St. Mark's Anglican Church

Advent Sunday

November 29, 2026

An Advent Sequence
of Music and Readings

10:30 am

Welcome to St. Mark's.

The order of service is set forth in this service sheet.
Please stand and kneel as you are able—and as is your custom.
Please join in singing the hymns and saying the parts printed in **bold**

PRELUDE *Nun komm den Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659 & 660 J S Bach (1685-1750)

Standing in the West End, the choir sings

THE MATIN RESPONSORY

Cantor	I look from afar:
Solo	And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Cantor	Go ye out to meet him and say:
Choir	Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
Solo	High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
Choir	Go ye out to meet him and say:
Solo	Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
Choir	Tell us, art thou he that should come?
Women	Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come
Choir	To reign over thy people Israel.
Cantor	Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Choir	I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Words: Matin Responsory for the First Sunday in Advent
Music: adapted from a Magnificat by G. P. da Palestrina (1525-1594)

The congregation keeps a moment of expectant silence and stands with the introduction of

HYMN 89 (omit stanzas 5 & 6) ***O Come, O Come Emmanuel***

All remain standing. The Rector says

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, as we prepare this Advent to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, let us hear again in the words of Scripture the story of God's loving purpose in our creation and redemption. Let us bring to mind the goodness of God in calling the creation into his light; his mercy in Christ Jesus in drawing us from the darkness of sin; and his grace to us and to all sinners in summoning us by his Holy Spirit, as the dawn of his kingdom breaks upon us.

But first let us pray for those who, by reason of their adversity, yearn especially for his coming: the hungry and the homeless, the sick and the sorrowful, the lonely and the unloved; those who sit in the darkness of despair or who walk in the shadow of death. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and for all who strive for the establishment of justice, righteousness and peace; and, that it may bear witness to this hope in a world divided by wrath and sorrow, let us pray for the well-being and unity of Christ's body, the Church. And by these prayers and praises may we renew in ourselves the vision of God's perfect kingdom, which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of God's loving purposes for us.

All sit

FIRST READING *The prophet proclaims good news to a People in exile*

Isaiah 40: 1-8

Reader: Allan Louis

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people is grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Reader Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Frederic Debons (b. 1973)

Ad te levavi animam meam: Deus meus, in te confído, non erubescam; neque irrideant me inimici mei, et enim universi qui te exspectant non confundentur. Vias tuas, Domine, demonstra mihi: et semitas tuas edoce me.

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me. Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause. Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths.

All stand

The Rector The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.
People **And all flesh shall see it together.**

The Rector Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility: so that, on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
People **Amen.**

HYMN 116 ***"Your Kingdom Come"—On Bended Knee***

All sit

SECOND READING *St. Paul warns that Salvation is drawing nigh*

Romans 13: 11-14
Reader: Jane De Munnich

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Carlotta Ferrari (1831-1907)

Veni, veni Emmanuel! Captivum solve Israel! Qui gemit in exilio, privatus Dei Filio. Gaude, gaude Emmanuel nascetur pro te, Israel.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, Israel.

All stand

The Rector Keep awake therefore,
People **For you know neither the day nor the hour.**

The Rector Eternal God, you have warned us that your Son the Bridegroom will come at midnight, at an hour we are least aware. Let us ever hear the cry, "The bridegroom is coming," so that we may never be unprepared to meet him, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
People **Amen.**

HYMN 88 ***Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus***

All sit

THIRD READING *The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Luke 1: 26-36, 38

Reader: Kimberly Rampersad

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Reader Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM George Dyson (1883-1964) in c minor

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. Glory be 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.

All stand

The Rector Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
People **He has come to his people and set them free.**

The Rector Almighty and everlasting God, you have stooped to raise our fallen humanity through the child-bearing of blessed Mary. Grant that we who have seen your glory revealed in our human nature, and your love made perfect in our weakness, may daily be renewed in your image, and conformed to the pattern of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

HYMN

I. Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.

II. Forth from his chamber goeth he
That royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one,
Rejoicing now his course to run.

III. From God the Father he proceeds,
To God the Father back he speeds;
His course he runs to death and hell,
Returning on God's throne to dwell.

IV. O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.

V. Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness breathe a newer light.
Where endless faith shall shine serene,
And twilight never intervene.

VI. All laud, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free.
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost for evermore. Amen.

Words: St. Ambrose (340-397) trans. J. M. Neale (1818-1866) and others
Music: *Puer Nobis* Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

All sit

FOURTH READING *John proclaims the coming of the Messiah*

Mark 1: 4-8

Reader: James Mainprize

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Reader Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Antonio Caldara (c. 1670-1736)

Benedictus qui nomine Domine: Osanna in excelsis.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

All stand

The Rector See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
People **Who will prepare your way.**

The Rector Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people for the coming of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

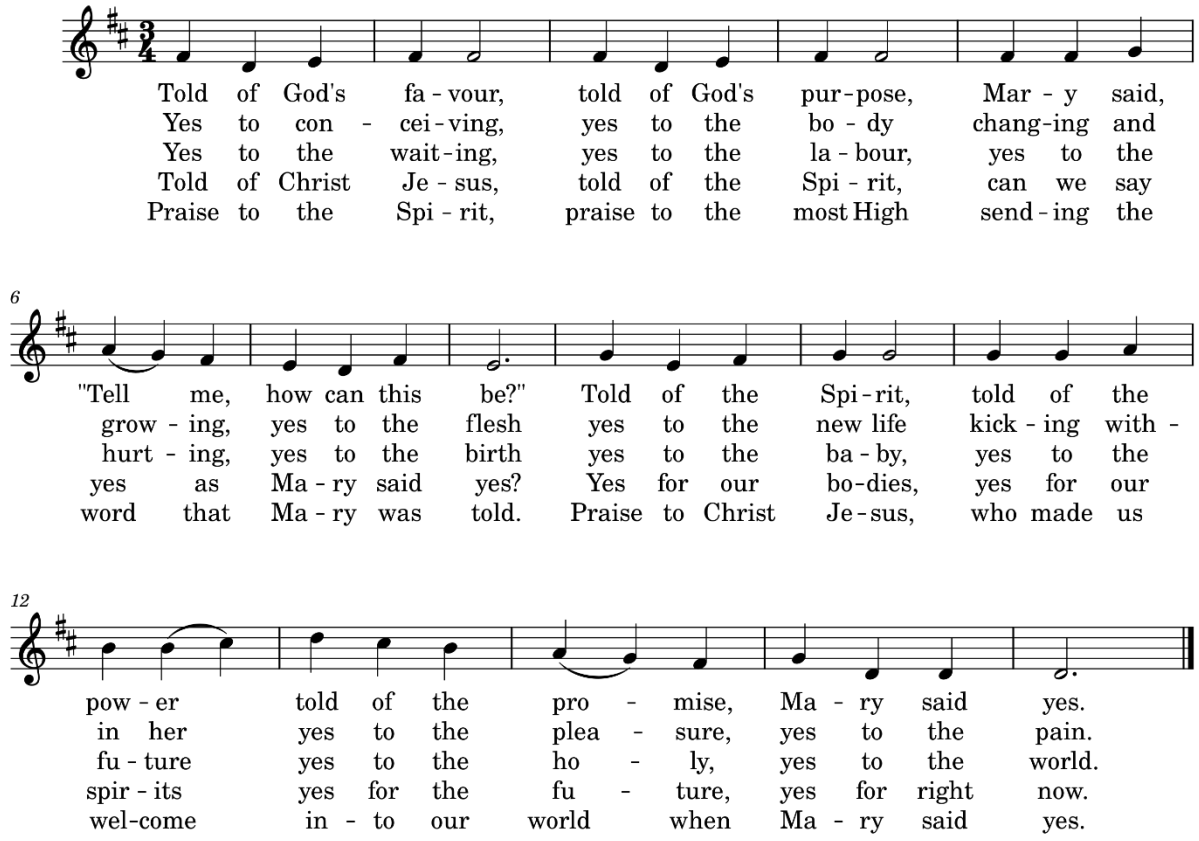
People **Amen.**

HYMN 103 ***On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry***

SERMON The Rector

All stand. A collection is taken as all sing

HYMN



Words: Richard Leach (b. 1953)
Music: *Bordy* Russell Schulz-Widmar (b. 1944)

All remain standing

AN ADVENT LITANY

The Rector O Wisdom, proceeding from the Most High, reaching from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things:

People **Come and teach us the way of understanding.**

The Rector O Adonai and Leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and on Mount Sinai gave the Law:

People **Come to deliver us with your strong arm.**

The Rector O Root of Jesse, given as a sign for all peoples, in whose presence kings are silenced and before whom all nations will be judged:

People **Come with the day of peace and do not delay.**

The Rector O Key of David, who opens and none can shut, leading us to life everlasting:
People **Come and lead out those bound in chains.**

The Rector O Day Spring, the bright and morning star, the eternal light that enlightens all:
People **Come and shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.**

The Rector O King of the Nations, chosen and precious cornerstone,
binding in one all peoples:
People **Come quiet the strife that afflicts your children.**

The Rector O Emmanuel, the promise and the fulfillment of all promises:
People **Come and bring among us the joy of your kingdom.**

The Rector Come, Lord Jesus, and make us bold to pray as you taught:

Our Father,
All **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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Rector Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage; hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And the blessing of God Almighty:
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with always.
People **Amen.**

HYMN

I. Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

II. Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

III. Those dear tokens of his Passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

IV. Yea, amen! Let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Music: *Helmsley* Thomas Olivers (1725-1799)

VOLUNTARY *Nun komm den Heiden Heiland*, BWV 661 J S Bach

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A note about this service

Advent Services are a popular fixture in many churches and cathedrals throughout the Anglican Communion. They all share a common root in the famous Advent Procession that has been held every Advent Sunday in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge since 1934. The purpose of this service was "not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it."

Advent is a rich time, with many themes and images associated with it. Our service this morning is divided into four major sections, beginning with a prophet's cry in the wilderness and ending with the Baptist's proclamation on the banks of the river Jordan. The anthems, prayers, and hymns are reflections on and responses to the readings.

The service begins and ends with two of the best-loved hymns of Advent. *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* has been the Advent hymn *par excellence* since the Middle Ages. It is a rendition of the great "O Antiphons" which were sung before and after the Magnificat at Vespers on the seven days before Christmas. J. M. Neale renders these Latin phrases in a poetic way in his translation: "O Come, Emmanuel," "O Wisdom from on high," and so forth. *Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending* is one of Charles Wesley's most familiar texts. Thematically, the hymn is essentially *eschatological* – which is a theological way of saying it is about the Last Judgement, which is another of the season's great historic themes.

Advent and Christmas Services and Events

WEDNESDAYS at 5:00
December 2, 9, 16 and 23

Evening Prayer with Meditation

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
5 pm *A Christmas Homecoming*
St Mark's Annual Christmas Concert
with Special Guest Eric Friesen

Tickets are $40 and available from the parish office

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

4:30 pm *Congregational Carols and Festive Organ Music*
5 pm *Festive Sung Eucharist*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:30 am *Festive Sung Eucharist*



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The Rev'd Canon Leighton Lee, ***Rector***
The Rev'd Dr Susan MacLaren, ***Honorary Assistant to the Rector***

Michael Bloss, ***Director of Music***
Erin McKinley, ***Parish Administrator***

Andrea Douglas, O. N.
Rector's Warden

Ian Russell
People's Warden

Kathy Taylor
Deputy Warden

Allan Magnacca, O. N.
Warden Emeritus