



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2022

8 am

ST. DUNSTAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to St Dunstan's! We are glad you are here!

Please silence your phones and wear your mask while indoors.

If you are new, or would like to update your information, please fill out a pew card.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Prelude Title

Composer

Lighting the Advent Wreath

God of love, you sent your Son, Jesus, to shine bright like the sun, lighting the way for all who walk in darkness. May the light of Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love shine bright in us as we approach his coming, so that we may be ready to welcome him on Christmas Day. **Amen.**

The people respond, singing:

People **O** come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Priest **B**lessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **A**nd blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

People **A**lmighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

People **H**oly God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day *The people stand or kneel.*

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

God with us, borne by Mary's flesh beyond all convention: give us the faith of Joseph to see the Spirit's work where the world sees only shame; to listen to the promise and waken to the cry of life renewed and love reborn; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

Isaiah 7:10–16

The prophet Isaiah insists that King Ahaz of Judah will receive a sign from God, whether he wants it or not, the sign of a young woman bearing a son to be called Emmanuel. Ahaz was more inclined to depend on political alliances than on the Lord. Isaiah prophesied that, by the time the infant began to make his own choices, the Lord would destroy Judah's immediate enemies. Christians have seen the ultimate fulfillment of these prophetic words in the birth of Jesus.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore 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. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For 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 Here what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1–7, 16–18 *Qui regis Israel*

A lament and a plea to the Lord, the shepherd of Israel, that God will turn away divine anger and restore the people.

- 1 **H**ear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Romans 1:1–7

Paul greets the new disciples in Rome and summarizes the gospel message. The prophecies concerning one to be descended from King David in human terms, and declared Son of God through the power of the Holy Spirit by resurrection from the dead, have been fulfilled. The Lord Jesus Christ has given grace and the commission of apostleship to bring peoples of all nations to faith and obedience.

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

To 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 Here what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 1:18–25

The story of the birth of Jesus. While she was betrothed to Joseph, Mary finds that she is bearing a child. But an angel tells Joseph not to fear: this is the work of the Holy Spirit. The baby is to be named Jesus, which means “The Lord saves.” The evangelist perceives this birth to be the fulfillment of an ancient prophecy which told of a virgin who would bear a son. The narrative makes clear the divine origin of this child who will save the people from their sins.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now 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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but 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.

The Sermon

After the sermon a brief silence is kept.

The Rev. Laurel Coote

The Nicene Creed *All Stand.*

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.

Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.

Who 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.**

The Prayers of the People *The people stand or kneel.*

Leader In joy at the nearness of the Christ, let us offer our prayers to God.

May the power of God's holy presence clear a path through the rubble
of broken lives and hearts to make our world and each of us a new creation.

With hopeful hearts,

People **We pray to you, O God.**

Leader May our gracious God always console and comfort us,
nourish our deepest hungers, and guide us in ways of justice and peace.

With hopeful hearts,

People **We pray to you, O God.**

Leader May we find in the deserts of our lives a new Jordan,
a stream of blessing that bears forgiveness, refreshment and joy.
With hopeful hearts,

People We pray to you, O God.

Leader For the people of St. Dunstan's and St. Andre's,
for Lucinda our Bishop, and all who do ministry near or far;
may the God of John the Baptist raise up holy prophets in our midst,
voices to challenge us to greater integrity and truthfulness.
With hopeful hearts,

People We pray to you, O God.

Leader May the God who is our comfort hear the cries of all in need, especially:
With hopeful hearts,

People We pray to you, O God.

Leader May the God who is our future hold those who have died in the embrace
of faithful love, especially:
Together may we see new heavens and a new earth.
With hopeful hearts,

People We pray to you, O God.

Priest **O** Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal
the fullness of our humanity. Come: Hear our prayers, renew your creation,
restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and
loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Priest **G**od has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent, turn to Christ in faith,
and are themselves forgiving.

In silence we call to mind our sins.

Silence

Priest Let us confess our sins.

Silence may be kept.

People **Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done.
We have sinned in ignorance:
we have sinned in weakness:
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The Absolution

Priest **T**hrough the cross of Christ,
God have mercy on you, pardon you, and set you free.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

The Peace *All stand.*

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people exchange the peace with one another.

Announcements *All are seated.*

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as he/she begins another year. Grant that he/she may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen his/her trust in your goodness all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Offertory

Priest Let us give to God with generosity and gladness
the offerings of our lives, our labors, and our love.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Priest All things come of thee, O Lord.

People And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 2

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

**People Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Priest Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

Priest On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with blessed Dunstan, blessed Andre, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

People **O**ur 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

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Priest Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Priest **T**hese are 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 with thanksgiving.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE THE HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set is the Lord's. Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey, you are welcome to receive the Holy Communion.

The bread is received in the open palm.

If you choose to receive the cup, gently guide the chalice to your lips by touching the base.

At this time, we are not able to allow dipping the wafer into the chalice.

Those who prefer to receive a blessing, or who choose not to receive the cup, may indicate this by crossing their arms over their chest.

If you have a wheat sensitivity, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Priest Let us pray.

People **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 Blessing

Priest **May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.**

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All are welcome to enjoy fellowship with one another outside the church during coffee hour.



The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church celebrates God's diverse creation and strives to build an inclusive community that welcomes everyone, no matter age, gender, sexual identity, culture, ethnicity, economic status, or ability.

Office Closed

St. Dunstan's offices will be closed
December 26— 27

Dedicate Christmas Flowers

Sign up on the Welcome Table. ... Maybe

Pastoral Care & Prayer Requests

For pastoral concerns, contact Rev. Laurel revlaurel@stdcv.org or on her cell 310-562-5746. And you can always leave a message on the Pastoral Care line at church [831-624-6646](tel:831-624-6646) ext 110.

Our Daughters of the King chapter welcomes your prayer requests. Prayer requests may be sent to dok@stdcv.org. The Daughters pray for members of our parish as well as many others daily.



Sign up today to receive

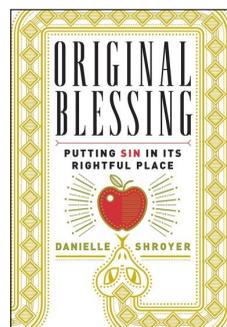
St. Dunstan's weekly eNews

Getting weekly news, links to sermons, updates, and schedules is as simple as visiting stdcv.org/subscribe and entering your email address.

Discussion Group

Sundays, 9 am

This week, the Discussion Group start Original Blessing, by Danielle Shroyer. Even if you have not read it you are welcome join us for this conversation!



We meet in the Guild Room. If you would like to join us via Zoom, or for more info, please contact Jean Scholefield.

Dedicate Altar Flowers

This is a lovely and meaningful way to give Glory to God in celebration of a birthday, or in thanksgiving, or in memory of a loved one. The cost of the flowers is \$20, but some give more. Checks should be made out to St. Dunstan's with "Altar Flowers" in the memo.

Sign up on the Welcome Table

The Giving Tree

In 2005 children at St. Andre's were fainting from hunger in class. Hungry children can't learn. For 16 years, we have been funding the hot lunch program, and with your help we will continue to do so. \$50 will feed a school child a hot, nutritious meal every school day for a school year. For many, this is the only meal they will get that day. Please help fill our Giving Tree with ornaments—one ornament for each \$50 donation.

Stop by the table after church to make your donation. Checks should be payable to St. Dunstan's with "Giving Tree" on the memo line.



Click to Give

Scan this QR code to access our online giving portal where you can make a general gift, pay for altar flowers, support



Nancy's Project or the Haiti Team, pay towards your pledge, or even set up recurring payments. And, with the click of a box you can also opt to cover the processing

fees which helps us make the most of your donation.

Thank you for your generous support of our mission and ministries!

Deadline for eNews, Bulletin

Items for our eNews and Sunday Bulletin should be submitted to bulletin@stdcv.org by midnight Sunday.

Help us get to know you by

Filling out a Pew Card

If you are visiting us, are new to Saint Dunstan's, or if your contact information has changed, please fill out a Pew Card and drop it in the collection plate. Thanks!

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

4 pm Family Service

7 pm Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

10 am Christmas Morning

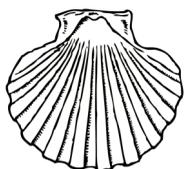
Salvation Army Family

Day, time

Exciting info here

I-Help

Information about I-Help donations



NEXT Baptisms: January 8, 2023

See Rev. Laurel

Weekly Bulletins available electronically

Whether you want to save the environment by using less paper, like the idea of reading on your device, want to see what's coming up or what is past, our weekly worship bulletins are available as a PDF online at stdcv.org/bulletins



THIS WEEK AT ST DUNSTAN'S

PARISH OFFICE OPEN TUESDAY—THURSDAY, 9 AM—12 NOON

Sunday, December 18

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
9:00 am Discussion Group
Cookie Sale
10:00 am Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)
11:00 am Coffee Hour
12:00 pm J2A (St. Mary's)

Monday, December 19

5:30 pm Zoom Compline

Tuesday, December 20

7:30 pm AA

Wednesday, December 21

10:00 am School Christmas Pageant
11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
4:00 pm Haiti Team Meeting

Thursday, December 22

Friday, December 23

Saturday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Family Service
7:00 pm Choral Eucharist

Sunday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist
11:00 am Coffee Hour

View the entire parish calendar stdev.org/calendar

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Cindy Poole	16 Bob Young	22 Jeanne Polaschek
2 Gigi McWilliams	17 Jack Lagier	22 Aleksander Simpson
4 Charlie Rose Talley	19 Chandler Clark	24 Taylor Hawthorne
5 Nancy Green	20 Linda Keill	25 Joanie Webb
10 Gus Hawthorne	22 Jennifer Lama	30 Sylvia Shattuck



WE HOPE YOU FIND YOURS HERE

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

WHAT WE ARE FOR

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience. Children, youth and families. We believe that God is love, and we pray that God will use us to spread that love.

WHAT WE ARE AGAINST

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid these!)

WHAT WE VALUE

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

WELCOME!

Originally written by the people of St. Bartholomen's, New York, this statement has been modified for our use with their permission.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

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