



# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

9:00 a.m.: Virtual Worship

## GATHERING

### Preparing for Virtual Worship

Set up a space in your home for worship and prayer. Light a candle, set out a cross or icon to help you focus; set your phone on Do Not Disturb, wash your hands. Take a few deep breaths and say a short prayer to prepare your heart to “enter” a different kind of space. We recommend the Collect for Purity:

*Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Prelude: *Echo Noël* *Noël Suisse*

Louis-Claude Daquin

*Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772) dazzled the court of King Louis XIV as a child prodigy at the keyboard. At the age of 12 he was named titular organist at the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris. He later became organist of the Chapelle Royale in the court of Louis XV. By the end of his career he was principal organist of Notre-Dame. A contemporary described his “unflinching precision and evenness” at both the harpsichord and organ. These two works present variations upon songs that would have been sung at seasonal religious festivals in 18th-century France.*

### Opening Hymn: *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Hymn 65

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. *Refrain: Oh, blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy Name.* He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. *Refrain.* 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. *Refrain.*

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999)

Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697;  
harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Opening Acclamation

*Priest* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

### Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy,** Lord, have mercy.

## **The Collect of the Day**

*Priest* Let us pray.

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 Reading**

**2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

**W**hen the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

## **The Gospel**

**Luke 1:26-38**

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

*Priest* The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Casey Bushman, Licensed Lay Preacher**

## Music for Reflection: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**Hymn 56 (vs. 7-8)**

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!* O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain.*

*This year, we will hear two verses of this hymn each Sunday during the season of Advent.*

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### Prayers of the People

**Form II, BCP 385**

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop(s); for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed especially \_\_\_\_\_. Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for those in our community \_\_\_\_\_.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored especially whom we remember today. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*The celebrant concludes with prayers and a collect*

### The Lord's Prayer

*Priest and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Offertory Hymn: *O The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came***

**Hymn 265**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; “All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady,” Gloria! “For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady,” Gloria! Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said, “my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria! Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, “Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

**Garrett Gerard, soloist**

*This traditional Basque carol depicts the Annunciation. It was adapted for English use by Anglican priest Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924) who had spent holidays in the Basque region as a child.*

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943)

## **Announcements**

### **The Peace**

*Priest*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

## **Postlude: *Finale from Variations Sur un Vieux Noël, Op. 20***

**Marcel Dupré**

*Marcel Dupré (1886-1971) was the foremost French organ virtuoso of his time, an heir to the great tradition of Romantic French organ playing and composing. Dupré was famed for his ability to improvise; he also composed substantial works and was a widely traveled recitalist and an influential teacher. This is the conclusion of his 1920 set of variations on the old French carol Noël Nouvelet. This 10th variation is a fugato which presents the theme in diminution and augmentation before leading into a toccata. Here the theme roars in the pedals, first in minor, then in major, beneath a carillon of clashing chords.*

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## ***Christmas Service Schedule: RSVP is open***

### **Christmas Eve In-Person Procession (Please RSVP [here.](#))**

- **5:15 p.m.** - gather on the front lawn, for a carol sing by members of the St. Mark's Choir, followed by a welcome, short prayer and a reading of the nativity story. We will then gather within family groups for a neighborhood procession. Bring instruments! Candles provided (including safe LED candles for children).

### **Christmas Eve Virtual Service of Lessons & Carols**

- Noon
- 9:00 p.m.

### **Christmas Day Virtual Morning Prayer and Coffee (via zoom)**

- 8:30 a.m.

***Links for virtual services will be on our home page: [www.stmarkaustin.org](http://www.stmarkaustin.org)***

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday Schedule: in-person Sunday services have been suspended. *Please join us online!***

- **9:00 a.m.** - *Virtual* Worship Livestream (links accessible through our website)
- **9:45 a.m.** - Final Sunday school class of 2020, with Rev. Dr. Nathan Jennings.

### **Christmas Poinsettia Dedications, deadline for submissions is Sunday, December**

**20th:** As in years past, this year we are accepting dedications in memory of, or thanksgiving for, anyone you would like to remember - poinsettias will decorate the church during Christmas services; dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. To submit your dedication: [click here](#). Questions? [office@stmarksaustin.org](mailto:office@stmarksaustin.org).

**Mission - St. Mark's final giving for 2020 has been distributed to organizations listed below. *Thank you to the St. Mark's community for your generosity, which has supported our outreach mission!***

- \$1000 to Seminary of the Southwest, Texas Pauli Murray Scholarship (to expand opportunities for low-income African American students and other students of color to attend the Seminary to prepare for priesthood in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas).
- \$350 to El Buen Samaritano.
- \$1000 to Austin Shift Meal, which provides food to those who have lost jobs in the hospitality industry due to the pandemic.

**Morning Prayer will not meet December 24, 2020 - January 1, 2021.** It will resume on Monday, January 4th: Mondays - Fridays, 8:30 a.m. Access links: [www.stmarksaustin.org](http://www.stmarksaustin.org).

## PARISH INTERCESSION LIST

**You are invited to use this Intercession List to pray for those listed below.**

**For healthcare workers and teachers:** Heather, Michael B., Christine, Eric, Joan, Beth, Mac, Jodi, Courtney, Russ, Nicole, Jewellyn, Jana Kay, Steven, Pam, Marcille, Jesse, Laurie, Charles, Cilla, Jonea, Jennifer R., Jennifer S., Samuel, Mary, Jordan, Jeffrey, Kim, Michael T., Amber, Aaron, Sarah, Laurie, Carolyn, Jennifer, Chez, James., Cindy.

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Sandy Harwood, Misty Stafford, Cynthia Zuniga, Zachary Borja, Victoria Carroll, Lily Phillips, Win Lee, Flo Puryear, Jon Dullnig, Nolan Duffin.

**For those whom the Daughters of the King pray.**

**Lector:** Ann Seyler



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on Instagram and Facebook and YouTube  
@stmarksaustin

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### *St. Mark's Staff*

The Rev. Zac Koons, *Rector*

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Jennings, *Theologian-in-Residence*

Casey Bushman, *Director of Christian Formation*

Barbara Gausewitz, *Seminarian*

Brandon Haynes, *Seminarian*

The Rev. Mary Keenan, *Curate*

Mark Reed, *Organist/Director of Music and Bookkeeper*

Joanne Foote, *Parish Administrator*

Karon Hammond, *Head of St. Mark's Day School*

Irma Glover, *Sexton*

**The Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle, *Bishop of Texas***