

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. – Said Eucharist

## Welcome

*Large Print service leaflets are available*



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## The Gathering of the Community

### Greeting

*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

### Hymn #88 "Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus"

Text by Charles Wesley

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| <p>1 Come thou long-expected Jesus,<br/>born to set thy people free;<br/>from our fears and sins release us;<br/>let us find our rest in thee.</p> | <p>4 By thine own eternal Spirit,<br/>rule in all our hearts alone;<br/>by thine all-sufficient merit,<br/>raise us to thy glorious throne.</p> |
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### Collect for Purity

*Celebrant* Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Micah 5:2–5a

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Micah.

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,

from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

Canticle 18 (Luke 1:46b–55): The Song of Mary

46b My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

47 my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;

48 for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:

49 the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

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

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

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

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

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

55 the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Second Reading:

*Reader* A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings” (these are offered according to the law),

<sup>9</sup> then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

Holy Gospel:

Luke 1:39–55

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,  
<sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

## 5

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.”

*Celebrant* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Sermon

*A time for silent reflection is kept.*

### The Apostles' Creed

*People* **I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy  
Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,  
dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the  
dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the  
Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### The Prayers of the People

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### Confession and Absolution

*Celebrant* Let us humbly confess our sins to almighty God.

*Silence is kept.*

*People* **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things and judge of  
all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness,  
Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought,  
word and deed, Against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are  
heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful  
Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And  
grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To  
the honour and glory of thy name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised  
forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn  
unto him: have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins;  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

## The Celebration of the Eucharist

### The Prayer over the Gifts

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your  
Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus  
Christ the Lord. Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

#### Eucharistic Prayer A

Proper Preface Advent

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Celebrant* It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, creator and preserver of all things.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world; that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and saying:

*People* **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant* Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee, almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it; and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all, of this; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy bread of eternal life and the cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded:

*People* **We praise thee, we bless thee, we thank thee, and we pray to thee, Lord our God.**

*Celebrant* And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

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

*Celebrant* And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

*People* **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*All are invited to share in Communion. If you would rather not receive the bread and wine, please feel free to come forward for a blessing.*

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*People* **Almighty and everliving God, We most heartily thank thee That thou dost graciously feed us, in these holy mysteries, With the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood Of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; Assuring us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; And that we are living members of his mystical Body, Which is the blessed company of all faithful people; And are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, Ourselves, our souls and bodies, To be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee. And although we are unworthy, Yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, Not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, To whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, World without end. Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Go in peace full of expectation to love and serve the Lord.

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

Services

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Said Eucharist (BAS 1962)
	9:00 a.m.	Mandarin Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist (BAS)

BAS 1962 (Book of Alternate Services) uses the 1962 rite which is the traditional language as in the BCP (Book of Common Prayer)

Mandarin Fellowship is offered in the Sanctuary. We hope our Mandarin Fellowship can be a “harbour for love,” where we seek truth together, while experiencing and receiving the abundant grace of God.

衷心欢迎您来到圣乔治教会大家庭，我们的国语团契每周日上午9点举行主日聚会。

盼望国语团契可以成为一个爱的港湾，在这里我们一起寻求上帝的真理，一起经历上

帝的同在，一起领受上帝的恩典。

BAS (Book of Alternate Services) uses contemporary, inclusive-language

Interim Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Honorary Associate	The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD
Assistant Curate	The Rev. Morning Wang
Organist & Director of Music	Michael Leach
Parish Administrator	Craig Gustafson
Custodian	Philip Ikhuoria