

## A Celebration for Advent St. David Episcopal Church

*This Service has been created for use on a Sunday of Advent when foul weather precludes gathering for our hybrid (in church & on Zoom) worship.*

*The scriptures and Prayers of the People will be taken from the Sunday Service for this Sunday, posted at the Events Page. The Reader assigned for this Sunday will proclaim the Lessons and Psalm, and, if no Deacon is present, will lead the Prayers of the People.*

*Music (as far as practical) will follow what is found in the Worship Bulletin for this Sunday.*

*The family designated to light the candles on the Advent Wreath will do so as shown in the Bulletin.*

*This Service will follow the pattern of our Zoom Services prior to our return to in-church worship. There is a place in this service for us to take something to eat together. This is a symbolic way of enacting our identity as a family of God, so you are encouraged to have something, no matter how small, prepared for this part of the Service.*

### Opening Hymn

Advent Wreath Candle lighting

Celebrant: Come once more, with eager longing,  
to receive the promises of God. *(As we form the sign of the Cross)*

**All: Out of the desert places of our lives  
we gather with joy and gladness.**

Celebrant: Happy are those who help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

**All: Our God has promised that lonely places and deserts will be glad  
and blossom as the rose.**

The Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.  
People **And also with you.**  
Celebrant Let us pray.

### **The Collect.**

The Celebrant Almighty God, In time of anxiety, illness suffering and death, your people turn to you for hope and comfort.  
(Collect of the Day)

People **Amen.**

The Lessons  
(From the Sunday Bulletin for this week)

**Old Testament**

**Psalm**

**The Epistle**

**Sequence Hymn**

**The Gospel**

**Children's Sermon**

**The Sermon**

**The Prayers of the People**  
(From the Sunday Bulletin for this week)

**Confession**

**All: Holy and loving God,  
we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light;**

**we have been proud of our accomplishments  
and despaired over our shortcomings.  
Smooth down the mountains of our pride,  
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.  
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again.  
Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your kingdom.  
Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen.**

**Breathe your grace into our lives.  
Forgive our wandering ways, and guide us along your paths of peace.  
When we lose our way, and forget the reason and purpose of this season,  
carry us back to you.  
Lead us up to that high mountain of faith and hope, that we might truly proclaim:  
"Here is our God!"**

Priest: "Comfort, O comfort my people," says our God.  
You have served your term. Your penalty is paid.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People **And also with you.**

Priest: Gracious and generous Creator, your people come before you this day with the offering of their whole selves, of all that they are, and all that they have. The gifts they have made to support the ministry and mission of St. David's Church are a symbol of their very lives and their commitment to invest a portion of themselves in your on-going work in the world. May those who make this sacrifice of praise and gratitude be so filled with your own generous spirit, that it pours out of each and every one into the world around them. Hear these prayers and accept our humble gifts. Bless them. Make them abound that all people through our work and sacrifice in your name, may know and feel your abundant blessings. All this we ask of you, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. **Amen.**

Priest The Lord be with you.  
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Priest It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

In this Season of Advent,

as we remember the first coming of Jesus, born among us,  
looking forward once again to Christmas,

and as we wait in joyful expectation for the return of Christ our Lord on the last day,  
we huddle in the safety of our homes, conscious of the dangers of a pandemic  
that has overtaken the whole world.

We live in Advent hope for grace and healing for the world  
and eagerly await a new proclamation of joy for all people.

We join with all the Angels to praise your majesty  
and worship together with exultation as we acclaim

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father:

In this time of fear and stress, we turn our hearts to you,  
looking for your help and consolation.

The colorful leaves of fall once again turn toward winter,  
yet we still hear the advice of medical experts  
who tell us to separate ourselves from each other for our own safety,  
and out of concern for one another.

Today we celebrate your love for all creation,  
and we remember the many times when  
our community of faith has gathered  
to be fed by your word and sacrament.

We remember the many times in ages past  
when your people were fed through your loving care.

In this Lent of isolation,

we remember the food you provided your People  
as they journeyed through the wilderness toward the Promised land.

We remember how Jesus fed the multitudes  
who had come to listen to his preaching in another wilderness place. And above all,  
we remember the evening when Jesus gathered

with a small group of his friends,  
to link his life to the ancient story of liberation  
celebrated by the Jewish people in the Passover.

Jesus took the simple food and drink before him  
and created for all time  
a means by which those who love him  
may be joined intimately with him.  
He created a sacrament for your Church,  
but in this time of sickness,  
when our joyful celebrations are curtailed,  
we cannot gather as we would wish.  
So we turn to your words, "Whenever you do this,  
[whenever you eat and drink,] do it in remembrance of me."

We have feasted on your word,  
and now we give thanks that your love reaches to our generation  
so that having this food before us reminds us  
of the abundance of your goodness  
through which we are sustained every day.  
With sorrow, we mourn the loss of receiving your blessed Body and Blood.  
With gratitude, we take what you have made available to us  
as a taste of your abundant grace. We thank you, Lord, our God

**All: We thank you, Lord our God.**

**Celebrant:** As one family we now pray as our Savior Christ has taught us,  
People and Celebrant

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

**Priest: Loving God, bless all those spiritually gathered here today,  
as we remember the friendship and fellowship of our church.**

**Thank you for the blessings of our individual and collective God-given gifts.  
Place in our hearts the desire to make a difference to our families,  
to our community, to our country,  
and to the many cultures and peoples worldwide.  
Give us peace in these times of distraction and uncertainty.  
Thank you for food in a world where many know only hunger;  
For our faith in a world where many know fear;  
For friends in a world where many know only loneliness.  
Please bless this food we are about to share,  
Bless those who prepared it, those who serve it,  
and those who have worked to make today  
the special occasion that it is.  
For all of this we give you thanks.**

All: Amen

*All eat and drink from the food before us.  
Music  
After all have tasted of the food (the food  
may be finished after the conclusion of  
the Service) and the music has  
concluded*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, we desire to offer to you our praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we pray that you will come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

**All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. You have fed us with the spiritual food of your Word and you have given us the means to partake of the abundance of this world. Make us mindful now that you have called us to be your presence in this world, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you and the people you have set before us with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**All: Lord, we ask you to guide the members of our Vestry and Discernment Committee so that they may hear Your voice leading St. David's Church into the future to which you are calling us.  
Give them wisdom and insight into the qualities of**

**Leadership needed to best serve our precious church.  
Inspire also the person You intend to be our spiritual leader  
and pastor. Give us all a sense of happy anticipation  
as we await the one we know will be the right one  
according to Your plan for us.  
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Blessing

Celebrant : Let the Lord steer you in the way of truth.  
Be on your guard so that you will not be caught up  
in the trivialities and anxieties of the world.  
Be alert at all times and pray for strength  
to escape the traps that would keep you from God.

And may God make you increase in love for one another;  
May Christ Jesus teach you how to live in God's ways;  
and may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts in holiness,  
as you ready yourselves for the coming of the Lord.

May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit ✚  
be with you and remain with you always.

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
All: Thanks be to God.

In this time of COVID-19, we pray:  
When we aren't sure, God,  
help us be calm;  
when information comes  
from all sides, correct and not,  
help us to discern;  
when fear makes it hard to breathe,  
and anxiety seems to be the order of the day,  
slow us down, God;  
help us to reach out with our hearts,  
when we can't touch with our hands;  
help us to be socially connected,  
when we have to be socially distant;  
help us to love as perfectly as we can,  
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

For the doctors, we pray,  
for the nurses, we pray,  
for the technicians and the janitors and the  
aides and the care givers, we pray,  
for the researchers and theorists,  
the epidemiologists and investigators,  
for those who are sick,  
and those who are grieving, we pray,  
for all who are affected,  
all around the world...  
we pray  
for safety,  
for health,  
for wholeness.

May we feed the hungry,  
give drink to the thirsty,  
clothe the naked and house those without homes;  
may we walk with those who feel they are alone,  
and may we do all that we can to heal  
the sick—  
in spite of the epidemic,  
in spite of the fear.

Help us, O God,  
that we might help each other.

In the love of the Creator,  
in the name of the Healer,  
in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all,

we pray.

May it be so.