

# Bulletin for December 20

## Blue Christmas: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

You will find our live stream on our [homepage](#), on [Facebook](#) (where you can interact with others watching with comments), and on [Youtube](#).

### Prelude

“O Come All Ye Faithful” arr. Mark Hayes  
Matt Chapman, pianist

*The congregation is invited to say the words together in bold. Please sing along with us! To prepare for worship, you may want to place a candle or two in the place where you worship, to light during the opening prayer.*

### Welcome

*The ushers and the rector welcome the congregation. If you are new to us, consider filling out our [“get connected”](#) form, let us get to know you better.*

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### Advent Bidding Prayer:

*You may add your prayer requests in the comments at any time. Know people will pray for you. The response to the prayer is the ancient Advent Hymn “O Come O Come Emmanuel”*

Comfort, comfort, Lord, your Holy people. Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning ‘neath our sorrow’s load. Speak to us of the peace that awaits us, of the balm of healing for our weary souls. Help us to know, even in the midst of this season where many are joyful, many are bright, that you hear the cries of your people. You come down to deliver them.

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O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y pow'r to  
here save, and give them vic - tory God o'er the grave.  
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Let us know this day that we do not grieve, we do not sorrow alone. But let us pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for leaders of nations and communities, especially for those preparing to assume elected office. For our partners at Cristosal working on behalf of human rights in Central America, and all those who work for justice and peace.

For the mission and unity of the church, for bishops, priests, deacons, and all who minister in Christ's name. In this Missouri Diocese we pray this week for St. John's Church, Tower Grove, in the city of St. Louis.

And because Christ particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children. In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, we remember all those who are suffering with the disease, and all of the nurses, doctors, and first responders caring for them. We remember family members who are unable to visit, especially as infections increase. *You are invited to add your own prayers, even to write your prayer request in the comments as you watch.*

Finally, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. **Amen.**

## Opening Sentences

The Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’. –*Revelation 7:17*

O God, open thou our lips.

**And our mouths shall show forth thy praise.**

**Glory to God, Source of all being, Incarnate Word, and Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

### The Collect of the Day

*The Presider reads ancient prayers that signify our longing for Christ’s coming, and the coming of God’s reign as we light an additional candle each week during Advent. You are invited to light your wreath with us (or any candle).*

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.**

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# Opening Hymn

My Lord, What a Morning *Traditional, arranged by Gene Dobbs Bradford and Steve Johnston*

*Harmony*

My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing, O

*Fine*

my Lord, what a morn-ing, When the stars be-gin to fall.

*Unison*

1. You'll hear the trum-pet sound,  
2. You'll hear the sin-ner mourn, To wake the  
3. You'll hear the Chris-tian shout,

na-tions un-der-ground, Look-ing to my God's right

*D.C.*

hand, When the stars be-gin to fall.

## THE FIRST READING:

A Reading from the book of Romans (Romans 16:25-27)

May the glory be to God who can strengthen you with my good news and the message that I preach about Jesus Christ. He can strengthen you with the announcement of the secret that was kept quiet for a long time. Now that secret is revealed through what the prophets wrote. It is made known to the Gentiles in order to lead to their faithful obedience based on the command of the eternal God. May the glory be to God, who alone is wise! May the glory be to him through Jesus Christ forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

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## THE PSALM (PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26) *Saint Helena Psalter*

Your love, O God, for ever will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever;  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

‘I will establish your line for ever,  
and preserve your throne for all generations.’ ”

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:  
“I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

I have found David my servant;  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

My hand will hold him fast  
and my arm will make him strong.

No enemy shall deceive him,  
nor any adversary bring him down.

I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and love shall be with him,  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.

I shall make his dominion extend  
from the Great Sea to the River.

He will say to me, ‘You are my Creator,  
my God and the rock of my salvation.’

**Glory to God, Source of all being, Incarnate Word, and Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

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THE GOSPEL READING

# Blue Christmas

Posted on [December 15, 2020](#)

## The fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2020

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[Click to download PDF](#)

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O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
by thy draw - ing night; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
here un - til the dark son of God ap - pear.  
night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Let us know this day that we do not grieve, we do not sorrow alone. But let us pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for leaders of nations and communities, especially for those preparing to assume elected office. For our partners at Cristosal working on behalf of human rights in Central America, and all those who work for justice and peace.

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## Opening Sentences

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## The Collect of the Day

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## Opening Hymn

**My Lord, What a Morning** *Traditional, arranged by Gene Dobbs Bradford and Steve Johnston*

*Harmony*

My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing, — O

my Lord, what a morn-ing, When the stars be-gin to fall.

**Fine**

*Unison*

1. You'll hear the trum - pet sound, —  
 2. You'll hear the sin - ner mourn, — To wake the  
 3. You'll hear the Chris - tian shout, —

na - tions un - der - ground, — Look - ing to my God's right

hand, When the stars be - gin to fall.

*D.C.*

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## The Readings

*We hear the stories of the experience of God from our spiritual ancestors. Following an ancient pattern originally from Jewish synagogue worship, readings follow a set calendar for what will be read when.*

### THE **FIRST READING**:

A Reading from the book of Romans (Romans 16:25-27)

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**Thanks be to God**

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You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:  
“I have set the crown upon a warrior  
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I have found David my servant;  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

My hand will hold him fast  
and my arm will make him strong.

No enemy shall deceive him,  
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I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and love shall be with him,  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.

I shall make his dominion extend  
from the Great Sea to the River.

He will say to me, 'You are my Creator,  
my God and the rock of my salvation.'

**Glory to God, Source of all being, Incarnate Word, and Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

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## THE GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke (Luke 1:26-38)  
**Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. Nothing is impossible for God."

Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

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

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## **The Sermon: The Rev. Mike Angell**

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### **Anthem: Waiting** *by Joel Raney*

Waiting, we are waiting for the coming King.  
Waiting, we are waiting for the bells of heaven to ring.  
When the valleys rise up and the mountains lie down,  
Savior's gonna come to claim his heavenly crown.  
Waiting, we are waiting for the coming King.

Waiting, we are waiting for the sun to rise.  
Waiting, we are waiting till the clouds don't cover the skies.  
For the fighting to stop, for the quarrels to cease,  
Savior's gonna come and bring us heavenly peace.  
Waiting, we are waiting for the coming King.

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 thee, o Israel.

Waiting, we are waiting for the coming King.  
Waiting, we are waiting for the angel chorus to sing.  
When the valleys rise up and the mountains lie down,  
Savior's gonna come to claim his heavenly crown.  
Waiting, we are waiting for the coming King.

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## **Prayer for Stewardship**

*Holy Communion's annual campaign for giving is ongoing. Pledge statements are coming, to help you make sure you've made your pledge, and to help you know where you pledge stands at the end of the year. Keep an eye out. We are at about 80% in for pledges, compared to last year. Vestry and Stewardship will call folks who haven't pledged in the coming days; please pick up the phone. We are grateful to those who have pledged. We know this is a hard year, and we want to help if we can. Several givers have increased their giving to help cover for those who can't pledge all they'd like to give. You can pledge online, mail in a card, or fill one out on a Christmas visit.*

Gracious and everlasting God, the giver of all good gifts, you have blessed us and our parish abundantly. Grant us the hope to dream and the courage to live into our possibilities. Make us faithful stewards, both for the provision of our necessities and for the relief of those who are in need. Bless the efforts of our Annual Giving this year to extend the work of spiritual renewal in our church and community of faith. Through Jesus Christ, who gave all of himself, we offer this prayer. Amen.

## **Announcements:**

*Announcements are shared*

[See announcements](#)

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## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray in the way Christ taught us, and in the language of our hearts.

**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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn: Sweet Sweet Spirit** *Traditional, arranged by Gene Dobbs Bradford and Steve Johnston*

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, \_\_\_\_\_ and I  
 2. There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive \_\_\_\_\_ till you  
 3. If you say He saved you from your sin, \_\_\_\_\_ Now you're

know that it's the Spir - it of \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ There are  
 know Him in His full - ness and \_\_\_\_\_ be - lieve. \_\_\_\_\_ You're the  
 weak, you're bound, and can - not en - ter in, \_\_\_\_\_ you can

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, \_\_\_\_\_ And I  
 one to pro - fit when you say, \_\_\_\_\_ "I am  
 make it right if you will yield; \_\_\_\_\_ You'll en -

know they feel the pres - ence of \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_  
 going to walk with Je - sus all \_\_\_\_\_ the way." \_\_\_\_\_  
 joy the Ho - ly Spir - it that \_\_\_\_\_ we feel. \_\_\_\_\_

**Refrain**

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, Sweet Heav - en - ly Dove, Stay right here  
 with us, \_\_\_\_\_ fill - ing us with your love. And for these bless - ings, \_\_\_\_\_ we  
 lift our hearts in praise; With - out a doubt we'll know \_\_\_\_\_ that we have  
 been re - lived \_\_\_\_\_ when we shall leave this place.

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## Concluding Prayers

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

With love and compassion,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

With judgement and mercy,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

In power and glory,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

In wisdom and truth,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and may the Blessing of the Triune God be with us all this day and to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

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## The Peace

*The Peace is then exchanged.*  
The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The Peace is then exchanged. Consider sending a text, a message on Facebook, or even writing a letter or email to someone who could use some peace.*

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## Concluding Hymn:

*Amazing Grace* Traditional, arranged by Gene Dobbs Bradford and Steve Johnston

1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, That  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And  
 3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
 4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright

1. saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 2. grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 3. word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
 4. have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace that brought me to  
 5. shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

1. now am found, Was blind, but now I see.  
 2. grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!  
 3. por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
 4. safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.  
 5. sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

*The Deacon dismisses the congregation:*

Let us Bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude:

**This Little Light of Mine** *Traditional, arranged by Gene Dobbs Bradford and Steve Johnston*

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two phrases: 'This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine! This lit-tle light of mine,'. The second staff continues with 'I'm gon-na let it shine! This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it'. The third staff concludes with 'shine! Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!'.

2. *Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!*
3. *Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine!*

### Service Leaders

Preacher: The Rev. Marc Smith  
Presider: The Rev. Mike Angell  
Deacon: The Rev. Chester Hines  
Seminarian: Emilee Walker-Cornetta  
Guest Musicians: Gene Dobbs Bradford and Steve Johnston  
Ushers: Joe Adams, the MacGregor Family  
Intercessors: Alisa Williams, Jillian Smith, Peter Tchoukaleff  
Lectors: Ellis Anderson, Fran Caradonna  
The Lord's Prayer: Janice Nihill  
Prelude: Matt Chapman  
Director of Music: Mary Chapman  
Streaming Producer: Tyler Schwartz

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*The Advent Bidding Prayer was adapted by our rector from the service of Lessons and Carols from King's college.*

*The second part of the closing prayers are adapted from Common Worship from the Church of England.*