



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

Saturday 23 Dec 5pm 2023



Preludes:

"Firm in Faith", Camille Saint-Saens from the Christmas Oratorio, Arr Lani Smith

&

"Still, Still, Still", Austrian Carol, Arr Chip Davis

Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

Greeting

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - #54 vs.1-2: #54 Savior of the nations, come!
(Congregation sings while the candle(s) on the wreath are lighted)

Advent

54



3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er

his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

All: 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 Word of God *(please be seated for the lessons)*

First Reading : 1 Samuel 1:19-28:

Hannah and Elkanah rose early in the morning and bowed down and worshiped before the HOLY ONE OF OLD; then they turned back and went to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the HOLY ONE remembered her. And it was with the turning of the days that Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She called his name Samuel (God hears), for she said, "From the GOD WHO HEARS have I asked him."

Now the man Elkanah went up along with his whole household to offer to the HOLY ONE the yearly sacrifice, on account of a vow. Yet Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "[Not] until the child is weaned, then will I bring him, that he may be seen in the presence of the MOST HIGH and remain there perpetually. I will present him as a Nazirite in perpetuity, for all the days of his life." Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Do what is best in your eyes, stay until you have weaned him. May the FAITHFUL GOD establish the words of your mouth." So, the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. And she took him up with her after she had weaned him along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a jug of wine. Hannah brought him to the house of the EVER-LIVING GOD at Shiloh and the boy was just a little boy. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the boy to Eli. And Hannah said, "My lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman, the one who was standing beside you in this [place] to pray to the GOD WHO HEARS. For this boy I prayed; and the FAITHFUL GOD gave me my asking, what I asked from God. Therefore, have I bequeathed him to the GRACIOUS GOD; all his days will he be a bequest to the GOD WHOSE NAME IS HOLY."

So, she left him there and she bowed down and worshipped the FAITHFUL GOD.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle of Hannah (1 Samuel 2: 1—10)

Hannah prayed and she said, "My heart exults in the HOLY ONE OF OLD; my horn is lifted up in my God. My mouth [opens] wide against my enemies, for I will rejoice in my victory. The bows of the mighty are broken, yet the feeble gird on warrior-strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, yet those who were hungry are fat.

She who was barren has birthed seven children, yet she who has many children languishes. The CREATOR OF ALL kills and gives life; brings down to Sheol and raises up. The GRACIOUS ONE makes poor and makes rich; brings low and also lifts up. God raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from heaps of human waste, to seat them with nobles and inherit a seat of honor. For to the CREATOR belong the pillars of the earth, and on them God has set the world.

God will guard the feet of the faithful who belong to God, while the wicked perish in shadow; for it is not by might that one prevails. The HOLY ONE OF SINAI! Those who strive against God shall be shattered; God thunders against them from heaven. The FOUNT OF JUSTICE will judge the ends of the earth; God will give strength to God's ruler and exalt the power of the anointed of God."

Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7:

When the graciousness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, God saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to God's mercy. This Spirit God poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by God's grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of life eternal.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew (1:18-25):

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Now this is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah happened: When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to have a child in her womb from the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a just man and unwilling to shame her, he wanted to divorce her secretly. But when he deliberated this, suddenly an angel of the Most High God appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for in her is conceived a child from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this happened to fulfill what had been spoken by the Most High God through the prophet:

"Look now! The virgin shall conceive a child in her womb and give birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel,"

which translated means, "God is with us."

When Joseph got up from sleep, he did as the angel of the Most High God commanded him. He took her as his wife, yet did not know her sexually until her birthing of a son and named him Jesus.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord **People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

SERMON

The Nicene Creed All say together

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:

Leader: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

All: And grant us your salvation.

Leader: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

All: Let your people sing with joy.

Leader: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world

All: For only in you can we live in safety.

Leader: Lord keep this nation under your care;

All: And guide us in the way of justice and truth

Leader: Let your way be known upon Earth;

All: Your saving health among all nations.

Leader: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

All: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

All: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

*Leader: In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for **The Diocese of Biharamulo –
The Anglican Church of Tanzania.***

*In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for **St. Michael's & All Angels, in Tucson.***

We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples of this land especially the Apache and Tohono O'odham who call this area their home. Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints,

All: We commend these we pray for, ourselves, and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(The people stand, sit, or kneel. A short pause may be kept)

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Exchange of the Peace

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you

All And also with you.

The Ministers and People exchange signs of peace (peace sign, hugs, handshakes, fist bumps...)

Offertory

The Presider: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name, bring offerings and come into his courts.

Offertory Music *“God of Day and God of Darkness”*

G#750

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Rite II Prayer B BCP p. 372

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, became human of the Virgin Mary his mother; that that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

All: *Sanctus from Mass of Creation*

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of
hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry.
Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the
high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

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 forever. **AMEN.**

And now as Jesus taught us, we pray:

Lord's Prayer:

**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 *(In silence the Presider breaks the bread)*

Fraction Anthem:

Lamb of God S-163

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace." The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes), rests, and dynamic markings. There are three trills (marked with a '3' and a slur) and a fermata over the final note. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: 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 and with thanksgiving.

(In this church, everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion. The bread is gluten free and it is real wine. If you prefer to dip/intinct your bread into the wine, please come to the left altar rail. If you prefer to sip the wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, come to either rail and cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you).

Communion Music

"Star Child"

G#335

Birthday, Anniversary, Healing, Travel and Gratitude acknowledgement

Post Communion Prayer *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider: Let us pray:
Presider and People

**Almighty and ever-living God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Presider: May the simplicity, stillness, and serenity of this Advent season bring peace and fulfillment to your hearts and homes; and the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Song/Hymn *“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”*

#66

The Dismissal:

Deacon: People of St. Stephen’s, what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, alleluia!

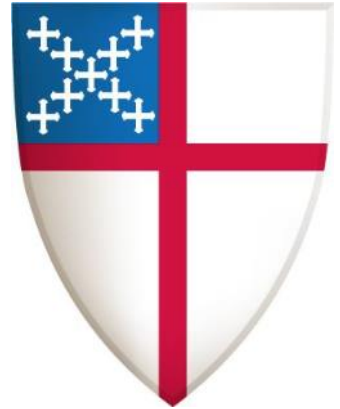
People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude : *“The First Noel”*, traditional English Carol, arr by Jim Brickman

Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.



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Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

Name _____ (first) _____ (Mid.) _____ (Last)

Hm: _____ Cell _____

Email: _____ Anv. Date _____

Adrs: _____ BrthDate _____

City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____