



CHURCH *of the*
INCARNATION

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

Traditional Service, 11:15 am

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Due to ongoing restrictions on congregational singing, the choir alone will offer all sung portions of today's liturgy. At these moments, we encourage you to pray the texts as the choir sings praises on your behalf.

Mass Setting: *Communion Service in E* by Richard Wayne Dirksen (1921–2003)

Organ Voluntary

Fantasia on 'Veni Emmanuel'

Heathcote Statham (1889–1973)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Introit: *Rorate, celi*

DROP down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and bring forth a Savior. *Ps.* The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.

Hymn 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

Celebrant ✠ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity and the Summary of the Law.

Kyrie

Sung by the choir

LORD, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

The Collects

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

OLORD, raise up, we pray thee, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succor us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever on God, world without end. *Amen.*

ALmighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-9

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. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:17-21

Sung by the choir to a chant by T. Hanforth.

THE LORD is righteous in all his ways, *
and holy in all his works.

The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him; *
yea, all such as call upon him faithfully.

He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him; *
he also will hear their cry, and will help them.

The LORD preserveth all them that love him; *
but scattereth abroad all the ungodly.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; *
and let all flesh give thanks unto his holy Name for ever and ever.

The Epistle

Philippians 4:4-7

REJOICE in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Psalm 42

The Gospel

John 1:19–28

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THIS is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” And he answered, “No.” They said to him then, “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 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, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Father Chase Skorburg

THE NICENE CREED

I BELIEVE in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, ☩ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Deacon says

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

Each petition concludes

Deacon We pray to thee, O Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

The prayers conclude in this way

Deacon Let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

People To thee, O Lord our God.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

ALmighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, 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 honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant stands and gives the Absolution.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be; strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERTORY

The Minister begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.

Anthem

Grayston Ives (b. 1948)

THIS is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,
Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ.
And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not.
Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No.

Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us.
What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Make straight the way of the Lord.

John 1:19–23

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

The Celebrant continues with the Preface, which concludes

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus & Benedictus

Sung by the choir

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.

THE CANON OF THE EUCHARIST

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer on BCP page 334. The prayer concludes

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

Communion Devotions

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People say the Lord's Prayer.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread and a period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

People and Celebrant

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Agnus Dei

Sung by the choir

OLAMB of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Please remain kneeling. Holy Communion will be brought to you in your pew.

Instructions for Holy Communion

All Christians who have been baptized with water and in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and are permitted to receive Holy Communion in their own church, are welcome to do so on this occasion.

Communion is received in the following way: a priest places the Bread in the palm of your hand, which you then consume. If you do not wish to receive Communion, simply cross your arms over your chest.

Please feel free to consult with a member of the clergy if you have more questions.

For those watching at home who are unable to make their Communion today:

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me;

Blood of Christ, inebriate me;

Water from the side of Christ, wash me;

Passion of Christ, strengthen me;

O good Jesus, hear me;

Within thy wounds hide me;

Suffer me not to be separated from thee;

From the malicious enemy defend me;

In the hour of my death call me,

And bid me come to thee.

That with thy Saints I may praise thee

For ever and ever. Amen.

Motet

Anon., 16th cent.

REJOICE in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is even at hand.
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,
Let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding
keep your hearts and minds, through Christ Jesu. Amen.

Philippians 4: 4-7

CONCLUDING RITES

Celebrant Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Celebrant stands and gives the blessing.

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 72

Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes

Richmond

Organ Voluntary

Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'

Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

Altar Arrangements

Are given to the glory of God...

In loving memory of Roger Leo Rodriguez,
Susan & Wado Powell,
and Nancy Wright Small



WEEKLY ENEWS

The weekly eNews, our official church electronic newsletter, is the most up-to-date way to receive info about upcoming events. Make sure that you are registered to receive this email by going to incarnation.org/enews.



WEEKLY READINGS

This week's readings may be found in the Book of Common Prayer, pg. 939, Week of 4 Advent.

CHURCH *of the* INCARNATION

*A parish in the Episcopal Diocese
of Dallas and a member of the
world-wide Anglican Communion.*

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ACT:

*Try to make your acts of generosity
intentional.*

Being intentional means developing a plan for giving and then following through with that plan. The apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion." To give as you have made up your mind means you have made a plan and give according to that plan – whether that is time, talent, or treasure.

When we are generous, our lives reflect the heart of God.

Developing a habit of generosity takes time and practice. We hope these acts give you ideas to begin exploring generosity in everyday life with your friends and family.

ACTS OF
Generosity

BECOMING MORE
LIKE CHRIST

INCARNATION.ORG/GIVE

*THE LESSONS & CAROLS DRIVE-IN
SHOWINGS ARE SOLD OUT, SO...*

JOIN US FOR AN
**ONLINE VIEWING
PARTY**

THIS SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 20 at 5 PM

DETAILS AT
INCARNATION.ORG/CHRISTMAS

A FESTIVAL OF NINE

Lessons

&

Carols

**THE SIGN
AND THE
SACRIFICE**

ROWAN WILLIAMS

six-week parish-wide study
BEGINS TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

REGISTER BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 AT
INCARNATION.ORG/EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE
JANUARY 10 AT 6 PM

COMMUNITY EPIPHANY
Night

plus



UPTOWN WORSHIP BAND
YOU REACH FARTHER
ALBUM RELEASE CONCERT AT 6:30 PM



VIEW ALL OF OUR EVENTS ON OUR ONLINE CALENDAR AT
INCARNATION.ORG/EVENTS

Christmas Eve & Day Services

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

12 NOON

Traditional Holy Eucharist

in the Church with the Incarnation Choir**

2 PM

Church in the Lot Family Service:

A 30-minute Holy Eucharist in the North Lot with Carols designed especially for kids and their families†

2 PM & 5 PM

Traditional Holy Eucharist

in the Church with the Incarnation Choir**

Contemporary Holy Eucharist

in Ascension Chapel with the Uptown Worship Band**

These services conclude with carol singing outdoors at the Cloister Christmas Tree.

5 PM

Outdoor Holy Eucharist

in the North Parking Lot with Carols†

Traditional Holy Eucharist Online

with Carols and the Incarnation Choir via Facebook Live at 5 pm

Contemporary Holy Eucharist Online

with Carols and the Uptown Worship Band via Facebook Live at 5 pm

10:30 PM

Traditional Holy Eucharist

in the Church with Incense & the Incarnation Choir**
and Online via Facebook Live

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

11 AM

Traditional Holy Eucharist

with Organ in the Church on Christmas Day°



*** Indoor, in-person Christmas Eve services require ticketing. Those without tickets will wait outside in a designated area to see if seats become available. Visit incarnation.org/christmas for ticket details.*

° Please see information about COVID-19 precautions and requirements (including masking) on our website.

† If inclement weather requires cancellation of the outdoor Christmas Eve services, then a notice will be posted on the website and social media pages by 10 am on Thursday, December 24.

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