



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Sunday

November 29, 2020

**The First 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.

November 29, 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/stgenews.

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, November 23, we have received 238 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

10:45 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. Speak with an usher or greeter or contact the church office (office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net).

The First Sunday of Advent November 29, 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 65: "Prepare the way, O Zion"

1. Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

Bereden Väg för Herran

3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

2. He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Life high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

Opening Acclamation for Advent

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

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.*

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.**

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 211

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 for ever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 64:1 - 9

Common English Bible translation (CEB)

If only you would tear open the heavens and come down! Mountains would quake before you like fire igniting brushwood or making water boil. If you would make your name known to your enemies, the nations would tremble in your presence. When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations; when you came down, mountains quaked before you. From ancient times, no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any god but you who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You look after those who gladly do right; they will praise you for our ways. But you were angry when we sinned; you hid

yourself when we did wrong. We have all become like the unclean; all our righteous deeds are like a menstrual rag. All of us wither like a leaf; our sins, like the wind, carry us away. No one calls on your name, no one bothers to hold on to you, for you have hidden yourself from us, and have handed us over to our sin. But now, Lord, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. All of us are the work of your hand. Don't rage so fiercely, Lord, don't hold our sins against us forever, but gaze now on your people, all of us.

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 Mark 13:24 - 37

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Common English Bible translation (CEB)

Jesus said to his disciples, "In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won't give its light. The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. Then they will see the Human One coming in the clouds with great power and splendor. Then he will send the angels and gather together his chosen people from the four corners of the earth, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven. "Learn this parable from the fig tree. After its branch becomes tender and it sprouts new leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that he's near, at the door. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away. "But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows. Watch out! Stay alert! You don't know when the time is coming. It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one a job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know when the head of the household will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. Don't let him show up when you weren't expecting and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Stay alert!"

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

May this time of waiting be a time to hold each other's hands. We lift up to you now our prayers, the concerns of this congregation and this community, either silently or aloud (*pause while prayers are offered*). Lighten our darkness, O God...

People: And listen to our prayer

May this time of waiting help us befriend the darkness and all it teaches us. We join our prayers with all who are sick, suffering, or in any distress...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, we thank you for these times of stillness and quiet which allow your way of your grace to run ever deeper within us. May our prayers lead us toward you as we wait, watch, and hope for Christ. **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 66: "Come, thou long expected Jesus"

Stuttgart

1 Come, thou long expected Jesus
born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in Thee.

3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

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

Staying Connected

As we miss seeing each other in person at church, we can still reach out in other ways. If you would like a copy of the parish directory, please contact the [church office](#).

300th Anniversary - Commemorative Items

Today we will have Christmas Ornaments (\$30) and St. George's note-cards (\$15) available for purchase at our in-person 11:15 am service in Market Square. These beautiful custom pieces make a great gift and proceeds go towards our 300th Anniversary Celebrations.

Advent Worship

See our Advent brochure for a listing of ways to celebrate Advent at home and in community. Since the weather is getting colder, today is our last in-person outdoor worship at 11:15 am.

UTO Fall Ingathering

Join together in gratitude to donate to the 2020 UTO Ingathering. The funds collected will provide grants for COVID-19 relief to ministries here and across the globe. Give online (unitedthankoffering.com/give/), text to give (text "INGATHER" to 41444) or send a check to United Thank Offering, DFMS - Protestant Episcopal Church, PO Box 958983, St. Louis, MO 63195-8983.

Giving Tuesday: December 1, 2020

Join in the global giving movement on December 1st by supporting your local food ministry, The Table! You can donate online at St. George's website; on our Facebook page; by text to 540.701.4133 with message: Funds. For more information, please contact Chris Cook at 703.328.1530. Thank you!

Advent To-Go!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be able to hold our annual Advent wreath making event this year. We are offering Advent to Go kits today from 12 - 2 pm in Faulkner Hall. The kits will include Advent wreath materials (candles, platform, and greenery) and resources for prayer at home. Suggested donation of \$10. For more information, please contact [Hecti Musa](#).

HFFI Candlelight Tour

We are excited to be a part of Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.'s (HFFI) 50th Anniversary Candlelight Tour! This year, the tour runs Dec. 1 - 31 and will highlight the exteriors of many homes and buildings downtown. Thank you to our Flower Guild for decorating our front steps. You can [purchase tickets through HFFI](#).

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; Lilian Seay and Eddie Larkin, Katie and Eamonn Sheil, daughter of Mary and Bob Ryan.

Pray for those recently born:

Ellee Moss, daughter of Jeppy and Catherine Moss and granddaughter of Champe and Ranny Corbin and Jeppy and Karen Moss; Aidan, son of Jason Hudson and fiancé Sam, grandson of Mary and John Vreeland.

Pray for those recently died:

Joseph Goyena, Muriel Sproul

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.

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.

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:

Peggy Conway, Lily Mohmand, Levi Walburn, Tricia, Heather Lehr-Wagner, Sister Munira Abdalla and family, Ava Stone, Heather Plunkett and family, Matthew P, Keith, Anne, Hunter, and Addison Darlak, Sandra Bock, Neda Beal, Family of Joseph Goyena, Susan, *Blose / Nicholas Families.*

Pray for those in discernment: Kris Boyd.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: St. Bartholomew's, Richmond; St. John's, Richmond.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: Lusitanian Church (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury); The Rt Rev. Jorge Pina Cabral - Bishop of the Lusitanian Church

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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Vestry

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

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Stuart Whitford, 2022
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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. David P. Casey, O.P.

Lector:

Vicki Lewis

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

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The Rev. Areeta D. Bridgemohan,
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