



# St. John's Episcopal Church

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II DECEMBER 20, 2020 10:00 AM

Voluntary

*Variants on Es ist ein Ros'*

Gerald Near

**Entrance Hymn 56, vv. 1&5** (*Sung by the choir*)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

### **The Opening Acclamation**

*Priest:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

### **The Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Priest:* Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The First Lesson 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you

went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Sequence Hymn 265, 1-2** (*Sung by the choir; standing*)

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

“For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

**The Holy Gospel Luke 1:26-38** (*Standing*)

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

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

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.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Children’s Homily**

**The Sermon** (*Seated*)

The Reverend C. Wallace Marsh

**The Prayers of the People** (*Kneeling or standing*)

I ask your prayers for God’s people throughout the world; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; John, Charles, and Dorsey, our Bishops; Dave, Abi, and Wallace, our priests; Joe, our deacon; Chris, our seminarian; Sabrina, our urban missionary; Pat, preparing to become a deacon; and Juan Carlos, our companion parish priest; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; for Donald, our president; Joe, our president-elect; Ron, our governor; John, our mayor; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

Remembering Nicollette Knottage, I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for Julia Livingston, Ann Macmillan, Grady Enlow, Corinna Strayer, Jimmy Spellman, Hussein Almasi, Denny Calhoun, Allen Bowers, Brenda Williams, Gene Logue, Kevin Harms, and all those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*The celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

### **Confession of Sin and Absolution**

*Deacon:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All:* 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.**

*The Priest offers absolution of sins.*

### **The Peace**

*Priest:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

### **Offertory**

*Mariä Wiegenlied*

Max Reger

Emilie O'Connor, soprano

Mary sits by the rose bower and rocks her little Jesus,  
Softly through the leaves the warm wind of summer blows.

A brightly coloured bird sings at her feet:

Go to sleep, sweet child, it's time to go to sleep!

Your smile is lovely, your happy sleep lovelier still,

Lay your tired little head against your mother's breast!

Go to sleep, sweet child, it's time to go to sleep!

-Richard Stokes, author of *The Book of Lieder* (Faber, 2005)

*We encourage you to place your offerings in the offertory plates at the exits of the church if you are worshipping with us in person. If you are worshipping with us online, you can text your gift by texting STJOHNS to 732-56. You can go to the St. John's website and click on the Give Now button on the top-right of the homepage. You can mail your gift to the church office: St. John's Episcopal Church, Attn: Finance Office, 211 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL, 32301. If you bank online, set up St. John's as a vendor with your bank for quick, easy, online payments.*

### **The Great Thanksgiving-Eucharistic Prayer B**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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:

### **Sanctus S 130**

*Holy, holy, holy*

Franz Schubert

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, (2x)  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. (2x)

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

Hosanna in the highest. (2x)

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,

*Priest and People:*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

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 John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the first born 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.**

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Priest:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*All:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**Invitation to Communion:** *All baptized people are welcome to receive the consecrated bread of the Eucharist. Please come forward to the priest to receive. Please receive the bread (a wafer) in the palm of your hand. Please know that the Episcopal Church maintains that the full blessing of the Eucharist is available in only one element. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Those not receiving the bread are invited to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms in front of your chest.*

### **Postcommunion Prayer** *(Said by all, kneeling)*

*Priest:* Let us pray.

*People:* 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.

### **The Blessing**

**Closing Hymn 438, vv.1-2** *(Sung by the choir; standing)*

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord*

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name—the Lord, the Mighty One.

### **The Dismissal**

*Deacon:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Voluntary**

*Wachet auf*

Wayne Wold

## Tower Bells

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### **Flower dedications**

*In honor of our children and grandchildren, by Judy and David Watson  
In thanksgiving for the memories and life of Frank H. Carter, by Linda D. Carter*