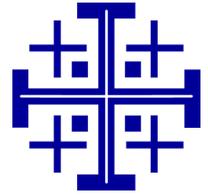




Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

Episcopal/Anglican Alexandria, Virginia



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Lessons and Carols for Advent, Rite II, 10:30 a.m.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Prelude: He shall feed his flock, Come unto Him *from* Messiah George Frideric Handel
Emily Riley and Felicity Amos, sopranos

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd;
and He shall gather the lambs with His arm,
and carry them in His bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto Him, all ye that labour,
come unto Him all that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest.
Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him,
for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Opening Hymn 56 “O come, O come Emmanuel” verses 1,3,5, and 8 *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*

1. O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

5 O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

8 O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

THE WORD OF GOD

A Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within the city of Alexandria. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

These prayer and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven. The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

First Reading: Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25

Read by Debbie Hewson

Adam and Eve Created

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up -- for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground -- then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 60: "Creator of the stars of night" (verses 1-5)

Conditor alme siderum

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|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
we pray you, hear us when we call. | 3 | When this old world drew on toward night.
you came, but not in splendor bright.
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild. . |
| 2 | In sorrow that the ancient curse,
should doom to death a universe,
you came, O Savior, to set us free,
your own in glorious liberty. | 4 | At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
all things on earth with one accord.
like those in heaven, shall call You Lord. |
| 5 | Come in your holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below, from all assaults of our dread foe. | | |

Adam and Eve rebel against God

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?”’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ He said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’ The Lord God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.’ To the woman he said, ‘I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.’ And to the man he said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, “You shall not eat of it”, cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.’

The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all who live. And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them. Then the Lord God said, ‘See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever’

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Choir Anthem: *Adam lay ybounden*

15th century text

Peter Warlock

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond
 Four thousand winter, thought he not too long
 And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
 As clerkes finden written in their book,
 Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been
 Ne had never out lad abeen Heavene queen
 Blessed be the time that apple taken was
 Therefore we moun singen Deo Gracias!

God's People are Comforted

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 67: Comfort, comfort ye my people"*Psalm 42*

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| <p>1 Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.</p> | <p>2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.</p> |
| <p>3 Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain:
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord, now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token, that the word is never broken.</p> | |

Fourth Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9a

Read by Rosie Urbine

O That You Would Tear Open the Heavens

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence -- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil -- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face

from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 640: “Watchman tell us of the night”

Aberystwyth

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| 1 Watchman, tell us of the night,
what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
promised day of Israel. | 2 Watchman, tell us of the night;
higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
see, it bursts o'er all the earth. |
| 3 Watchman, tell us of the night,
for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;
hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,
lo! the Son of God is come! | |

Fifth Reading: Baruch 4:36-5:9

Read by Brad Ashton

People Look East, Salvation Is At Hand

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God. Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, “Righteous Peace, Godly Glory.” Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God’s command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Choir Anthem: “A tender shoot”

Colin Davey

- 1 A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,
as ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race:
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter,
turning our darkness into light.
- 2 This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring;
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;
Our God of endless might gave her this child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.

Sixth Reading: Isaiah 7:1-15

Read by Mary Ann Rehnke

God promises that a child will be conceived who will be known as “God with us”

In the days of Ahaz son of Jotham son of Uzziah, king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel went up to attack Jerusalem, but could not mount an attack against it. When the house of David heard that Aram had allied itself with Ephraim, the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

Then the Lord said to Isaiah, Go out to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Fuller’s Field, and say to him, Take heed, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah. Because Aram—with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah—has plotted evil against you, saying, Let us go up against Judah and cut off Jerusalem and conquer it for ourselves and make the son of Tabeel king in it; therefore thus says the Lord God: It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass. For the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. (Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered, no longer a people.) The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you do not stand firm in faith, you shall not stand at all.

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.

The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem: “Drop down, ye heavens”

George Alexander McFarren

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness:
let the earth open,
and let them bring forth salvation.
Amen.

The Angel Gabriel comes to Mary

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God.

Offertory Anthem: "And the glory of the Lord "

George Frideric Handel

Quartet: Felicity Amos, soprano
Allan Gervacio, tenor
Emily Riley, soprano
Vasili Varfis, bass

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it
Together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

The Homily: The Reverend Sam Sheridan

The Peace

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

Welcome from the Rector

The Prayers of the People

After the words "Let us say together,"
the congregation responds with "**Come Lord Jesus.**"

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 61: “ ‘Sleepers wake!’ A voice astounds us”

Wachet auf

- 1 “Sleepers, wake!” a voice astounds us; the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!" Midnight's peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken: "The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up, and give us light; the Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there, that you the wedding feast may share."
- 2 Zion hears the watchmen singing. her heart with joyful hope is springing;
she wakes and hurries through the night. Forth he comes, her Bridegroom glorious
in strength of grace, in truth victorious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
Now come, most worthy Lord, God's Son, Incarnate Word, Alleluia!
We follow all and heed your call to come into the banquet hall.
- 3 Lamb of God, the heavens adore you; let saints and angels sing before you,
as harps and cymbals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:
through them we stream to join the immortals as we with joy your throne surround.
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such delight: Alleluia!
Therefore we sing to greet our King; forever let our praises ring.

The Dismissal

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

Postlude: Noel

Louis-Claude Daquin

SERVING AT THIS EUCHARIST:

Readers: Debbie Hewson, Dana Wilkie, Julie Bruns, Rosi Urbine, Brad Ashton, Mary Ann Rehnke, Harrison Clark; **Intercessor:** Tom Hewson; **Musicians:** Felicity Amos, Allan Gervacio, Emily Riley, Vasili Varfis, The Virtual Immanuel Choir: Jamie Conrad, Amanda Eisenhour, Jeannie Cummins Eisenhour, Allan Gervacio, Rick Glassco, Sarah Glassco, Thomas Iwasawa, Paul Lartey, Sudie McGahuey, Paul Smyth, Emily Riley, Brooke Roberts, Lise Wills, and Dr. Jane Tavernier; **Audio-Visual:** John Bednar; **Clergy:** The Rev. J Randolph Alexander, The Rev. Susan D. Parsons, The Rev. Sam Sheridan

A Brief History of LESSONS AND CAROLS: The service of Lessons and Carols as we know it is a relatively recent development in the Christian liturgical tradition. It dates to December 1918, at King's College, Cambridge, in the days immediately following the end of World War I. The Rev. Eric Milner-White, Dean of the College and a British army chaplain who had served troops on the front lines, developed the liturgy as an opportunity to remember God's great promises, even in the midst of so much suffering and untold devastation. The lessons speak of God's great plan of salvation as the prophets of Israel articulated it and as it became realized in the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether focused upon the waiting and promises of Advent (as we experience today) or on the promise realized in the Christmas season, the service of Lessons and Carols has become a beloved Anglican tradition experienced by millions around the world.



GAUDETE SUNDAY, the third Sunday of Advent, takes its name from the Latin word *Gaudete*, which means “rejoice.” It is the first word in the proper Introit for the third Sunday of Advent, from the Roman missal. It is often symbolized by a pink or rose color, hence the traditional pink candle in Advent wreaths. The readings for this day are characterized by joy and expectancy, as we look towards the celebration of Our Lord's Nativity.

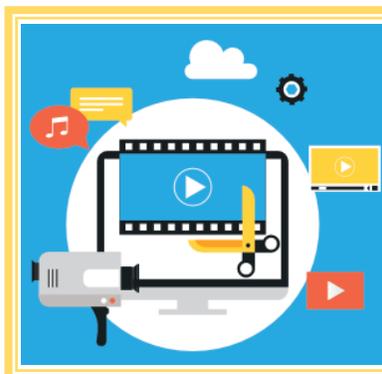


Join us for a [Virtual Sunday Coffee Hour](#) immediately after today's 10:30 a.m. online service via Zoom.

To log-in on your computer: Visit our website www.icoh.net, at the top menu select "Worship", then "Worship Service Bulletin" from the pull-down menu. Click on this bulletin, then:

- click the blue text: [Join Zoom Coffee Hour NOW](#),
- enter Meeting ID: **853 9092 9796**, followed by the Password: **352917**.

To join by telephone, dial: **1 (301) 715-8592**, then enter the meeting ID and password above using your phone's keypad.



If you'd still like to participate in our Christmas Memories Video **Father Sam** will be recording Christmas Memories with people after today's Coffee Hour.

This is the perfect opportunity for anyone who wants to be part of this small portion of our 2020 Christmas but doesn't want to figure out how to record and send videos!