



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 11:15 a.m.

Morning Prayer: Rite One and Christmas Pageant

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church & Richmond, Virginia

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. We are glad you are here. We welcome and include all people without exception and we extend a special greeting to any visitors. Throughout this bulletin, helpful guidance is printed in italics. Visitor guides are found in racks at the entrance doors. When you wish to be known here, please fill out a welcome card (found in each pew or online); you may drop the card into the offering plate as it is passed. Children are very welcome in this service, and child care is also available for infants and children through age four in our nursery on the lower level near the main parking lot entrance; greeters are happy to guide you. The church is open for prayer from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We hope to see you again soon!

Voluntary *Freu dich sehr, O meine Seele* (Rejoice greatly, O my soul) Johann Gottfried Walther

Hymn 56 O come, O come, Emmanuel (vs. 1-4) *Sung by all, standing as you are able.* *Veni, veni Emmanuel*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4. O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty and awe.
 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Opening Sentences

The Book of Common Prayer, page 37

Officiant Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

Confession of Sin

Prayer Book, page 41

Officiant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.
Please kneel, as you are able. A period of silence is kept.

All **Almighty and most merciful Father,**
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
 spare thou those who confess their faults,
 restore thou those who are penitent,
 according to thy promises declared unto mankind
 in Christ Jesus our Lord;
 and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
 that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
 to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Priest alone stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance,
 amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The people stand.

Invitatory

Prayer Book, page 42

Officiant

O Lord, open thou our lips.

People

And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

All

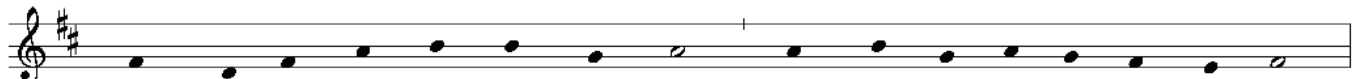
**Glorify to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Hymn 60

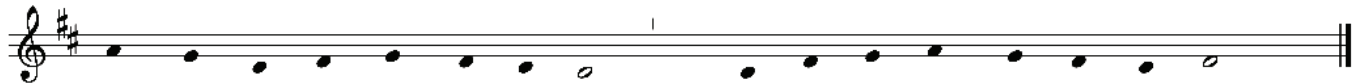
Creator of the stars of night

Sung by all, standing.

Conditor alme siderum



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
 2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
 3. When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
 4. At your great Name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
 5. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
 6. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.
 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
 not as a mon - arch, but the child of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.
 all things on earth with one ac - cord, like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 de - fend us while we dwell be - low from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

The Christmas Pageant

The Bidding Prayer

Reader: Will Rohrs

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem God's waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all people and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have Good News brought to them. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the duration of the pageant. You are welcome to join the choir in singing the hymns.

PROPHECY

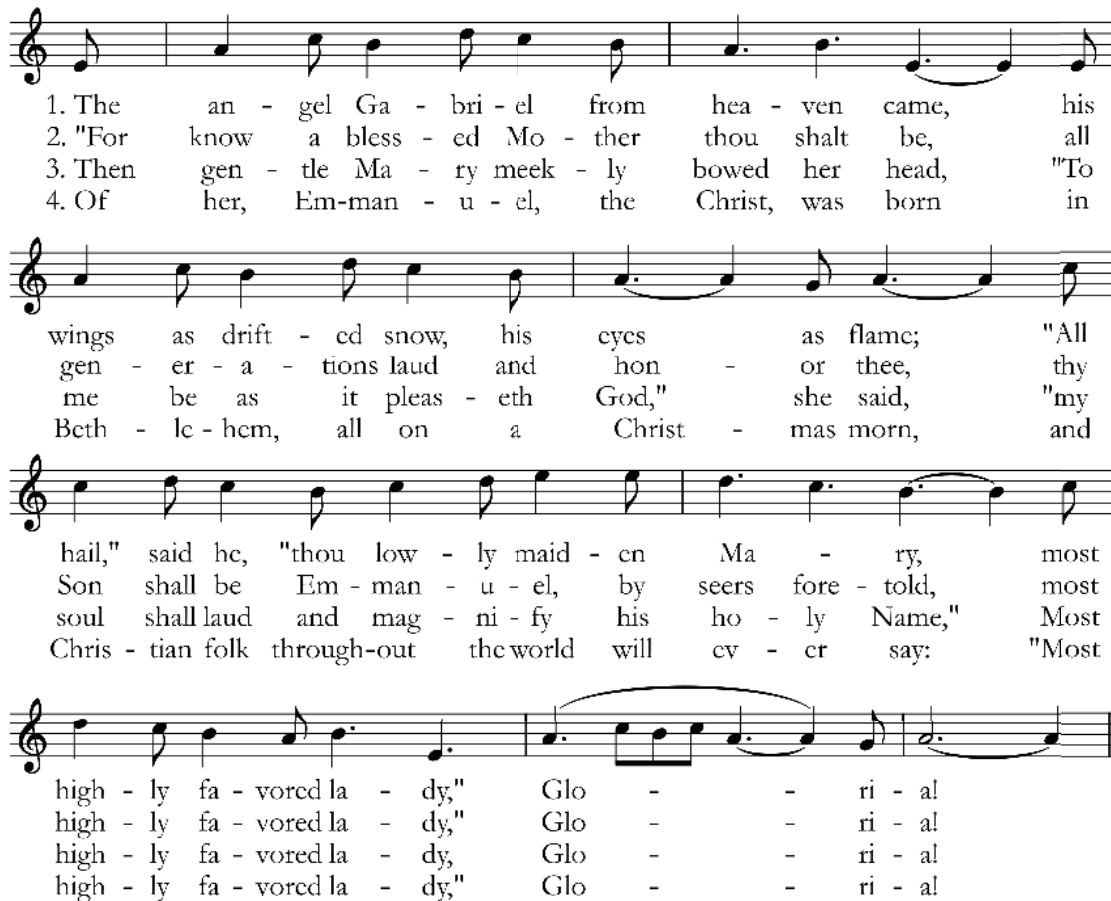
Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; **Reader:** Austin Jonas



THE ANNUNCIATION

Lesson: Luke 1:26-38; **Reader:** Jay Driscoll

Herald: Parker Birdsey; **Elizabeth:** Anna Rohrs; **Gabriel:** Alice Kidd; **Mary:** Neely Oakey



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came, his
 2. "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be, all
 3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, "To
 4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born in

wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
 gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee, thy
 me be as it pleas - eth God," she said, "my
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, and

hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry, most
 Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, most
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name," Most
 Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say: "Most

high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - - ri - al
 high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - - ri - al
 high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - - ri - al
 high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - - ri - al



THE SHEPHERDS

Lesson: Luke 2:8-20; **Reader:** Charlotte Birdsey

Herald: Archer Williams; **Prophecy Angels:** Julia Hunter Williams, Lucy Phillips; **Shepherds:** Lee Driscoll, Tom Rohrs



1. While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all
 2. "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had
 3. "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is
 4. The heaven - ly Babe you there shall find to
 5. Thus spake the scr - aph, and forth - with ap -
 6. "All glo - ry be to God on high and

seat - ed on the ground, the an - gel of the
 seized their trou - bled mind; "Glad tid - ings of great
 born of Da - vid's line the Sa - vior, who is
 hu - man view dis - played, all mean - ly wrapped in
 peared a shin - ing throng of an - gels prais - ing
 on the earth be peace; good will hence - forth from

Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
 joy I bring to you and all man - kind.
 Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
 swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."
 God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song:
 heav'n to all be - gin and ne - ver cease."



HEROD & SCRIBES

Lesson: Matthew 2:1-8; **Reader:** Jay Driscoll

Herald: Colston Raquet; **Herod:** Dalton Mika; **Scribes:** Holden Mann, Abigail Moore

Choir: A Stable Lamp is Lighted (music arr. Michael Simpson)



THE WISE MEN

Lesson: Matthew 2:9-12; **Reader:** Granger Bradshaw

Herald: Rosie Ferrell; **Magi:** Tabby Johnson, Amy Phillips, Holt Williams

Hymn 115

What child is this?

Sung by all, seated.

Greensleeves



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,



Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -



an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch arc keep - ing?
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



THE NATIVITY

Lesson: John 1:1-5, 9-14; **Reader:** Austin Jonas

Herald: Betsy Proutt; **Mary:** Ellie Burke; **Joseph:** Wyatt Hobbs; **Angel:** Betsy Spalding

Cherubs: Andrew Chase, Miriam Ould

Animals and Stars: James Buchanan, Elisabeth Chesebro, Conley Del Bueno, Elle Duffy, Elliott Hodge, Betsy Jamerson, George Jamerson, Hayes Joyner, William McCorey, Hollis Paulette, Gibbs Peple, Carson Rice, Genevieve Robertson, Mercer Russell, Milly Walter



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie! A -
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove, while
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n! So
 4. Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child, where
 5. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray; cast



bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by; yet
 mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love. O
 God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n. No
 mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild; where
 out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day. We



in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light; the
 morn - ing stars to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth! and
 ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin, where
 char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door, the
 hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell; O



hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
 meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

The Closing Prayer

Reader: Will Rohrs

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Retiring Procession of the Pageant

Hymn 102

Once in royal David's city

Sung by all, seated.

Irby



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle
 2. He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is God and Lord of
 3. We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a sta - ble should dis -
 4. For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly, when on earth he
 5. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing
 6. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing



shed, where a mo - ther laid her ba - by in a
 all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre - a - tor, cra - dled
 grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re - ject - ed, tears and
 love; for that child who seemed so help - less is our
 round, we shall see him; but in hea - ven, where his



man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry was that mo - ther
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor, the scorned, the
 there on Christ - mas Day, yet this child, our Lord and
 smiles like us he knew. Thus he feels for all our
 Lord in heav'n a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren
 saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re - vealed to faith - ful



mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child,
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly,
 bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.
 eye, set at God's right hand on high,

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray. *Please kneel as you are able.*

Prayer Book, page 54

**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.**

Suffrages B *Officiant and People read responsively.*

Prayer Book, page 55

O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine heritage;

Govern them and lift them up forever.

Day by day we magnify thee;

And we worship thy Name ever, world without end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin;

O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let thy mercy be upon us;

As our trust is in thee.

O Lord, in thee have I trusted;

Let me never be confounded.

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 160

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Welcome and Announcements

Please sit.

All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts as we participate in God's work in the world. You may offer your gift online (scan the QR code or text STSTEPHENSVA to 73256) or in an offering plate as they come by.



At the Offertory *Mater ora filium* *Sung by the choir.*

Charles Wood

Refrain: *Mater ora filium ut post hoc exilium nobis donet gaudium beatorum omnium.*

(Translation: Mother, pray thy Son that, after this exile, he may grant us the joy of all the blessed ones.)

Fair maid, who is this babe
That thou bearest in thine arms?
Sir, it is a King's son
That in heav'n above doth won.

Man to Father he had none
But himself, God alone;
Of a maid he would be born,
To save mankind that was forlorn. *Refrain*

Three kings brought him presents:
Gold, myrrh and frankincense,
To my son, full of might,
King of kings and Lord of light. *Refrain*
Fair maiden, pray for us
Unto thy son, sweet Jesus,
That he will send us of his grace
In heav'n on high to have a place. *Refrain*

At the Presentation

Sung by all, standing.

Winchester New

The fruits of our labor are presented to God, along with gifts for our food ministry.



All praise, O lov-ing God this day, your ad-vent fill our hearts we pray; and
for your birth may we pre- pare, your love to know, your light to share.

The General Thanksgiving

Prayer Book, page 54

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray. *Please kneel as you are able.*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end.**

Hymn People, look East

Sung by all, standing.

Besançon



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crow - ning of_ the year.
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plan - ted there:
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life_ to earth.



Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim_ the hearth and set_ the ta - ble.
give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that_ in course the flow'r may flour - ish.
E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God_ for fled - ging time_ has cho - sen.
shin - ing be - yond the fros - ty wea - ther, bright as sun_ and moon to - ge - ther.
Set ev' - ry peak and val - ley hum - ming with_ the word, the Lord is co - ming.



Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love, the guest, is on_ the way.
Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love, the rose, is on_ the way.
Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love, the bird, is on_ the way.
Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love, the star, is on_ the way.
Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love, the Lord, is on_ the way.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Voluntary Epilogue on *Genevan Psalm 42*

Rachel Laurin



PARTICIPANTS | OFFICIANT: The Rev. John D. Rohrs; ASSISTING PRIEST: The Rev. William S. Stanley; MUSICIANS: St. Stephen's Choristers and members of St. Stephen's Choir, Brent te Velde, *director*; Diana Chou, *organ*; VERGER: Dave Davis; ACOLYTES: Pierce Rempe, Tripp Schnell; PAGEANT WAGONEERS: James Driscoll, Courtney Ferrell, McGill Ferrell, Jeff Johnson, Abbie Jonas, Sadie Kidd, Pearl Moore, Charles Oakey, Katie Peple, Lowndes Peple, Robert Peple, Ford Proutt, Robert Proutt, Taylor Raquet, Wickham Raquet, Andie Rohrs, Alice Schnell, Carter Spalding, George Van Der Hyde, Cary Williams

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