

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
1st Sunday of Advent
December 1st, 2024

The Processional Hymn

[H] 58

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Psalms 25:1-9

[H]703

The Second Reading

I Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Children’s Sermon

The Rev. Jenny Gettys

The Gradual Hymn

[H] 73, stanzas 1-3

The Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Sermon Hymn

[H] 73, stanzas 4, 5

The Sermon

The Rev. Jenny Gettys

The Offertory Anthem

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

presented by our handbell choir

Music: plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th century., adapt Thomas Helmore (1811-1890). Arr. B. Albert.

Communion Hymns

3, 5, 1, 2

found beginning on page 14 in your service booklet

The Processional Hymn

[H] 72

Calendar

Sunday, December 1	8:30 Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II
Monday, December 2	8:00 Livestreamed Morning Prayer
Tuesday, December 3	8:00 Livestreamed Morning Prayer
Wednesday, December 4	8:00 Livestreamed Morning Prayer 9:00 Worship Committee 6:00 Super and Eucharist
Thursday, December 5	8:00 Livestreamed Morning Prayer
Friday, December 6	8:00 Pre-recorded Morning Prayer
Sunday, December 8	8:30 Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:30 Christian Education 10:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II 11:45 Vestry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Wednesdays

Our Wednesday night Advent events start this Wednesday, December 4! After we enjoy supper together at 6:00 we'll move into the church for a casual, interactive service. We'll read the wonderful book *Sparrow's Prayer* and explore a variety of ways to pray. This week Turtle will teach Sparrow and us to pray by serving others as we write notes to friends who can't worship with us right now. And we'll cap off the evening with the Eucharist, which we'll share with one another. Sign up on the hallway bulletin board to bring soup or sandwiches one week.

Deep Dive into the Book of Common Prayer

Our all-ages Sunday School class continues next week at 9:30. We'll talk about Reconciliation and Unction. Do Episcopalians have private confession like Catholics do? Do we need a priest to give us Last Rites before we die?

Episcopal Coffee and Conversations

The second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 11:00 we'll gather to explore our faith more deeply. Join us Tuesday, December 10th for our next meeting! We'll discuss Christmas. The season of Christmas lasts from December 25 through January 5 (twelve days). It includes parts of Jesus' early life that we rarely talk about like the Slaughter of the Innocents and the Flight to Egypt. We'll explore it together.

Hurricane Relief

Want to help our neighbors to the north of us recover from Hurricane Helene? If you're interested in being part of a team like the one that came to help us, sign up here:

edusc.org/edusc-hurricane-helene-disaster-response-resources/

Poinsettias

Stunning white poinsettias will adorn our altar for Christmas. Plants are \$25 each and can be purchased in honor or memory of someone special. And they'll be yours to take home after the services. Sign up on the hallway bulletin board.

Godly Play

Starting in January we'd like to offer this wonderful class again for our little ones. Would you like to help share the stories of our faith with the children? Sign up on the hallway bulleting board. Teachers work in teams of two and serve once a month. You'll be given all the supplies and training you need! Plan to attend the training session on Sunday, December 15, at 11:45 am.

Supper Clubs

Want to share some great meals and get to know folks at church better? Sign up on the hallway bulletin board to join a supper club. We'll divide into groups of 8 or so and take turns hosting. The host may open their home to the group or suggest that they meet at a restaurant. If at a home, the host prepares the main dish and assigns what the others will bring. If at a restaurant, everyone pays their own way. Sign up now but groups won't meet until the new year.

The Greening of the Church

We're all considered Altar Guild and invited to come help decorate the church for Christmas on Monday, December 23, at 9:00 am. We'll pull out wooden boxes and arrange the poinsettias on them, filling in with magnolia leaves. We'll iron the altar hangings, polish the silver and brass, and make sure everything's ready for Jesus' birth.

Christmas Eve Service

Come welcome the newborn Savior at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24. We'll begin the service in the quiet at our outdoor manger as we light our candles and sing "Silent Night." Once inside, we put on halos and the service becomes more jubilant. Incense prepares the way as the infant is placed in the manger. We'll hear again the story of Jesus' humble birth, sing the verse we know by heart of all our favorite Christmas carols, and receive the gift of the Eucharist. Inspired by the Limestone University and Community Chorus' concert, the sermon and anthem will be based on Howard Thurman's poem "The Work of Christmas," an inspiration and a challenge to take with us into the new year. This service will also be livestreamed on Facebook for those who can't be with us in person.

Christmas Day Service

Once the flurry of gleeful gift-giving is over and the last shred of hastily ripped wrapping paper has settled into a pile on the floor, join Jenny+ and Tucker on Facebook at 9:00 Christmas morning, December 25, for a brief service reminding us of the greatest gift of all: Jesus' birth into our hearts. So put on your Christmas jammies and join in this worship-from-home experience! _

Next Week's Readings:

Malachi 3:1-4, Canticle 16, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Donations

To make an online contribution to Incarnation, go to our web site www.Incarnation-Gaffney.org and go to "Giving" under the "About" tab. Or scan the following QR code:



To cover the fees associated with either of these ways of giving, check the "cover fees" box. And thank you!

THOSE WHO SERVE

	December 1st 1 st Advent 10:30 am	December 8th 2 nd Advent 10:30 am
Altar Guild	Cathy Roberts Jackie Hoffman Nancy Fowler	Hope Greene Marty Marett
Coffee Hour	Joette Johnson	Marty Marett
Greeters	Ed and Jackie Hoffman	Miles Gettys Charlie Zinko
Advent Family	Ed and Jackie Hoffman	Charlie and Becky Zinko
Digital Greeter	Morgan Johnson	Cora Torres
Camera	Max Hyde	Asher Torres
Nursery	Cathy Roberts	Marty Marett
Euch. Min.	Niccie Dearing	Cynthia Glidden
Crucifer	Niccie Dearing	Angharad Torres
1 st Lector	Scott Glidden	Ben Torres
2 nd Lector	Joette Johnson	Bobbi Albert
Intercessor	None	None
Flowers	None	None
Counters	Scott Glidden Niccie Dearing	Ben Torres Ed Hoffman
Pew Racks	Available	Mimi McCully