

SAINT GEORGE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MILFORD, MICHIGAN

*God Loves You.
No Exceptions!*



The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
at 10:15 a.m.

The Rev. Michelle Werner
Rector

Mr. John Potter
Music Minister
In-Person & Livestreamed

Prelude *Blest be the God of Israel who comes to set us free* Canticle 16 The Song of Zechariah

The people stand as comfortable

Processional Hymn H-82 #56, vs. 5, 7 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* *Veni, Emmanuel*

Words - 8th c Latin, trans. ©1940 Church Publishing, Inc.

Music - Accomp. Richard T. Proulx ©1975 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music - Arr. Wilbur Held ©1959 Concordia Publishing House

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living God:

People **You come to your people and set them free!**

At the Advent Wreath

Celebrant Let us pray. *Silence.*

Come, O Holy One, breaker of chains and renewer of life! Open our eyes to your presence in all the earth. Stir us to rejoice in the signs of your love: the liberation of the oppressed, the healing of the frail and broken, the springing up of water in parched places, and the coming once and again of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

Three candles are lighted

Hymn of Praise

Kyrie

Tune -*Stille Nacht*, H-82 # 111 P.D.

Words - Arr. © Sarah Taylor P.D.

Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son, Chri-ste e-le-i-son

Lord have mer-cy on us. Christ have mer-cy on us.

Lord have mer-cy on us. Christ have merc-y on us.

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All may be seated for the lessons

First Lesson | Isaiah 35: 1-10

The Return of the Redeemed to Zion

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 35, beginning at the 1st verse.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter | 146:4-9 H-82 #429 *I'll praise my Maker while I've Breath* Vss. 2-3 Words – P.D.
Music – Harm. Vicar Earle Copes ©1964 Abingdon Press

The Epistle | James 5: 7-10

Patience in Suffering

A reading from the Letter of James, chapter 5, beginning at the 7th verse

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as comfortable

Sequence Hymn ELW #262 *Wait for the Lord* Jacques Berthier
Words and Music - ©1984 Taizé, Les Presses de (North America), Admin. G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

Holy Gospel | Matthew 11: 2-11 *Messengers from John the Baptist, Jesus Praises John the Baptist Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers

are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see?

Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

Sequence Hymn *repeats, as above, as needed*

The Sermon

Rev. Michelle Werner

The Nicene Creed, *said by all, standing as comfortable*

**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 for Advent *by Rev. Emily Williams Guffey based on Advent hymns*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Creator of the stars of night, which keep watch when our own faith is dim: Awaken hope and kindle our longing for your return. We pray for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury-designate, Sean our Presiding Bishop, Bonnie our Bishop, Michelle our Priest, the clergy and people of *St. Luke's in Shelby Twp. & St. Mary, Full of Grace in Mao, DR* and all who lead and serve in this church and this diocese, that they may bear your light. In your mercy, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free: Release us from our sins and fears, that we may live in your light and truth. Protect those in danger this night especially the people of Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and all migrants and refugees. In your mercy, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

O Come, Desire of nations: bind in one the hearts of humankind. Dissolve our sad divisions, and strengthen us to work for peace. We pray for this nation, especially for Donald our president, Gretchen our governor, all our elected representatives and judges that all who hold authority may seek the justice of your reign. In your mercy, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Comfort all who sit in the darkness of illness, grief, or distress, especially *Anne G., Annie F., Art, Barry, Brett & Megan, Brian, Carol R., Caroline, Cheryl, Dean R., Denise, Helen, Jeanne F., Jen C., Jim S., Joan B., John E., Joshua, Judi V., Kathy, Katie M., Karen C., Karen S., Kim, Laurie, Leon, Lisa D., Lisa S., Liz, Mark, Mary Lou, Maya, Nancy, Nancy B, Rick & Debbie, Rick, the Sera Family, Sharon A., Sue H., Tara,* and those who we name before you now either silently or aloud... Speak to them your peace, which passes all understanding. In your mercy, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Rejoice, rejoice, believers and let your lights appear. With the angels who announce your coming with shouts of joy, we give thanks for the blessings of our lives, especially those who celebrate birthdays this week, *Rev G. & Margaret W.* and those celebrating anniversaries, reunions or other special events... You lift up our lowliness in many marvelous ways. In your mercy, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Welcome into your glory those we love but see no longer, especially those we name now with our voices or in our hearts... May light perpetual shine upon them, bright as sun and moon together. In your mercy, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Concluding Collect:

Come among us O God, and hear our prayers; so that when your Son Jesus comes with clouds descending, we might come to adore him. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant Jesus the light of the world comes to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
Therefore, in the light of Christ, let us honestly confront and confess our sins.

Silence is observed.

**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.**

The Celebrant declares Absolution of Sin:

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and raise you to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The light and peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us greet one another with signs of the Peace of Jesus!

Welcome and Announcements *(see last page)*

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Joy to the World (Jeremiah was a Bullfrog)

Hoyt Axton

The Dragon Slayerz Praise Band, Phillip Spradlin, piano, Rev Graham, director

The people stand as comfortable

Doxology sung to the tune *Veni, veni, Emmanuel* H-82 #56

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:

Sanctus to the tune of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* H-82 #87

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**Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lo - rd God of heav'n and earth a-dored
God of Power, and God of Mi-ght, break - ing dark - ness with your light
Heav'n and Earth sing 'Ho - ly! Ho - ly! You are God, the One, the On-ly
In your name comes one who's blessed! Songs a-nd prai - ses shall not rest
Sing ho - san - na to the Lord! In yo-ur love we are re - stored.**

The people may stand or kneel after the Sanctus. The Celebrant continues

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 the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed George and 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 *Sung by all*

Arr. John Potter, 2023 P. D.

Music - *Joy to the World*, George Frideric Handel, 1741, Arr. Lowell Mason, 1848 P. D.

A-men, A-men, A-men, A-men, A-men, A-men, A-men, A-men

And now, 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 (*silence follows*)

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

Fraction Anthem

Lamb of God

to the tune of *The First Noel* H-82 #109 P.D.

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Prom-ised La-mb of God, who will take all our sin;
 Let your mer-cy shine on us and cleanse us with-in.
 Spot-less La-mb of God, wh-o took all our sin;
 May your mer-cy shine on us and cleanse us with-in.
 Je-sus Christ, Lamb of God, Ha-ve mer-cy on us.
 Grant us your pe-ace, O La-mb of God.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the people of God. Holy gifts for holy people.

The Communion

All who seek the presence of Christ in the sacrament of Communion are welcome. Please come forward using the side aisles to receive the bread (wafer), and if desired to intinct (dip) your wafer in the wine. We are not yet sipping from the Cup. You may request a blessing instead, by crossing your arms across your chest. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please ask the priest. She will gladly bring Communion to anyone not able to come forward.

Communion Hymn H-82 #615 *Thy kingdom come! on bended knee* Public Domain

Post-Communion Prayer, *standing as comfortable*

Let us pray:

Almighty and everliving 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.

The Advent Blessing

May the God of hope fill you with all the joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn H-82 #66 *Come, thou long expected Jesus* Public Domain

Dismissal Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude *Noel X* French Carol, Arr. Louis-Claude D'Aquin Public Domain

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Announcements –December 14, 2025

- ★ **Welcome to St George's Church!** Our Worship schedule includes Services at 08:30am and 10:15am in the Church. Both services will be live-streamed to our YouTube channel (accessible from our website and our Facebook page) in each month according to the following pattern:
- 1st Sunday - 08:30 am Rite I Service
 - 2nd/3rd/4th/(5th) Sundays - 10:15 am Rite II Service
- ★ **Upcoming Events:**
- **Sun Dec 21 at 11:45am Benthic Brass Christmas Concert and Luncheon**
 - **Wed Dec 24 at 4:00pm & 8:00pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist with Candlelight**
 - **Sun Dec 28 at 9:30am One Service: 9 Lessons and Carols**
 - **Wed Dec 31 at 5:00pm New Year's Eve Party: 'British & Leftovers!'**
- ★ **Gifts for the Giving Tree Due back today.** Wrapped gifts can go on the pew under the TV in the Fellowship Hall. If you are still working on it, please let Rev. Michelle know and make sure it is here by noon on Wednesday. Thank you to all who have participated in this powerful ministry.
- ★ **Benthic Brass Returns Sunday Dec 21 at 11:45am.** Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a festive Tuba and Low Brass concert and sing along of Christmas favorites and other selections. Lunch will be served after the concert. **Sign up now if you are willing to help provide for the luncheon.** Fliers are available in Print and on the Facebook page to share around town.
- ★ **New Years Eve Party: 'British & Leftovers!' 5:00-8:00pm** Come ring in the new year (in London) here at St George's. We will gather for a potluck dinner, white elephant gift exchange and celebrate the London New Year at 7:00pm. Sign in up in Fellowship Hall.
- ★ **The Mitten Tree is up in the Fellowship Hall.** Please bring in new child or adult sized hats, gloves, mittens or other warm items for our good friends at Neithercut Elementary School in Flint. We are also collecting new and gently used children's books.
- ★ **Today is the Last Day to Sign up to sponsor Poinsettias in the Narthex.** Cost is \$20. Help us beautify the church this Christmas **Advent Greens at the altar today are provided and arranged by Laura Frost.**