
WELCOME

St. Clare's Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

The Word of God

Opening Voluntary

Prepare Thyself, Zion!

J.S. Bach

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Reader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Peace.
May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of
Jesus, our hope, our joy and our peace.

People *O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

Processional Hymn

Come, thou long expected Jesus

Hymnal 66

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

Collect for Purity

BCP 355

The Collect of the Day

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.*

The Lessons

The First Lesson – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture,

from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

BCP 713

The Second Lesson – Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Hymnal 265

The Holy Gospel – Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Liz Schellingerhoudt

A period of silence is kept

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

Presider: Extend your greeting to your favored ones, O God, and let your Holy Spirit overshadow us, that we may proclaim your love to our generation, as we await the coming of Christ, saying: Let your faithfulness and love be with us; for your love is established for ever.

Litanist: Gracious and Loving One, build your Church into a house that shall be made sure forever before you, that we, like Mary, may respond in faithfulness and be bearers of the Christ Child unto all the world.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

for your love is established for ever.

Eternal and Infinite One, raise up just leaders, especially in Israel and Hamas, and Russia and Ukraine, and guide the nations of the world, that all people may live in their own place, and not be disturbed; and that evildoers shall afflict them no more.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

for your love is established for ever.

Compassionate One, let the prophetic writings be made known to all the nations to bring release and comfort to all who are oppressed, to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

for your love is established for ever.

Loving One, empower your Holy Spirit to come upon this community, that we may be the servants of the Lord and live graciously according to your word.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

for your love is established for ever.

Gracious One, visit with your mysterious love all for whom we pray, and honor the intercessions of your people; give them courage and hope in their troubles now as we say their names responsively: Missie, Karen and Todd, Duke, Theresa, Herb and Judy, Ann, Nicole, Johnny, Benny, Jose, Tracy, Leo, Linda, Allison, Frank, Lamar, John, Peter, Jane, Audrey, Grady, Arlene, Bob, Peg, Keri, Carolyn, Bonnie, MaryAnn, Travis, Annie, Jane, Sally, Mary, Joy, Anne, McKinley, Katie, Edwina, Terri, Herb H., Al, Josh, Roz, Bob, Ann, Delores, Mary Lou, Pat, and Joan. We pray for those who travel, including Diana & Richard, and Lisa & Tom.

Hear our glad tidings as we offer you our praise and thanksgiving, especially for those celebrating birthdays, including Josh Wallace, Mike Priven, and Candace Tschirki; and those celebrating anniversaries, including Katherine & Daniel Duello, and Mary & Daryl Golnitz.

Raise up into your glorious eternal presence those who have died, especially Ronald Swafford, Robert Reinheimer, and Jean Sambor.

Let your faithfulness and love be with us;

for your love is established for ever.

Presider: Holy One, let your Word of perfect love cast out all fear, for the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages is now disclosed; guide us that we may joyfully bring about the obedience of faith in the power of the Spirit, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever. Amen.

Confession of Sin

BCP 359

The Peace

BCP 360

The Holy Communion

Choral Anthem

The Lord Did Send the Angel Gabriel
Missie Kirkland, soprano solo

Fred Gramann

Presentation Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel (vs. 6-8)

Hymnal 56

Eucharistic Prayer 3 from *Enriching Our Worship*

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

The Sanctus

Hymnal S-114

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrated.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and people

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Celebrant continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed St. Clare all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Lord’s Prayer (*contemporary, sung*)

Hymnal S-148

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give 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 forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S-157

Distribution of Communion

BCP 364

Communion Hymns

*Redeemer of the nations, come
The Word whom earth and sea and sky*

Hymnal 55
Hymnal 263

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

The Blessing

Processional Hymn

Savior of the nations, come!

Hymnal 54

Dismissal

Closing Voluntary

Prepare the Royal Highway

Bereden väg för Herran

The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.

Announcements

The Advent Outreach Tree is back! Paper cards adorn the tree in the Narthex, and each donation of \$10 or more to Sleep in Heavenly Peace earns a card that may be mailed to friends and family, or placed in stockings, to let them know that a gift was made in their honor. Sleep in Heavenly Peace provides beds for children in Union County.

Church Calendar

Christmas Eve Service

7:15 PM – 7:50 PM Christmas crafts with children in the parish hall

7:30 PM Prelude Music by Chancel Choir

8:00 PM Festive Eucharist with reception following the service

New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31st

10:30 AM – Christmas Lessons and Carols, followed by Bon Voyage to the Duellos *Katherine, Daniel, Camilla, and James Duello are heading to New Zealand in 2024. Let's send them off with lots of love from St. Clare's! Join us in the Parish Hall after Christmas Lessons and Carols for a chance to wish them well on their adventures, until we see them again.*

Holidays/Office Closings

Dec 25-Jan 1 – The office will be closed for Christmas Week & New Year's Day. No Morning Prayer, Centering Prayer, Weekday Eucharist (Wednesday), or Compline services will be held or streamed on Facebook.

Weekly Services

Sundays, HE Rite II, 10:30 AM (In person and on Facebook)

Wednesdays, Centering Prayer, 11:30 AM (Assisi Chapel)

Wednesdays, HE Rite II, 12:15 PM (Assisi Chapel)

Morning Prayer is 8:00 AM M-F (Facebook)

Compline is 7:30 PM M-F (Facebook)

Choral Compline, First Sundays, 7:00 PM (In person and on Facebook)

*Welcoming all people to worship with us.
Unapologetically Christian.
Learning to love like Jesus.*

***Join us on Saturday, January 6th,
for dinner and a bonfire.***

5:00 PM Dinner

5:30 PM Burning of the Greens

***We will celebrate the Feast of the
Epiphany on Sunday, January 7th.***



**Those Who Serve
December 24, 2023**

Verger – Lamar Barber
Crucifer – Steve Wilson
Lector 1 – Haley Dyer
Lector 2 – JC Eriksen
Eucharistic Minister – Steve Wilson
Ushers – Scotti & Skip Kershner
Greeter – Jo Ellen Clow
VPOD – Sandy Calloway
Altar Guild – Linda Boyett
Flower Guild – Entire Guild
Videographer – Sandy Bell
No Fellowship

2023 Vestry

Lynnae Boudreau, Senior Warden
Lisa McElfresh, Junior Warden
Lamar Barber, Treasurer
Jo Ellen Clow, Clerk
Sandy Calloway
Amy Cox
Katherine Duello
Lynne Joynes
Pat Murray
Herb Pilcher
Michael Smith-Foot

Clergy and Staff

Bishop of Diocese of Atlanta
The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright
Rector—The Rev. Liz Schellingerhoudt, OA
Liz@StClaresEpiscopal.org
Parish Administrator—Kitty Taylor
Admin@StClaresEpiscopal.org
Treasurer—Lamar Barber
treasurer@stclaresepiscopal.org
Organist-Choirmaster—Karen Calloway
edwins@windstream.net
Sunday Sexton—Billy Clayton

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