Welcome to the Church of the Advent! If you are a guest with us this morning, please know we are honored by your presence! We invite you to complete a guest card, which will allow us to remain in contact with you and provide you with additional information. You may place your completed card in the offering plate, or you may give it to one of our priests as you are leaving. On our website (www.adventks.org), you will find an up-to-date calendar of all church-related ministries and activities, and you may sign up to receive our weekly email. If you are interested in learning more about the Church of the Advent, the Episcopal Church, or the Christian faith, please contact one of our priests at (610) 444-4624 or at rector@adventks.org (Rev. Tim) or emma@adventks.org (Rev. Emma). **Again, welcome!**

During the Sunday school hour today, everyone is invited to the Parish Hall for a visit from St. Nicholas and to make Christmas Cards for our fellow parishioners who are not physically able to be with us in worship.

Next week, during the Sunday school hour, everyone is invited to the Parish Hall for an intergenerational Godly Play story followed by assembling snack boxes for the Church Farm School and stockings for the Chester County Youth Center.

Readings for Next Week (December 6: Second Sunday in Advent) – Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Midweek Eucharist – 8 am, each Wednesday, in the Chapel.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2026 11:00 A.M.

Our liturgy this morning is taken from Enriching Our Worship—an authorized supplement to the Prayer Book—and The Book of Common Prayer 1979.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Song of Peace* Langlais

OPENING HYMN *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*
#58 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

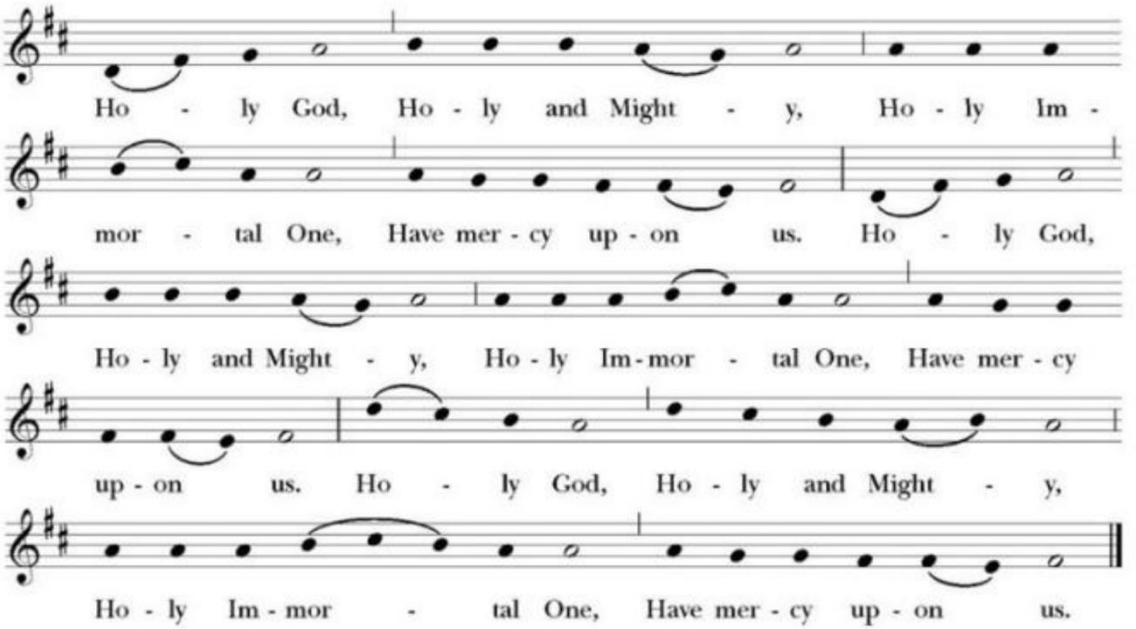
Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living God.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

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. Lord. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

S-100 *Trisagion* in the Hymnal 1982



Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant & People

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has

been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able for the Sequence Hymn and Gospel.)

SEQUENCE HYMN *Sleepers, Wake!*
#61, v. 1 in **The Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know

when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SEQUENCE HYMN *Sleepers, Wake!*
#61, v. 3 in **The Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

HOMILY

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

THE NICENE CREED

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 worshiped 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.

(Please kneel or be seated for the prayers of the people and confession.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Response to each petition…**"and hear our prayer."**)

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

(silence)

Celebrant Lord Jesus, you are the living Word who was with God from the beginning. Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant Christ Jesus, you are the life and light of your people. Christ, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant Lord Jesus, your light shines in the midst of our darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

ANTHEM *We are Singing, for the Lord is our Light* arr. Hopson
Jim Palic, Djembe Drum

If you would like to make a financial contribution electronically or submit your 2027 pledge card electronically, please use the QR codes at the end of the bulletin.

DOXOLOGY *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
(vs. 3 of hymn #380)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Eucharistic Prayer A from The Book of Common Prayer)

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.**

It is a right, and a good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks…

…who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.
(*Sanctus* S 129 from The Hymnal 1982)

(Please kneel, remain standing, or kneel for the remainder of the prayer.)

Holy gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and when…

…Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise…

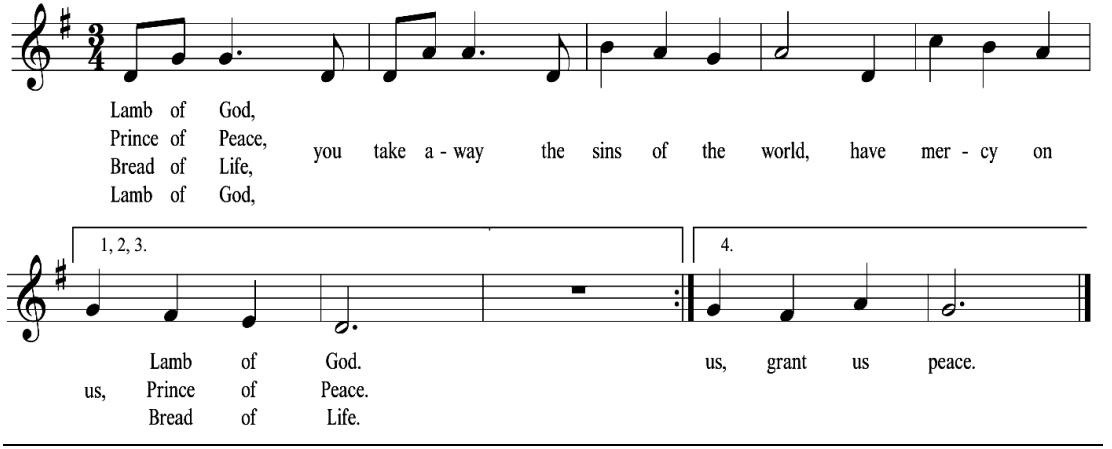
…By him with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen!**

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.
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.

Celebrant This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

People **Whoever eats this bread will live forever.**



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COMMUNION HYMN *Watchman, Tell of the Night*
#640 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE RETURN TO THE WORLD

THE ADVENT BLESSING

Celebrant May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.
People **Amen.**

Celebrant May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.
People **Amen.**

Celebrant May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.
People **Amen.**

Celebrant And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.
People **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*
#66 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Chorale-Prelude on 'Wachet Auf"* Bach

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The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored this week by
Tom and Bobbe Curry in honor of their children and grandchildren.

WORSHIP SUPPORT
Lector: Dennis Glasgow *Sub Deacon*: Barbara Thornton
Eucharistic Minister: Deb Peterson
Director of Music: Wilson G. Somers
Advent Altar Guild

Pastoral Emergencies – If you have a pastoral emergency requiring the assistance of a priest, please contact the church office during office hours. Outside of office hours, please contact the Rev. Tim Johnson directly at 484-730-1988.

Suggested Spiritual Practice During Advent: Read the Gospel of Luke

The Gospel of Luke was written in the latter half of the first century, and it was written for a predominately Gentile (non-Jewish) community. This Gospel demonstrates that God's promises throughout the Prophets of the Old Testament are fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus and that these promises extend to Gentiles also. Luke invites his readers to follow the example of Jesus and care deeply for people whom we often neglect and overlook in our world, namely the poor, the ill, and the vulnerable. This concern for those of low status is present

from the very beginning of the Gospel. In the first chapter, God chooses Mary, a young, poor girl of no position, to be the mother of Jesus, and in Mary's song—the Magnificat—she extols God's mercy for the humble and lowly. The writer of Luke's Gospel was also the writer of the Acts of the Apostles, which is understood to be the sequel to Luke's Gospel.

The Season of Advent – What is it?

To understand the season of Advent, it is helpful to understand the shape of the church year – what we call the liturgical calendar – which operates differently from the standard calendar (Jan.-Dec.) year that orders nearly every aspect of our lives. The church year is designed to help us walk through the life of Jesus each year. The church year is anchored by the two most significant events of Jesus's life – his birth (incarnation) and his resurrection – so the celebrations of Christmas and Easter give shape and structure to the rest of the church year. Christmas and Easter are so important that they are not just celebrated on single days (Christmas Day and Easter Sunday); rather, each of these events is celebrated with an entire season. The Christmas Season spans the twelve days from Christmas Eve through January 5th, and the Easter Season spans the fifty days from Easter Sunday through the Feast of Pentecost.

Each of these festive seasons is preceded by a season of preparation. In preparation for the Easter Season, we observe the season of Lent, which spans the forty weekdays (Mondays-Saturdays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter Sunday. In preparation for Christmas, we observe the season of Advent, which spans the weeks containing the four Sundays before Christmas Eve.

We mark this preparatory season of Advent by using either violet (purple) or blue in the hangings on the altar, counting the Sundays by lighting candles on the Advent wreath, and keeping decorations in the church to a minimum. Whereas secular society tends to start celebrating Christmas at the end of November and wraps up Christmas a day or two after Christmas Day, the church doesn't officially begin celebrating Christmas until Christmas Eve and continues the celebration until the Feast of Epiphany on January 6th. There are two themes you will hear in the Bible readings used during Advent. The first theme is that of waiting for the birth of the promised Messiah (Jesus). The second theme you will hear in the readings is the promise that Jesus will return in the "fullness of time." So, in the season of Advent we prepare to celebrate his first coming or "Advent" at Christmas as well as look to his second coming or "Second Advent" in the fullness of time.