

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Holy Eucharist
Sunday, December 21, 2025
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Welcome! We offer two services today: one at 8:00 a.m. and one at 10:30 a.m. The 10:30 a.m. service is broadcast on Facebook Live or YouTube. Livestreaming begins at 10:25 a.m. If you are visiting, please fill out a visitor card (located in the pew rack) and drop it in the offering plate or hand to an usher.

The Word of God

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE 1 AT 8:00 A.M.

The service is found in the Book of Common Prayer, found in the pews. The readings can be found elsewhere in this bulletin.

SALUTATION	BCP, pg. 323
KYRIE	BCP, PG. 324
COLLECT OF THE DAY	Leaflet, pg. 4-5
FIRST READING	Leaflet, pg. 6
PSALM	Leaflet, pg. 7
SECOND READING	Leaflet, pg. 7
HOLY GOSPEL	Leaflet, pg. 8
SERMON	The Rev. Elizabeth Roles
NICENE CREED	Leaflet, pg. 9
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND CONFESSION	Leaflet, pg. 10-12
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING	BCP, pg. 333
THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE	
POST COMMUNION PRAYER	BCP, pg. 339

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II AT 10:30 A.M.

PRELUDE

Pie Jesu
Susan Baker, *flute*

Maurice Durufle

All stand as they are able.

HYMN

How Bright Appears the Morning Star *Wie schön leuchtet*
The Hymnal 1982 #497

The musical score is written for a flute and a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a flute line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing
2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a
3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,

from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;
pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;
fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.

O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and
the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -
In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great

Son of God! We, too, will lift our voices:
 phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;
 Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

The Celebrant says to the People

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

PEOPLE

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

CELEBRANT

The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE

And also with you.

CELEBRANT

Let us pray.

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.**

All are seated. As the congregation sings, a family lights the Advent Wreath candle(s).

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Besançon Carol

Wonder, Love, and Praise #724 (st. 1-3)



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be

1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
 2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
 3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has

1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
 2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
 3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore 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. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

READER The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

Qui regis Israel
Linda White



8:00 a.m.: The reader and the congregation read the psalm responsively by half verse.

10:30 a.m.: The congregation chants the **entire** psalm with choir.

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a | flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the | cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Ma- | nasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to | help us.

³Restore us, O God of | hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be | saved.

⁴O LORD God of | hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your | people?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of | tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to | drink.

⁶You have made us the derision of our | neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to | scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of | hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be | saved.

¹⁶Let your hand be upon the man of your right | hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for | yourself.

¹⁷And so will we never turn a- | way from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your | Name.

¹⁸Restore us, O LORD God of | hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be | saved.

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

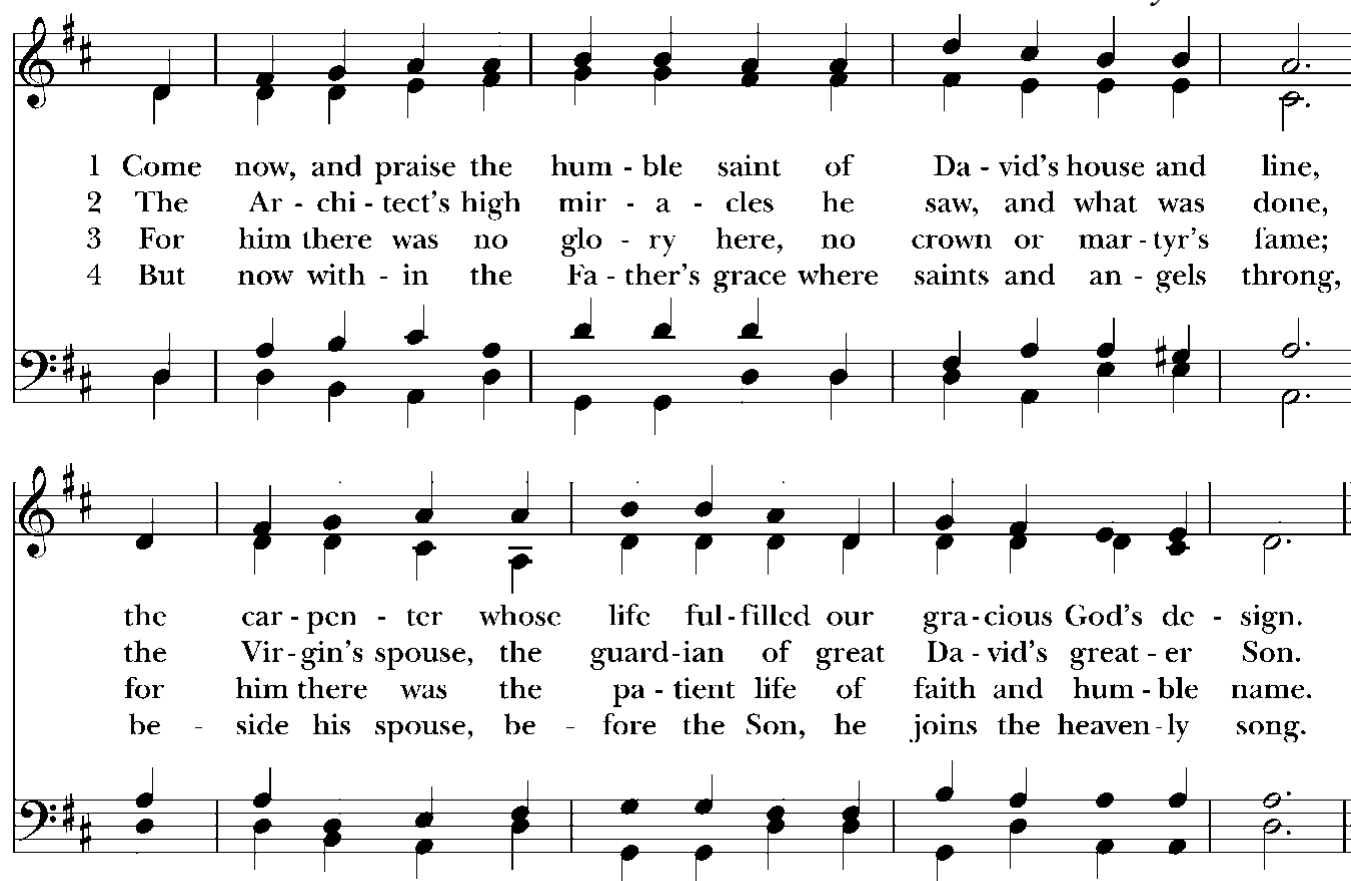
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

READER The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as they are able.

HYMN

Come Now, and Praise the Humble Saint *Tallis' Ordinal*
The Hymnal #260


1 Come now, and praise the hum - ble saint of Da - vid's house and line,
 2 The Ar - chi - tect's high mir - a - cles he saw, and what was done,
 3 For him there was no glo - ry here, no crown or mar - tyr's fame;
 4 But now with - in the Fa - ther's grace where saints and an - gels throng,

the car - pen - ter whose life ful - filled our gra - cious God's de - sign.
 the Vir - gin's spouse, the guard - ian of great Da - vid's great - er Son.
 for him there was the pa - tient life of faith and hum - ble name.
 be - side his spouse, be - fore the Son, he joins the heav - en - ly song.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

PRIEST

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

PEOPLE

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
 and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, “God is with us.”²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Elizabeth Roles

NICENE CREED *All stand as they are able.*

**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

Form 1

The Leader and People pray responsively

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying,
“Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the
salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for
the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Brevard, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let
us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to
conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the
suffering, and for those on our St. Philip’s prayer list,

*Christy Adams, Alston, Amber, Peggy Ayres, Barry, Dez Blue, Christopher Bolk, Brette
Brian, Leslie Brown, Charles, Pamela Costagliola, Jay Curwen, Dave, Dave, Carl
Denny, Lance Dickenson, Nancy Dillard, Suzanne Dininny, Jan Dryselius, Dianne and
Howard Dyer, Judith Egan, Ellen, Annette Ellerton, Liz Ford, Edie Gabcik, John*

Gannon, Charlotte Gilmore, Kathy Haehnel, Tim Harris, Howard Jackson, Kay Jones, Lyn Kane, Michael Kirwen, Kurt, Ruth LePine, Tom Lewis, Kay Mann, Elisabeth Marchant, Dottie Marcinko, Johnny Martinez, Larry Maupin, Kathryn McKinley, Mark and Leslie Montgomery, Veronica Morrow, Jenifer Morrow, Courtney and Nikarra, Francis Leon Olea, Pat, Nancy Patterson, Judy Pierce, Debbie and John Poe, Bev and Milbrey Raney, Liam Rial, Jim Ride, Lisa Rodke, Mary Rose, Hudson Rudisill, Gabrielle Ruge, Linda Schieve, Frank Shoemaker, Alice Silva, Isabella Smith, Ray Snellgrove, Caroline Stein, Brenda Summers, Arden Swift, Marcia Thies, Mike Tiddy, Jim Tso, Emily Walthall, Penny Williams, Eileen Gilson Williams, Ed Wiseman, Risdon Wood, and Judy Yancey

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

We pray for parishioners Jeff and Kathy Ambrose who are being confirmed and Kerry and Sharon Mosher who are being received by Bishop José today at Grace Episcopal Church in Asheville.

In our diocese, we pray for Holy Family, Mills River; and St. Mary's & St. Stephen's, Morganton. In our Anglican Communion, we pray for The Anglican Church of Burundi.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Minister and People

**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

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

PEACE

CELEBRANT The peace of the Lord be always with you.

PEOPLE **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Liturgy of the Table

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ave Maria

Rihards Dubra (b. 1964)

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum, benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus. Sancta Maria, mater Dei, ora
pro nobis peccatoribus nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary,
mother of God, pray for us sinners now and in the hour of our death.
Amen.

(10:30 a.m. only)

Old 100th

The Hymnal 1982 #380 (st. 3)

*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing as they are able.

CELEBRANT The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE **And also with you.**

CELEBRANT Lift up your hearts.

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

CELEBRANT Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Celebrant proceeds

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 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:

Celebrant and People sing

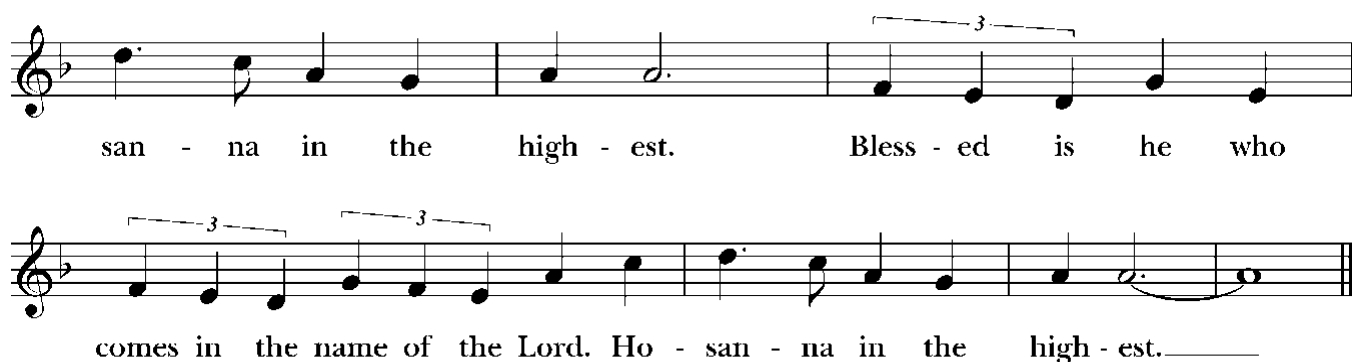
SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Robert J. Powell (1932-2025)

The Hymnal 1982 #S 129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND FRACTION ANTHEM

CELEBRANT We break this bread
to share in the Body of Christ.

PEOPLE **We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread. Alleluia!**

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek Christ are invited to receive the bread and wine standing or kneeling at the altar rail. If you choose not to receive the wine, let the server know that you want only the bread by placing one hand over your heart (receiving only the bread is full communion). If you prefer not to take communion, you may come forward for a blessing, crossing your arms over your chest, or not come forward at all; no one will judge you.

To receive the wine by intinction, please come to the altar rail. Extend your hands, palms flat, and the bread will be placed there for you to dip the bread into the wine.

To receive the wine by sipping from the chalice, please also come to the altar rail, consume the bread, then please help the Lay Eucharistic Minister guide the chalice to your lips to sip.

Please wait for an usher to release you from your pew to come forward. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY What Child Is This Vince Guaraldi
Susan Baker, *flute*

HYMN Sing Out, My Soul Tune: Jacques Berthier
Text: Luke 1:46

Canon—4 voices

The musical score is written for a canon of four voices in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains measures 1 through 6, with a double bar line after measure 4. Measure 1 is marked with a circled 'A' above it. The second staff contains measures 7 through 9, with a double bar line after measure 8. Measure 7 is marked with a circled 'C' above it. Measure 6 of the first staff is marked with a circled 'B' above it. The lyrics are written below the notes: 'Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo-ri-fy the Lord who sets us free. Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul.'

Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo-ri-fy the
Lord who sets us free. Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul.



PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

This prayer takes the place of the Postcommunion Prayer for those worshipping at home.

Gracious God, since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The people stand as they are able.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

After the prayer, the People respond

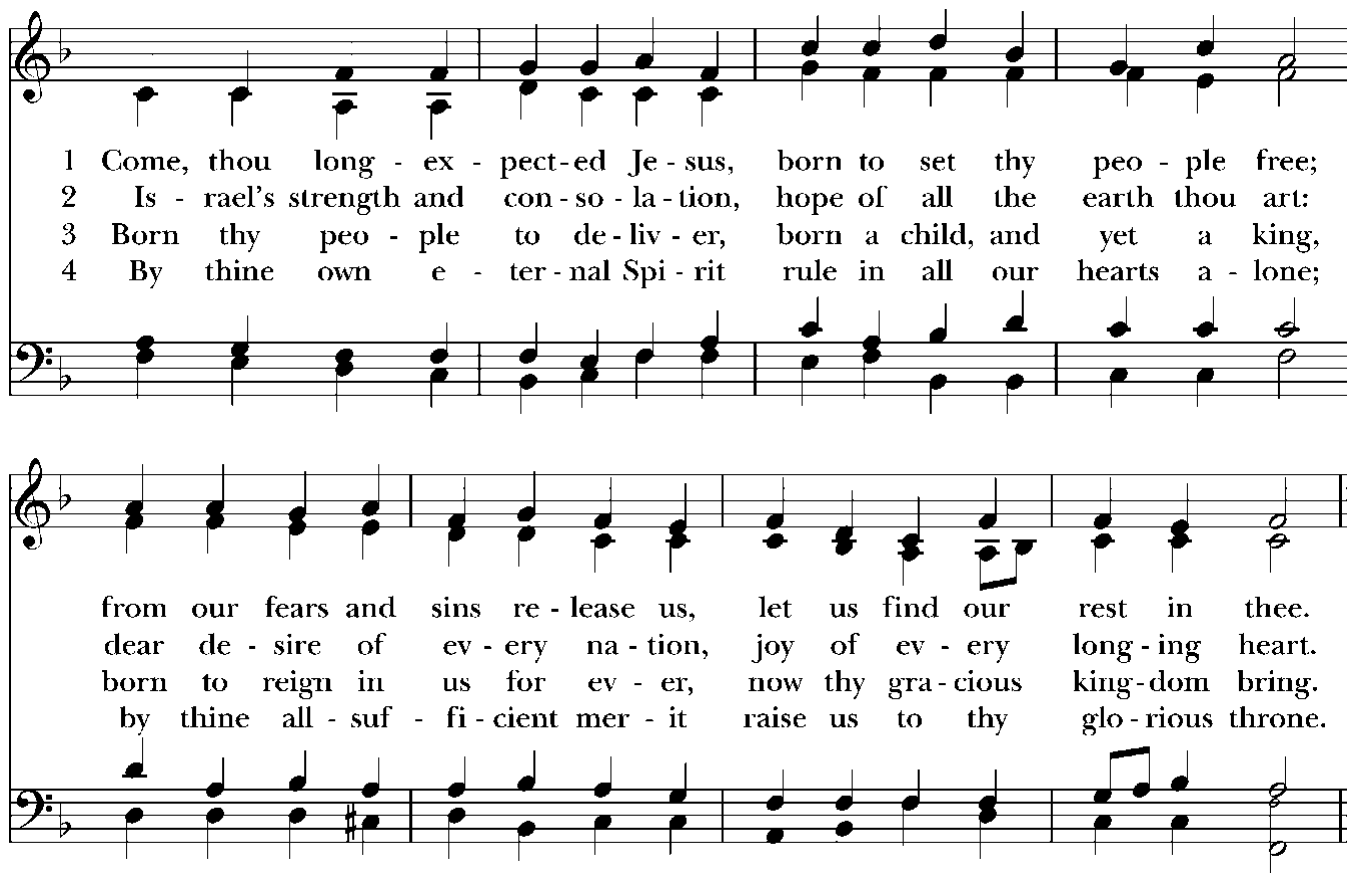
Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN

Come, thou Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart
The Hymnal 1982 #66



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

DISMISSAL

After the Dismissal, the People respond

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Gigue
Susan Baker, *flute*

Arcangelo Corelli



Hearing Loop assistance is available inside this building. Set hearing aid on "T" (telecoil) setting. Headsets are also available in both the narthex and Miller Hall that will allow access to the Hearing Loop. Please see an usher for help.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

We welcome children of all ages in all our worship services. In the narthex, you can find worship bags with quiet activities for children. **Nursery for children Kindergarten age and younger is available today beginning at 10:15 a.m. for our 10:30 a.m. service.** An usher can direct you to our nursery located on the lower level of our parish building.

THIS SUNDAY AT ST. PHILIP'S

- **Sunday at 8:00 a.m.** – During this season, we enjoy the beautiful traditional language of Holy Eucharist, Rite 1, in our Sunday morning 8:00 a.m. spoken service. For this service, we will be using *The Book of Common Prayer*, so bring your own (or use one of our pew copies)! We will enjoy music voluntaries at the prelude, communion, and postlude.
- **“Poetry of Christmas III: True Believers” at 9:15 a.m.** – (See Adult Formation Offerings below.)
- **“Holy Encounters: Exploring Jesus' Way of Being in the World” at 9:15 a.m.** – (See Adult Formation Offerings below.)
- **Youth Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.** – Middle and high school youth are invited to join us for Sunday School. We are using short videos from bibleproject.com to jump start our discussions; this fully animated series traces key biblical themes from their first appearance through the entire narrative of the Bible. We meet in the youth classroom located downstairs in the Education wing.
- **Godly Play at 9:15 a.m.** – Children ages 4 through 5th grade will be engaged in Godly Play. The Godly Play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Godly Play meets in the Education wing downstairs.
- **Nursery at 9:15 a.m.** – Nursery for children Kindergarten age and younger is available today beginning at 9:15 a.m.
- **Children's Church at 10:30 a.m.** – On Sunday all children (K-5th grade) are invited to Children's Church during the Liturgy of the Word in the 10:30 a.m. service. Children may be brought to the Sunday School room across from the Godly Play room (the youth classroom) before parents/grandparents go to church. Children will be taken to the church during the Peace and should join their family for communion.
- **Sunday at 10:30 a.m.** – Join us for Holy Eucharist, Rite II (with music) at our 10:30 a.m. service.
- **Coffee Hour after the 10:30 a.m. service** – All are invited and always welcome to join us in Miller Hall (our large upstairs meeting room) after the 10:30 a.m. service for juice or coffee and fellowship. This is a great chance to mingle, meet new people, or just relax with friends.

ADULT FORMATION OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- **“Poetry of Christmas III: True Believers” at 9:15 a.m.** – Poems by Auden, Eliot, and Rossetti, poets who found in faith means to go beyond doubt to bring the old stories back to life. Adult Forum takes place in the YAC (our large downstairs meeting room) at 9:15 a.m.
- **“Holy Encounters: Exploring Jesus' Way of Being in the World” at 9:15 a.m.** – This autumn, the Coffee and Conversation team is facilitating conversation

around Jesus' way of being in the world as we explore the Sermon on the Mount together. Join us as we look to cultivate holy moments of encounter as individuals, in community, and in the world around us. Coffee & Conversation meets in Miller Hall, our large upstairs meeting room.

SACRED ANOINTING DURING ADVENT

On the Sundays in Advent, Elizabeth and Brad (our seminarian) will offer **sacred anointing in the Chapel during Communion** at the 8:00 and 10:30 services. In Scripture, anointing with oil marks God's people for healing, purpose, and joy. During Advent, it's a meaningful way to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, our Messiah—"the Anointed One." We invite you to receive this simple sign of blessing as we await his coming in hope.

IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE A COSTUME FOR OUR NO-STRESS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT! DECEMBER 21

It is hard to believe, but it's time to prepare for our "No-Stress Christmas Pageant" on December 24th! "No Stress" means no rehearsals, no lines to memorize and the freedom to wear whatever represents someone's vision of the Christmas story, be it a Wise Man or dinosaur! Costumes from home may be worn or borrowed from St. Philip's collection. We have many choices for traditional costumes, including beasts, but sizes are limited.

This year we are inviting individuals and families to sign up for costume selection and fitting. If this is done far enough in advance, alterations and additions are possible.

Costumes will be displayed and helpers available during the Sunday School hour at 9:15 a.m. on December 21st, or by appointment – please watch for e-mails or announcements for our costume "shop" location! To sign up for a time to try on costumes, please contact Lynn Adams (lynnpadams@gmail.com or 828-388-0192) or Claire Sikes-Clark (clairersikes@gmail.com).

OUR 2026 GIVING CAMPAIGN THANKS YOU!

Thank you for participating in our 2026 Giving Campaign. We still take pledge cards; you can [print one here](#) or pick one up in the narthex, Miller Hall foyer, or Parish Office. Every pledge—large or small—makes a difference and helps our church plan faithfully for the year ahead. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the life of St. Philip's!

<i>Giving 2026</i> Final	Last Year	This Year
	Status to Date	Status to Date
Number of Pledges	180	170
Total Dollars	\$637,712	\$615,085
	End of Pledge Drive	End of Pledge Drive
Number of Pledges	180	170
Total Dollars	\$637,712	\$615,085

JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES



St. Philip's welcomes you to our
Christmas Services
December 24
 3:00 pm 'No-Stress Pageant' and
 Holy Eucharist with Carols
 *5:00 pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
 with the Chancel Choir
 *8:00 pm Festival Holy Eucharist
 with the Chancel Choir
 11:00 pm Midnight Candlelight Service
 with special music
December 25
 *10:30 am Holy Eucharist with Carols and Homily
 *Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 24 -JANUARY 2

The parish office will be closed Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - Friday, January 2, 2026. However, someone will check messages each weekday, and - as always - a priest will be on call for pastoral emergencies. Note: Most groups do not observe regular schedules this week; we suggest that you confirm your group is actually meeting before you travel.

GIVING IS A SPIRITUAL ACT!

Thank you for investing your treasure in the work and mission of St. Philip's. Your gift supports our invitation: "All are Welcome" is at the core of who we are. Our parishioner and clergy relationships, email communications, and online presence invite, welcome, and connect new people into our community. Visit <https://www.stphilipsbrevardnc.org/donate> to explore donating. To make a gift now use Realm or text STP to 73256.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

During the Advent season, our hangings change to Sarum Blue and the Advent wreath appears, our service music changes, and the form of our Eucharistic prayer changes for the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. liturgies. *O Come, Emmanuel!*

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Birthdays

21 Ann Ives	21 Jackson Karol	25 Kate Shober
21 Bill Chandler	22 Mary Meseck	25 Laurie Strayhorn
21 Ann Franklin	22 Rick Costa	26 Senait Richmond
21 Chris Whatley	22 Evie Timmons	26 Holly Votaw
21 Audrey McMillan	23 Binky Curwen	26 Lily Benton
21 Caroline Stein	25 Billy Zink	27 Mike Ridley

Anniversaries

21 Gordon and Julie Murray	27 David Neumann and Mary Rose
23 Joe Jellicorse and Joan Zeller	

WEEKLY SERVICES AT ST. PHILIP'S

Join us each week at our services of Holy Eucharist!

- Sundays, 8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I (*spoken*)
- Sundays, 10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II (*with music*)
- Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite II (*College Walk Senior Living Community Chapel*)
- Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing (*Chapel*)

COVER ART: *The Fourth Sunday of Advent* (2020), photograph by Bonnie Jensen.

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Officiant..... The Rev. Elizabeth Roles
Seminarian.....Brad Wilson
Director of Music Ministry.....Dr. Brittnee Siemon
Organist Jackson Morton
Altar Guild..... Dolores Brown
Jo Buescher
Penny Mann
Kathryn Polmanteer

8:00 a.m.

Acolyte	Jann Mellman	Ushers	Mac Morrow
Reader 1	Melanie McKague		Craig Roth
Reader 2	Jim Tyson	Liturgical Coordinator	
Reader 3	Barthell Joseph		Ed Nezelek
LEM	Gena Hawk		

10:30 a.m.

Acolytes	Sophia Amedd	LEM's	Christie Eberhardt
	Violet Silva		Jann Mellman
Reader 1	Bill Mellman		Kathryn Polmanteer
Reader 2	Christine Wright	Offering Counters	
Reader 3	Mary McGinnis		Daphne Chalaron
Ushers	Denis Bolena		John Harris
	Jan Bolena		
Liturgical Coordinator	Billie Begg		



ST. PHILIP'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

256 E Main Street, Brevard, NC 28712

828.884.3666

www.stphilipsbrevardnc.org



MINISTERS: The Baptized People of God
The Rt. Rev. José Antonio McLoughlin, Bishop
The Rev. Elizabeth Roles, Rector

