



## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2023

8 am

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

*If you are new, or would like to update your information, please fill out a pew card. Thank you for silencing your cell phones.*

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### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*All stand at the ringing of the bell.*

#### Lighting the Advent Wreath

God of hope, we light this candle as we prepare for the coming of your Son. Awaken our hearts to you this Advent season, so that when Christ arrives, we are ready to receive him with all our hearts, all our minds, and all our strength. **Amen.**

As we prepare to welcome the birth of the Prince of Peace, we hear from the Holy Land that the festive lights that normally shine bright in Bethlehem will not be lit this year in memory of those killed in recent violence. To stand alongside our sisters and brothers in Christ, and all who mourn this Christmas, we now extinguish our second Advent Candle, which will remain unlit for the remainder of Advent and Christmas. Let us offer a silent prayer, before commencing our Song of Praise.

#### The Song of Praise

**Hymn 56** O come, O come, Emmanuel (*vss. 5 and 6*)

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

O come, thou Key of David,  
come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel!*

O come, thou Dayspring from on high,  
and cheer us by the drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel!*

**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.

Lord of light, who sent the Baptist to offer hope and face the world's scorn: open our ears to hear the cries from the margins, exposing our fears, inciting our vision and calling us to a step of faith; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

*The People are seated*

**Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11**

*The principle of justice is to guide the nation of Israel, and they are to understand that it is none other than God who is an advocate for the poor, the oppressed, the downtrodden, and the brokenhearted. Written in the second half of the sixth century before Christ, Second Isaiah (as Isaiah 40–66 is known) envisions God's formation of a faithful Servant of the Lord, sometimes seen as a repentant Israel and sometimes as a great prophet yet to arise, as in today's lesson. The servant will bring Israel to a fulfillment of her original promise and potential, and to a time of joy and celebration. Christians perceive a foretelling of Christ's ministry in these passages.*

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

Reader The word of the Lord.  
**People Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle Luke 1:47–55 (Magnificat)**

*Mary offers a song of praise to God who has looked with favor on her and who has lifted up the lowly and brought down the powerful.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his  
Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

## **1 Thessalonians 5:16–24**

*As he concludes his letter to the church in Thessalonica, Paul exhorts the new converts to live joyfully and prayerfully in readiness for the Lord's coming. Although they are to test what they hear, the disciples are to expect to discover the Spirit in prophecy. Trusting in a faithful God, the followers of Jesus are to seek to avoid all forms of evil and to become holy in every way.*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

**Reader** The Word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

*All Stand*

## **John 1:6–8, 19–28**

*The fourth evangelist firmly characterizes the mission of John the Baptist: he is the forerunner and witness to the Christ. He bears testimony to the one who is the light of all human life. John is not the Christ or a figure for Elijah or one of the other prophets. He prepares the Lord's way and baptizes, while even now the one whom John is unworthy to serve stands unknown in their midst.*

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

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Priest     The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. Laurel Coote

*After the sermon a brief silence is kept.*

## **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 worshiped 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 Almighty God, source of all wisdom and understanding: Look graciously on  
your Church, and so guide the hearts and minds of those who will choose  
our next presiding bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will  
care for all of your people, equip us for our ministries, and proclaim your  
word to us and to the world.

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 Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

**People** Most merciful God, we confess 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 upon us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

### **The Absolution**

Priest Through 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.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

### Offertory Sentence

*During the setting of the table a collection is taken to support the life and ministry at St. Dunstan's. The people's offerings of bread, wine and money or other gifts will be brought to the priest. The people stand while the offerings are presented. Offerings may also be made online at [www.stdcv.org](http://www.stdcv.org)*

Priest Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 2*

*The people stand at the procession of the offering and remain standing.*

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 he 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.

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."

**Priest** Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**People Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**Priest** 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.

**People** Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**People** Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

Priest We share 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.**

Priest Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

**People Have mercy on us.**

Priest Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

**People Have mercy on us.**

Priest Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

**People Grant us peace.**

Priest The gifts of God for the people of God.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All who come in faith seeking a deeper knowledge and love of Jesus Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Come forward to receive the bread in your 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. You may have communion brought to your seat by notifying an usher.

## The Prayer After Communion

Priest Let us pray.

**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.

*All stand for the blessing and dismissal*

## The Blessing

Priest May God who was, and is, and is to come meet you in your waiting, shine upon your path, comfort and sustain you until the time when the weary world rejoices. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you. **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

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.*

## **I-HELP - Last Sunday!**

Bring some holiday cheer to our I-Help community! We are collecting cash gifts for the men and women in the program.

I-Help supports sobriety and the homeless. Look for the info sheet and donation envelopes on the welcome table.



## **Christmas Cookie Sale**

**Thank you to all who brought in baked cookies or bought cookies at our cookie sale last Sunday.**

**We raised over \$800 for I-Help Women!**

## **Christmas Poinsettia Dedications**

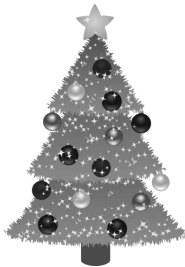
Dedicate a Christmas poinsettia in remembrance of a loved one, to mark an anniversary, or simply to give thanks. Recommended donation is \$20 each. Checks should be made out to St. Dunstan's with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo.

Please sign up on the Welcome Table. The deadline for submissions is December 17th.



## St. Andre's Giving Tree!

Please support our feeding program at St. Andre's School in Hinche, Haiti by putting an ornament on our Giving Tree. \$50 feeds a child a hot, nourishing meal every school day for a school year. For many of these children, this is their only meal of the day. The perfect Christmas gift for friends or family-- and we have cards to send to tell them of your thoughtful gift. Put a smile on the face of a Haitian child as they sit down to a hot meal-- thanks to you!



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### December 24th - Advent IV

One Service at 9am

### December 24th - Christmas Eve

Family Service 4pm

Choral Eucharist 7pm

No Service Christmas Day

### December 31st

First Sunday of Christmas

Lessons and Carols

One Service at 9am



*Help us get to know you by*

### **Filling out a Pew Card**

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

### **I-Help next Thursday, December 21st**

Look for the Sign-Up sheet on the welcome table to bring in food for the men's dinner on the 21st. We appreciate your contributions!

Thank you from the I-HELP Team



## 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 \$30, 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.



## Pastoral Care & Prayer Requests



For pastoral concerns, contact Rev. Laurel [revlaurel@stdcv.org](mailto: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](mailto:dok@stdcv.org). The Daughters pray for members of our parish as well as many others daily.

## Children's schedule for December and January

**December 17**—Christmas Pageant

**December 24**—Children in Church with their parents

**December 31**—Children in Church with their parents

**January 7**—Sunday School in Brock Hall

**January 14**— Children in Church with their parents—Baptisms!

**January 21**— Sunday School in Brock Hall

**January 28**— 4th Sunday Family Service. Children participate in the service.



Thank you to all of the children participating in the pageant today. And a special thank you to the parents who are participating and to our amazing choir!

***Wonder what's going on at  
St. Dunstan's?***

*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](http://stdcv.org/subscribe) and entering your email address.

**Deadline for eNews,  
Bulletin**

Items for our eNews and Sunday Bulletin should be submitted to [stdunstanschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstanschurch@gmail.com) by midnight Monday.

**St. Dunstan's Staff**

Rev Laurel Coote, Rector  
[revlaurelc@gmail.com](mailto:revlaurelc@gmail.com)

Elizabeth Buche, Parish Administrator  
[stdunstanschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstanschurch@gmail.com)

Carol Langland, Treasurer  
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Lauren Proulx Leonoff, School Director  
[director@stdunstanschool.org](mailto:director@stdunstanschool.org)

**St. Dunstan's Vestry**



Jack Enbom, Senior Warden  
Rodger Langland, Jr. Warden  
Duncan Clarke  
Tracy Jones  
George Lockwood  
Rebecca Miller  
Susan Pitts  
Jean Scholefield  
John Tomlin  
Michelle Wilsdon

# THIS WEEK AT ST DUNSTAN'S

PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN TUESDAY - THURSDAY 9AM –1PM

## Sunday, December 17

- 8:00 am** Holy Eucharist  
**8:30 am** Choir Rehearsal  
**9:00 am** Advent Devotional Book Study  
in Brock Hall  
**10:00 am** Christmas Pageant Holy Eucharist  
(live-streamed)  
**11:00 am** Coffee Hour

## Monday, December 18

**Office Closed**

## Tuesday, December 19

- 9:30 am** Discipleship Group  
**5:00 pm** Zoom Compline  
**7:30 pm** AA

## Wednesday, December 20

- 10:00 am** Conversation Communion  
Holy Eucharist  
**11:00 am** Prayer Shawl Ministry

## Thursday, December 21

- 4:00pm** I-Help Men

## Friday, December 22

## Saturday, December 23

- 9:00 am** Choir Rehearsal

## Sunday, December 24

- 9:00 am** Holy Eucharist  
**10:00 am** Coffee Hour  
**4:00 pm** Christmas Eve Family Service  
**7:00pm** Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist

**The Church office will be closed the week following Christmas, December 25-29.**

View the entire parish calendar [stdcv.org/calendar](http://stdcv.org/calendar)

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                       |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1—Cindy Poole         | 19—Chandler Clark     | 27—Perry Rosen   |
| 4—Charlie Rose Talley | 20—Charlotte Cabral   | 28—Andro Vissani |
| 10—Gus Hawthorne      | 22—Aleksander Simpson | 30—Elin Rosen    |
| 14—Mack Talley        | 22—Jennifer Lama      |                  |
| 16—Bob Young          | 24—Taylor Hawthorne   |                  |
| 17—Jack Lagier        | 25—Joanie Webb        |                  |

## SERMON NOTES

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church  
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(831) 624-6646 stdunstanschurch@gmail.com