

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 20, 2020



The Fourth Sunday Of Advent
Advent Lessons & Carols
Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Right Rev. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of Texas
Fr. Steve Karcher, Rector

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
2800 Trimmier Rd
Killeen, TX 76542
254-634-7474

st.chris.killeen@gmail.com

www.stchriskilleen.com

www.facebook.com/stchriskilleen

Advent Bidding Prayers for the Church and the People

*(please stand) A Lay Reader says and the **People** respond:*

Dear People of God:

On this 4th Sunday of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to hear the message of the Angels, about the Child born to a Virgin, the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear the story of God's loving purpose, and live in holy expectancy, awaiting his coming and our glorious redemption.

Let us pray for the unity and mission of the whole Church, and the parishes of the Diocese of Texas, for St. Christopher's; for peace and justice on the earth, and in Texas, in Bell County and in Killeen.

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace, and the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

(Silence or the People may add their own petitions)

Hear us, Lord, For your mercy is great.

Let us pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Andy, Jeff, Hector, and Kathryn, our Bishops; for Steve, our priest, and for all bishops and other ministers; and for all the holy people of God.

Let us pray for the poor, for those in any need or trouble, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Let us pray for the departed.

Let us remember the pure and lowly Mother, who bore Our Lord, and whose hope was in the Christ, Jesus, with whom we are one, for evermore.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden”? The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.” But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves ... among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you? The man said, ‘I heard the sound of you... and I was afraid, because I was naked. [The Lord God] said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?

The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate. Then the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’

The LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.’

Carol: *“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”* (vs 1,2) **Hymnal 324**

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: ‘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. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. A voice says, ‘Cry out!’ And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’ All people are grass, their constancy 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 are grass...but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, ... lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem... do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’

See, the Lord GOD comes with might He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Carol: *“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (v 1,2,3)* **Hymnal 66**

1 Come, thou long expected Jesus born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

The Third Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

... Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love

Carol: *“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers” (vs 1)* **Hymnal 68**

1 Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh;
up, watch with expectation! at the midnight comes the cry.

The Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2-4

But you, O Bethlehem ...one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth ... one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ... 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.

Carol:*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* (vs 1,2,3)**Hymnal 79**

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

The Fifth Lesson**Isaiah 11: 1-9**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

...He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ... for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Gospel Processional

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" (vs 1,2)

Hymnal 73

1 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks;
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

2 Not, as of old, a little child,
to bear, and fight, and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.

The Sixth Lesson (The Gospel)

Luke 1: 26-38

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

People: ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Gospel Recessional

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" (vs 5)

Hymnal 73

5 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings:
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray,
come quickly, King of kings.

Homily on this 4th Sunday of Advent

Fr. Steve Karcher

A moment of reflection follows

**Announcements/Newcomers / Birthdays / Anniversaries /
Deployments**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God. Eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers for and of The People

*(Please stand or kneel. The Leader and **People** pray responsively)*

Leader: O Lord, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to your merciful care, that, being guided by your Providence, we may dwell secure in your peace. Grant to our President and our President-elect, and to all in authority, the wisdom, courage and strength to know and to do your will. Fill each of them with a love of truth and righteousness, making them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen**

Leader: Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Lord, you have called us to serve you. Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and people: *Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Absolution

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace *(shared by waving, smiling, peace signs, etc., from one's pew)*

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

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

BCP 376

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

(Feel free to drop any offering in the plate at the rear, as you leave today.)

Offertory Hymn

Piano

(The Priest prepares the Table)

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The priest, and the People sing

Celebrant: 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.***

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People say, together:

**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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Christopher, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

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

***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.***

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

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

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People: **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People: **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People: **Grant us thy peace.**

The Invitation

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

A brief silence is kept.

Communion Hymn “*It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*”

Hymnal 89

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

Hymnal 91

Break forth O beauteous heavenly light
And usher in the morning
Ye shepherds, shrink not with alright
But hear the angel's warning
This child now weak in infancy
Our confidence and joy shall be
The power of Satan breaking
Our peace eternal making

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 366

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and people:

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;

and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

BCP 339

Celebrant:

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

“Lo! He Comes”

Hymnal 58

1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2 Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

4 Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

The Dismissal

Priest: Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

Organ

**Join us at St. Christopher's on Christmas Eve!
(maximum of 50 persons for any service)
Please RSVP about the service you will attend!**

Christmas Eve!

5:30pm - Family Service
In-Person and Facebook Live

Children may come dressed as angels, shepherds, etc.
(we cannot provide the costumes due to COVID)

7:30pm - Traditional Christmas Eve Service

1st Sunday After Christmas

With Baptism

9:30am - December 27, 2020

50 Maximum Live

Plus Unlimited Streamed Online!

