diverse gifts to serve as Vestry members for a three-year term. If you are interested in serving, please 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; 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:

Richard Callahan Larkin, son of Lilian and Eddie Larkin; *Margaret "Margot" Campbell Guerin, granddaughter of Jane and Newton Guerin.*

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.

Pray for those serving our country overseas:

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

St. George's Prayer List

"Prayer is powerful"
James 5:16

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. Asaph's, Bolwing Green; St. James, Montross.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we

pray for: Mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world.

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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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

Grace in Action
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Jason Kunkler, 2022

Worship and Music, Newcomers
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Trip Lloyd, 2020

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James Maxfield, 2021

World Mission, Communications,
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Ralph Powell, 2021

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Caroline Pritchard, 2022

Children's Formation
912.667.1961
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Josue Rivera-Orellano, 2022

Preschool Board Liaison
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josue.arnel@gmail.com

Tres Seaver, 2021

Pastoral Care
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Matt Stover, 2021

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Stuart Whitford, 2022

Connections, Stewardship
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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. William S. Dickinson

Lector:

Ann Tebbutt

ASL Interpreter:

Caroline Stimpson

Music:

Elizabeth Anderson
Dave Davies
James Rollins
Laura Rollins
John Vreeland

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,
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The Rev. Will Dickinson,
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