

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025



Light one candle for joy
one bright candle for joy.

Christ brings joy to every heart.
Christ comes! Christ comes!

The Holy Eucharist

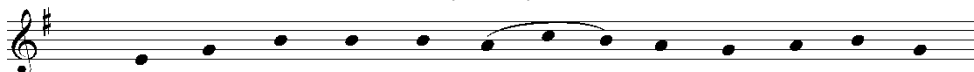
STREAMING FACEBOOK LIVE AT 10:00A.M.

Prelude

Voluntary on 'Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus'

arr. David N. Johnson

(v. 1-4)



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - cr - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

The Word of God

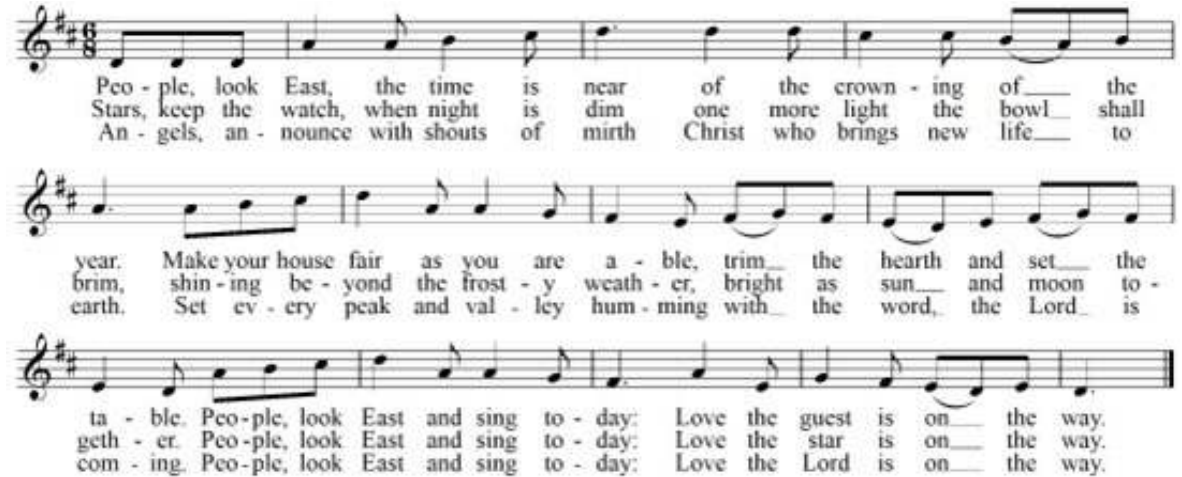
Opening Acclamation

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

Collect for Purity *said by the 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



Music: *Besanzon Carol* Words: Eleanor Farjeon

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Together, let us pray.

The Collect *said by all*

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.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he

knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm *Qui regis Israel*

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18



The Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of

faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Sequence Hymn 260

Come now and praise the humble saint

Tallis' Ordinal

1 Come now, and praise the hum-ble saint of Da-vid's house and line,
2 The Ar-chi-tect's high mir-a-cles he saw, and what was done,
3 For him there was no glo-ry here, no crown or mar-tyr's fame;
4 But now with-in the Fa-ther's grace where saints and an-gels throng,

the car-pen-ter whose life ful-filled our gra-cious God's de-sign.
the Vir-gin's spouse, the guard-ian of great Da-vid's great-er Son.
for him there was the pa-tient life of faith and hum-ble name.
be-side his spouse, be-fore the Son, he joins the heaven-ly song.

Words: George W. Williams (b. 1922). Copyright © 1979 by The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.) All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Tallis' Ordinal*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585).

The Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Sermon

The Reverend Patricia Templeton

The Creed

I believe in God, the Creator, the Almighty,

maker of a heaven and earth without borders or nations,

who created all people in the Divine image,

who led people from slavery to freedom

through exile and exodus,

the God of homelands lost and found,

the God of Temple and desert, of manna and sacrifice.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,

and was made human, joining us as strangers and exiles on the earth,

showing us how to bring about God's kingdom here and now,

who was born under occupation

and as an infant fled with his parents to Egypt for safety,

becoming aliens in a foreign land,

who suffered under the imperial power of Pontius Pilate,

was crucified by the state, died, and buried.

On the third day he rose again, opening for us the door to new life,

destroying the power of death.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races,

who proceeds from the Creator and the Son, unity in diversity, three in one.

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church,

a communion of saints across countries and centuries.

I look for the coming of the Kingdom of God,

where our passport is love,

our bodies are resurrected and healed,

where the image of God in all of us is honored,

and all nations, tribes, creeds, and people are reconciled in the place

where there is no mourning or sadness, no exile or despair,

where we will be no longer strangers or guests

but lambs gathered safely home in the arms of the Good Shepherd. AMEN.

Advent Prayers of the People

God of the watching, God of the waiting: Be present with us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of the watching, thank you for the symbol of the Advent wreath, whose circle reminds us that your mercy is endless, with no beginning or end. Help us to set our mind on things eternal.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of the waiting, we pray for all in authority. We look forward to the day when the nations of the world walk in light and your peace is experienced by all.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of the watching, we pray for this city that we may be a community of hope and light in this world.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of the waiting, we pray for all the people of your church that you may strengthen us all for the ministry you have set before us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of the watching, we pray for the sick, the friendless, and the needy, especially **Holly Swing; Suzanne Johnson; Brenda Patten; Penny France; Priscilla Davis; Donna Thomas; and Cathy Leake**. May they experience your healing presence.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of the watching, we pray for all who have died, especially remembering **Walter Schneiderwind**, brother-in-law of Mimi Gold, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of the waiting, we are challenged in our worship to set our hearts and minds on the here and now, and to remember and be thankful for what matters. We give thanks especially for these members of our parish community especially **Claudia, John & Deborah Gimson; Mimi Gold; Cathleen Hackett; and Sarah & Bill Hancock**.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of the waiting, we pray for all those who are watching and waiting for your promised time of justice and peace for all people. Make us co-creators of your coming kingdom.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom, and grant that we, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his advent in glorious majesty. **Amen.**

Together, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Absolution

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 the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem


“Out of the Wintry Gloom”

Richard Shepherd

Offertory Hymn 54

Savior of the nations, come

Nun, komm, der Heiden Heiland



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

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.***

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People:

Sanctus S.128

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Mathias

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, Dunstan and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

The Lord's Prayer

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 for ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear,
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Celebrant continues

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion of the People *All people are invited to receive Communion.*

Communion Hymn

Taizé -- Prepare the way of the Lord

Jacques Berthier

① Eb Ab Eb Ab ② Eb Ab

Pre- pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the

4 Eb Ab ③ Eb Ab ④ Eb Ab Eb

Lord, and all people will see the sal- vation of our God.

Prayer after Communion *Celebrant and People*

Jesus, Lord of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We, who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We, who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us.
We, who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We, whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, “Come Lord Jesus!” Amen.

Advent Blessing

The blessing of God, who has promised to come into our lives, be with you today.	The blessing of God, whose love ransoms us from all captivity, be with you forever.	The blessing of God, whose breath brings new beginnings, send you forth into the world to create a new day for the good of all. Amen.
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Recessional Hymn 56	O come, O come, Emmanuel (v. 5-8)	<i>Veni, Veni, Emmanuel</i>
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The Dismissal

Response ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude	Prelude on 'Blest be the King whose coming' arr. Alexandre Guilmant
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We welcome Ernest Plunkett as our guest musician this Sunday.

Ministry Schedule

	December 21 st Fourth Sunday in Advent	December 24 th Christmas Eve – 5:00 pm
Vestry on Duty	Susie Throop	Alexander Pierre
Lay Reader: 10:00	Zoe McMichael	Lynn Hood
Lector 1st Lesson	Karen Dessables	Jon Throop
Lector 2nd Lesson	Vivian Siggers	John Gimson
Ushers / Greeters	Marshall Kress	Alexander Pierre / Elizabeth
Altar Guild	Ralph / Mary Jane	Claudia / Marshall/ Ralph
Flower Guild	No Flowers during Advent	The Flower Guild

Happy Birthday

Tom Harney December 21 Lucas Camara December 22

Prayer Requests

Parishioners: Holly Swing; Suzanne Johnson; Brenda Patten; Penny France; Priscilla Davis; Donna Thomas; and Cathy Leake.

Family: Terra Garrett, cousin of Cathleen Hackett; Jane Schneiderwind, sister of Mimi Gold; Cody Young, cousin of Lindsey Reece; Pamela V. Bowers, sister of Suzanne Van de Mark; Tim Leyden, father / father-in law of Tim & Jessie Leyden; Kathy Benedict, family of Andrea, Anil and Brenda; Preston Wilson, brother of Mary Jane Hannah; Roswitha Moos, grandmother of Katharina McCawley; Carson Morris, daughter; Mary Morris, sister-in-law of Lee Morris; Tiffany Lucas, niece, of Vivian Siggers; Gwen McAlpine; Joyce Emmons, cousin of Elizabeth Wong Mark; Chris Ekmark, cousin of Heather Robertson; Cody Young, nephew, Deborah & Bill Reece; Carra & Vincent Lafitte, Larry & Sharon Mobley, Jack & Linda Mobley family of Daria and Bruce Lafitte; Charlie Bunn, cousin of Tiffany Wilson; Aggie Whyte, Priscilla Williams, sisters of Bessie Holland; Oakley Family, cousins of Priscilla Davis; Mary Jane Hobbs, sister of Sara Thomas; Deni Omundson, Sydney Cortez & Family, relatives of Jeanne & Josh Taylor; Karen, sister of Steve Hauser; Jessica LeClaire, sister of Sara Thornton; Clare Richardson, sister-in-law of Penny France; Deborah Ellis-Williams, mother of Jackie O'Connell; Barbara Martello, niece of Mimi Gold.

Friends: Bob Adams (Mary Jane Hannah); Miriam & Santana Herrera; Cary Ralls & Mark Sillay; Patricia Woods; Walter Buchanan (Rhea Hannah); Marilyn Reynolds (Bessie Holland); Tony Rizzuto (Daria Jones); Dann Brown (Tricia Templeton); Carol Davis, Carolyn Timmons (Sandra & Joe Dobbs); Sara Corredor (Tiffany Wilson); Lynell Walker, Pat Park and Rik Rasmussen (Anil & Andrea Patten-Weerakoon); Carol Fitzgerald, Sam Roberson (Lee Morris); Gay McNeely, John Ware (Suzanne Van de Mark); Lauren Courtney Robinson (Lindsey Reece); Neil, Emma, Addison Bonser (Brown family); Barry Mazor (Bob Wolfson); Kishell Muir (Barbara Hawker); Loretta Roberts, Benjamin Banas (Cathy Leake); Bill Cobb, Sandy Jusak, Michellene Tipton, Joshua Dowd, Debbie Bogard, James Bogard (Jeanne & Josh Taylor); Carolyn Neely Holmes (Vivian Siggers); Madison Fucita & Family; Rose Faison, Mary Jane Graff, Anne Henry, Tim Embry (Priscilla Davis); Jennifer Pern, Sherrel Howard (Mimi Gold).

We give thanks for our parish especially Claudia, John & Deborah Gimson; Mimi Gold; Cathleen Hackett; and Sarah & Bill Hancock.

We pray for those who have died, remembering especially Walter Schneiderwind, brother-in-law of Mimi Gold.

Announcements

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve - December 24

4:40 – Music Program begins

Eucharist Service begins at 5 p.m. -- Come celebrate the birth of the Messiah.

First Sunday after Christmas- December 28

10 a.m. -- One service of Christmas Lessons & Carols.

The Second Sunday of Christmas – Epiphany - January 4, 2026

10 a.m. -- One service.

Vestry 2025 - 2026

Susie Throop, Sr. Warden; Andrea Patten-Weerakoon, Jr. Warden;
Suzanne Johnson; Ralph Paulk; Sarah Hancock;
Marshall Kress; Jessica Peoples; Alexander Pierre; Tom Wilson

The Reverend Patricia Templeton, Rector

The Reverend Maggie Harney, Priest Associate

The Reverend Colin Brown, Priest Associate

Claudia Gimson, Parish Administrator

Rhea Hannah, Volunteer Administrative Assistant



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