



# Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 9 a.m. ☩ The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☩ Richmond, Virginia

## Welcome to the Palmer Hall service

We are delighted you are here. Wherever you might be on your faith journey, we hope your experience here will strengthen and affirm you. We are sure that your presence among us today strengthens others, and we welcome you to join in everything that St. Stephen's offers. Every Sunday, we offer several different services of worship (at 8, 9 and 11:15 a.m., and 5:30 and 8 p.m.), each with its own character. At 9 a.m., two services are happening simultaneously—one in the main church, and this one which takes place in Palmer Hall Chapel.

The Palmer Hall service for some feels especially welcoming to families, particularly those with babies and children. Both of the 9 a.m. services—this one, and the one in the main church—include important roles for children, and people of all ages are welcome at any service. In Palmer Hall, our worship space includes a “soft space.” This is an area with a rug, floor cushions, and children's books where children can move a bit more freely and comfortably than they can in rows of seating. Please accompany your child to the soft space if and when they want to visit it; this helps us ensure the safety and comfort of our whole community.

Both of the 9 a.m. services include Holy Eucharist. All are welcome at the altar in this place. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to intinct, touching the edge of the bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms on the front of your chest. Children who have been baptized are welcome to receive communion. The important thing is that you know God welcomes you and that this church welcomes you. Please come back often.

**Prelude** We three kings of Orient are

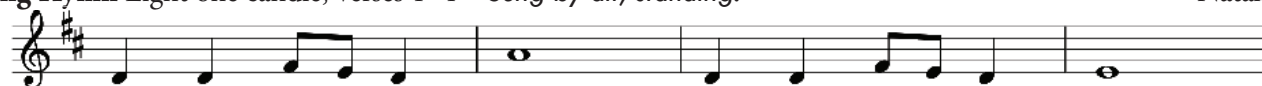
John H. Hopkins, Jr.

## Welcome

### The Word of God

**Opening Hymn** Light one candle, verses 1–4 *Sung by all, standing.*

Natalie Sleeth



1. Light one	can - dle	for	hope,	one	bright	can - dle	for	hope,
2. Light one	can - dle	for	peace,	one	bright	can - dle	for	peace,
3. Light one	can - dle	for	joy,	one	bright	can - dle	for	joy,
4. Light one	can - dle	for	love,	one	bright	can - dle	for	love,



He	brings	hope	to	ev - 'ry	heart,	He	comes!	He	comes!
He	brings	peace	to	ev - 'ry	heart,	He	comes!	He	comes!
He	brings	joy	to	ev - 'ry	heart,	He	comes!	He	comes!
He	brings	love	to	ev - 'ry	heart,	He	comes!	He	comes!

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Leader** Restore us, O Lord God of hosts. Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Stir up your strength and come to help us.

**Deacon** People of God: Keep watch! The promises of old are made new in every generation. Among you comes the kingdom for which you yearn, for you are God's children.

**People** **Lord, make us one in the love of Christ today and for ever. Amen.**

**The Collect of the Day**

Prayer Book, page 212

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

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** Micah 5:2-5a

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Canticle 15:** The Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)

Prayer Book, page 91

*Said responsively by whole verse, seated.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: \***

**the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

**He has shown the strength of his arm, \***

**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things, \***

**and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

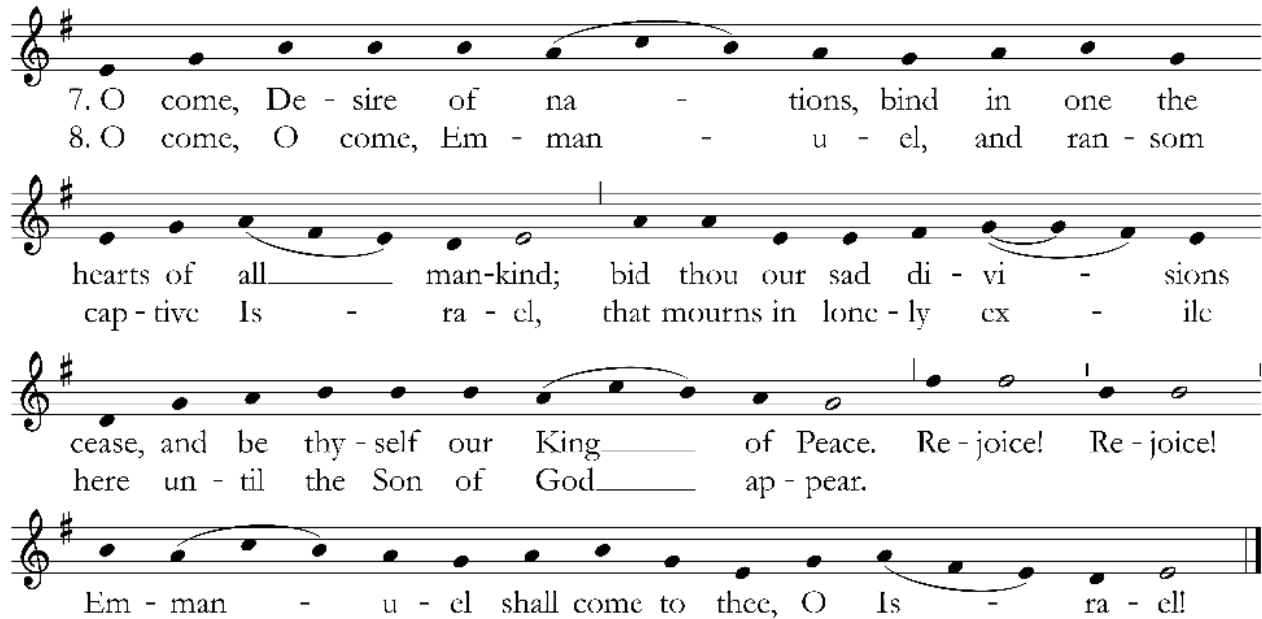
**The promise he made to our fathers, \***

**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**The Gospel Song**      *Sung by all, standing.*

**Hymn 56**      O come, O come Emmanuel (vs. 7 & 8)

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*



7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
8. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
hearts of all man-kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

**The Gospel**      Luke 1:39-45

*Reader*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

*Reader*      The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Wondering**      The Rev. Abby Kocher

*The children are invited to gather on the center rug.*

**The Creed**      *Said by all, standing.*

**I believe in God above,  
I believe in Jesus' love.  
I believe God's Spirit too,  
comes to tell me what to do.**

**I believe that I can be  
kind and good,  
dear Lord, like thee.**

**The Prayers of the People** Form VI      *Please remain standing.*

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Prayer Book page 392

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Mark and Gayle, our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*In the silence, the People may add their own petitions.*

Hear us, Lord;  
**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life [especially\_\_\_\_\_].

*In the silence, the People may add their own thanksgivings.*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died [especially\_\_\_\_\_], that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*In the silence, the People may add their own petitions.*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.*

## **The Peace**

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

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

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **Announcements**

Prayer Book, page 360

# The Holy Communion



## Offertory Sentence

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. –Revelation 4:11

*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 (use the QR code, or text STSTEPHENSVA to 73256), or in the offering plates as they come by.*

## Offertory

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

## At the Presentation

*Sung by all, standing.*

*Old 100th*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below,  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*The children are invited to follow the ushers forward to sit on the rug in front of the altar for the Great Thanksgiving.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayers, Sam Wells and Abby Kocher, p. 40

*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*

Blessed are you, God of David, for your faithfulness is steadfast and your mercy has been from of old. You draw your people to you with your promise of salvation, and every promise you make, in your goodness, you fulfill. From the house of David you raised up your Messiah to restore Judah and to herald that your deliverance was near. In your Son's righteousness we find our life: for his righteousness was more than enough for your people who had waited so long for justice, who had yearned so long for redemption, who had trusted so long in your grace. Truly in his righteousness is fulfilled every hope of salvation in every generation. By his death we can stand justified before you; and through his resurrection we can share your holy life forever. And so with angels and archangels, we praise your name, joining the company of their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

*Sung by all.*

*Land of Rest*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Celebrant*

God of glory, for whose coming we wait, make this meal we share a sign that our redemption draws near. Send your Holy Spirit upon your church: strengthen our hearts in holiness that we may be heralds of your kingdom. By your same Spirit, sanctify this bread and this cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Great is the mystery of faith.

*All*            **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant*

God of power, you have promised to make your way to us: come quickly to those who wait for you. Raise up every head that is bent low in sin. Lift up every heart that is bowed down in shame. Uphold every soul that is made heavy by oppression. Inspire every weary throat to sing of the day when justice and mercy meet. Bring us through all that is passing away to the life that shall never pass away, when every eye shall be lifted up to gaze upon your Son in everlasting glory with all your saints, and when the redemption for which we have longed shall forever be ours, the company of your Son and power of your Spirit, holy Father, blessed Trinity.

*People*            **Amen.**

*Celebrant*        And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Prayer Book, page 364

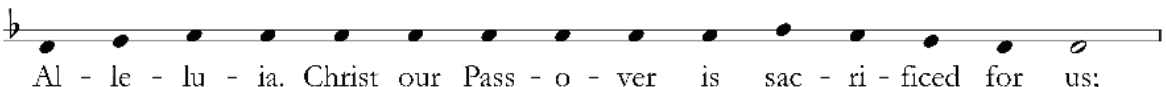
*Celebrant and People*

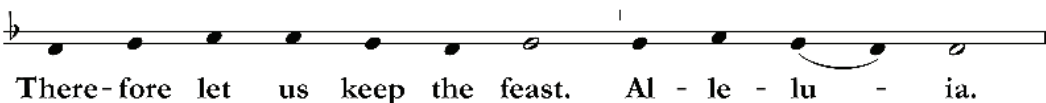
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Mason Martens

*Cantor* 

*All* 

*Celebrant*        The gifts of God for the people of God.

**At the Communion of the People**

*Communion will be served at two stations, standing. All are welcome to come forward. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please tell the minister. If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms on the front of your chest.*

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. *Please stand*

All **God of abundance,  
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one with all your people  
in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**The Blessing Song**    Go Now in Peace    *Sung by all.*    Natalie Sleeth  
**Go now in peace, go now in peace.  
May the love of God surround you,  
everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

**Hymn 265**    The angel Gabriel from heaven came    *Sung by all, standing.*    *Gabriel's Message*

**Dismissal**    Prayer Book, page 366

*Deacon*    Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People*    **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**    What child is this?    16th-century English carol



## Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Cate Anthony

DEACON: The Rev. Abby Kocher

MUSICIAN: David Kim, *piano*



## The Parish Prayer List

Ken Abrams, Charles Adams, Abigail Palmer Anthony, Rubylane Armstrong, Robert Baker, Elizabeth Bannerman, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Nancy Beeler, Kay Best, Christine Boeteger, Denise Bondy, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Liz Brengel, Leslie Brockman, Pat Brown, Turner Bruneau, Patti Bullen, Ann Campbell, Scott Carnohan, Percy Cochran, Stephanie Coleman, Susan Collier, Caswell Cooke, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, John Corey, Randy Correll, Michelle Crim, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Steven Dalle Mura, Hedley Hines Davey, Chris Davis, Alan Demascus, Ham DeRosa, Terry Dickinson, Eddie Doyle, Guy Frank, Julia G., Nancy Gauldin, Yvette Gerardin, Frank Ginty, Mary Hancock, Rodger Hardy, Marianne Harmuth, Katie Hellebush, Bob Hines, Tom Hodges, Deborah Hodgson-Lyons, Anna Hurdle, Esther Hutchison, Julie and Tom Imeson, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Gouthum Karadi, Jane Kelly, Donna Kessler, Dana King, Diedra Kriewald, Hanns Kuttner, Caleb Lambert, Laura Lewandowski, Linda Lewis, Brenda Lorenz, Genie Lucyk, Margaret Lyle, Pam Lynch, Ross Mackenzie, Peggy Maguire, Nick Martina, Barbara Mathison, Richard Maxwell, Virginia Maxwell, Michael McCabe, Stratton and Robin McCrady, Gertrude McLean, Lydia Melton, Jack Miller, John Miller, Mary Miller, Hoyt Minyard, Susan Minyard, Sallie Moncol, Blair Barre Morris, Caroline Hughes Neal, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Iralin Peple, Wilde Poole and family, Bob Pope, Tom Rader, Bryson Raquet, Wick Raquet, Stephanie Roberts, Linda Robinson, Paul Roper, Alison Roussy, Brenda Quinn, Jason R., *Jennifer Reed*, Robert Sass, James Saunders and Harriet Covey, T. Logan Scott, Charlie Seilheimer, Margie Sesler, Jane Settle, Jim and Mary Beth Shannon, Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Josh Spain, Reilly Starr, Dorothy Suskind, Jim Teachey, Jens Tholand, Margaret Thompson, Will Thompson, Tim, Nelson Toebbe, Langdon Tollett, Tom Turney, Kenneth Valke, Crystal Vines, Cordelia Vogel, Timothy W., Mac Wade, Ozzie Wade, Jane Wallace, Suzanne Wallace, Baird Weisleder, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Nelson Williams, Franklin Willis, Trevor Wilson, Mary Wiltshire, Trevor Wingate, Paul Leddington Wright, Karen Young, Margaret P. Young. **For those expecting a child**, especially Sarah and Andrew Klein, Meghan and Andrew Lawrence, and Sarah and Nathan Smith. **For those who have died**, *especially Ed Blanken and W. Hewlett Stith*. **For our missionaries**, Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega, and the people they serve in Argentina. **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for *the Church of the Province of Uganda*. **For ReWork Richmond. For an end to gun violence. For peace and reconciliation** in Haiti, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, North Korea, South Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine, and at our borders. **For those serving overseas in the military or diplomatic service**: CPT Anna Broadbent-Evelyn and Lt. Jonathan Dean Hudson.

*Names in italics were added to the prayer list this week.*

*In order to keep our prayer list current and facilitate the intentionality and mindfulness with which we pray, we print names on the list for three months or less. If you would like for someone to remain on the list for more (or less) time, please call the office or email Mary Feldman at [mfeldman@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:mfeldman@ststephensRVA.org).*

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