

The First Sunday of

# ADVENT

November 29th, 2020



WHAT I SAY TO YOU, I SAY TO EVERYONE: WATCH!



**St. Stephen's**

Episcopal Church + Lakeland, Florida

To Love and Serve God and Neighbor

## Opening Hymn

#542, “Christ is the World’s True Light” verses 1&2

*Christ is the world’s true light,  
its Captain of salvation,  
the Daystar clear and bright  
of every race and nation;  
new life, new hope awakes,  
for all who own his sway:  
freedom her bondage breaks,  
and night is turned to day.*

*In Christ all races meet,  
their ancient feuds forgetting,  
the whole round world complete,  
from sunrise to its setting:  
when Christ is throned as Lord,  
all shall forsake their fear,  
to ploughshare beat the sword,  
to pruning-hook the spear.*

## Opening Acclamation

+ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

## 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.**

## O Come, O Come Emmanuel

verses 1&2

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!***

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go.

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!***

## The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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.**

## **The First Reading**

A Reading from First Corinthians.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*(1 Corinthians 1:3-9)*

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Psalm**

80:1-7

**Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

+ Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### The Holy Gospel

+ + + The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "But in those days, following that distress, 'the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: Watch!”

*(Mark 13:24-37)*

The Gospel of The Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

## The Nicene Creed

**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

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;  
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

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;  
especially those on our prayer list and the suffering people of  
the world.

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the  
needy.**

For those serving in the armed forces, those wounded or  
recovering in veterans' hospitals, those serving in combat and  
those serving in safety.

**For the peace and protection of God.**

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

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Greg our Bishop, David,  
Rob, and Doug our clergy, and for all bishops and other  
ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For blessings upon Tyler and Sadee;  
**For healthy babies and a safe delivery.**

For our schools, scouts, and all of the children and youth of  
our parish.

**For your grace and their ever growing knowledge and love  
of you.**

For our parish family.



**Bind us together and draw us always closer to you.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life;

*(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)*

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.

**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.**

+ Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with repentance and faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and

strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you.**

## The Announcements

Sunday services will continue at 9am, 10am, and 11am with a Wednesday morning service at 9am. The 9am Sunday service will continue to be livestreamed on an ongoing basis. Sunday School at 10am and Coffee Hour after each service.  
**Check your FYI for our ongoing Christmas donations.**

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 80:3

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light  
of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

## The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.  
(Ephesians 5:2)

## “White As Snow”

*White as snow, white as snow  
Though my sins were as scarlet  
Lord I know, Lord I know That I'm clean and forgiven  
Through the power of your blood,*

*Through the wonder of your love,  
Through faith in you I know that I can be white as snow.*

## The Presentation

All things come of thee, O Lord,  
And of thine own have we given thee.

(1 Chronicles 29:14)

## Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**+ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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 many 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;**

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 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.**

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

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

## The Family Song

*Here we are, gathered together as a family  
Bound as one, lifting up our voices to the King of kings  
We sing Abba, Father, holy is Your name  
Abba, Father, holy is Your name.*

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Please stay at your seat. The clergy will come to you with the consecrated Bread.

### *“Humble Thyself”*

*Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord  
(Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord),  
Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord  
(Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord),  
and he (and he) will lift (will lift) you up,  
higher and higher,  
and he (and he) will lift (will lift) you up.*

*Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord  
(Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord),  
Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord  
(Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord),  
and he (and he) will lift (will lift) you up,  
higher and higher,  
and he (and he) will lift (will lift) you up*

## The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Prayers, Intercessions, and Thanksgiving

#### Birthdays This Week:

Kim Jackimowicz, Fr. Rob Moses, Henry Chilton,  
Carol Harris, Rick Yenney

#### Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### The Blessing

+ May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and his son Jesus Christ and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

## Closing Hymn

#542, “Christ is the World’s True Light” verse 3

*One Lord, in one great Name  
unite us all who own thee;  
cast out our pride and shame  
that hinder to enthrone thee;  
the world has waited long,  
has travailed long in pain;  
to heal its ancient wrong,  
come, Prince of Peace, and reign.*

## The Dismissal

Go in Peace, to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

