

# ADVENT WEEK 4 INSERT

Sat. 18 Dec 5pm & Sun. 19 Dec 11am

*Love*

**Prelude:** *“Ding Dong! Merrily on High”*, based on 16th century French tune, arr  
by Todd Kendall

**Opening Hymn** *“Creator of the Start of Night”* #60

**Advent Wreath lighting:** *O Come O Come Emmanuel vs. 7 & 8* #56

**Closing Hymn** *“Star Child Earth Child”* **G** #355

**Postlude:** *“Thou Didst leave Thy Throne”*, tune *“Margaret”* by Timoth R Matthews, piano  
arr by David Paxton

## **This weekend’s Servers:**

### **Sat 5 pm:**

**LEM:** Tim Holsonback

**Lector:** Sandra Calhoun

### **Sun 11 am:**

**LEM:** Robin St. Clair

**Lector:** Nancy Rea

## **Collect of the Day**

**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.**

## First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

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.**

## The Psalm

The Song of Mary *Magnificat* **Luke 1:46-55** (*Read aloud in unison*)

**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.  
Glory 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.**

## Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,  
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

.Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## 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**

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## St Stephen's Announcements Dec 16-22 2021

### **Help for those in Kentucky after tornadoes devastated communities:**

Please consider making a contribution to one of the emergency funds for those who lost homes, cars, businesses, etc. in the recent tornadoes. This link is to the diocese of Kentucky website where multiple options for giving are listed with links. You can give to the diocese, the churches, the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund, or other general funds.

<https://www.episcopalky.org/disaster.html>

### **Advent Study – “I Witness” – Booklets available on table near front door of church.**

Adult forum to discuss each week's readings Sat 4pm and Sunday 12:30pm starting on November 28<sup>th</sup>. One book per household please. All are welcome and encouraged to join the discussion.

**Blue Christmas at St. Raphael's** on Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm - For those who are mourning a loss this Christmas season, this is a space and time to feel you're not so Holly Jolly emotions.

**Helpers for decorating for Christmas Eve requested.** Come Thursday Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9am to help change from Advent to Christmas in the church. Thanks.

**Christmas Eve Service Friday Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm.** No worship service Saturday Dec 25<sup>th</sup>. Christmas “Day” Service on Sunday Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 11am.

**New Year's Eve Service at St. Raphael's Benson** - Dec 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am come bid farewell to 2021 and hello to 2022 in this worship service

**ALL Worshippers** – Please recycle your bulletins for Advent. They will be reused each week with new lectionary inserts.

**Christmas bonus** - Each year we like to offer a Christmas bonus to our staff. Please donate to the employee purse for Mark, Doreen, and Deborah our new sexton to give them a nice end of the year gift.

**The Church will be closed for the week between Christmas and New Years.** Office hours will resume Tuesday Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 2022. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!