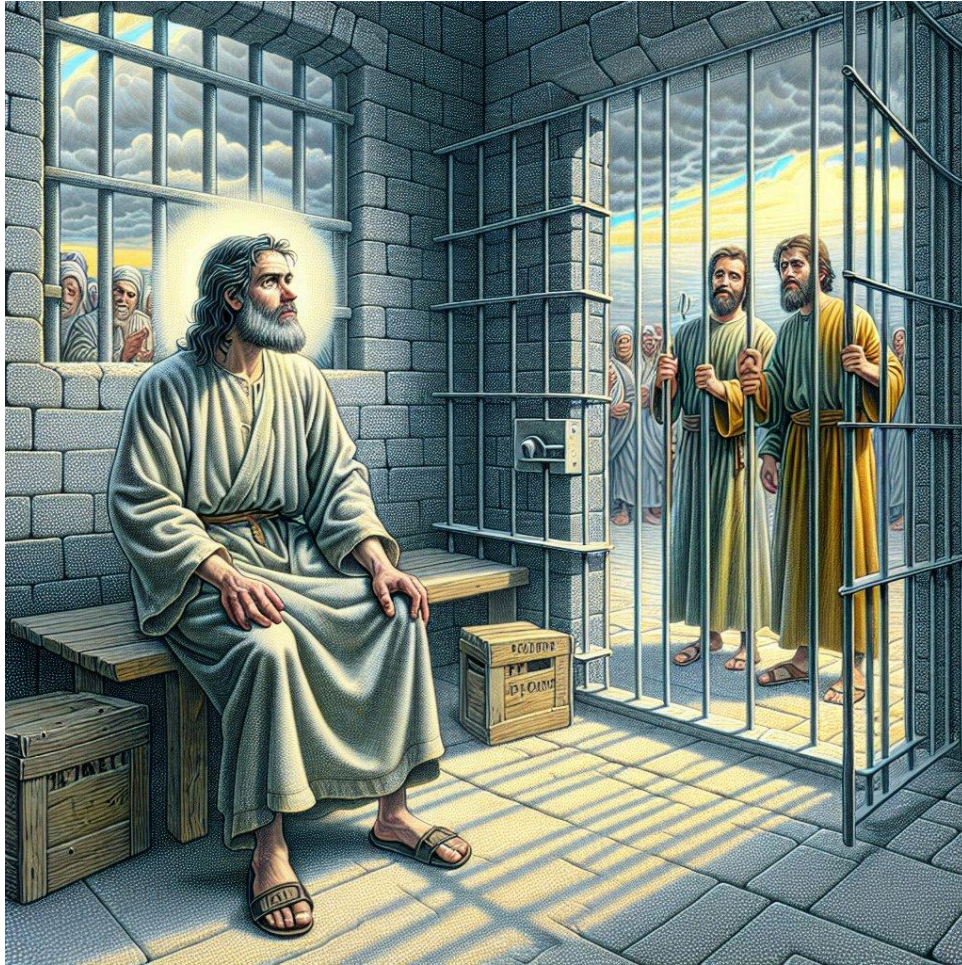


# ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Easthampton, MA 01027

*Be careful: If you come here, you will grow!*



"Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples," - Matthew 11:2

## CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Third Sunday of Advent  
“Rejoice” Sunday

14 December 2025  
10:00 a.m.

**NOTES ON THE LITURGY:** The Season of Advent announces the start of a new year in the Christian liturgical experience. Once again, we start the spiritual pilgrimage of God's people, encountering the Holy One's call of hope, redemption, and new life. Most of us associate Advent with preparation for Christ's birth, his Incarnation among us, and the reality of life lived with "Emmanuel," that is, "God with us." Advent most certainly contains this element; but the season's true impact (and integrity) risks being compromised if its focus is reduced to focusing on Christmas.

There is a larger, more comprehensive context to Advent that is contained in the Eucharistic liturgy's "Memorial Acclamation:" *We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory.* [BCP, pg 368] In this vein, Advent describes our everyday life with God's Christ in that we live "in-between" the Lord's first coming and his climactic return. Keeping the faith with this "in-between" perspective is our present condition and our spiritual challenge. Advent's real and great nourishment is presenting us with perspective: namely, that God's will for the world has **already** begun in Jesus' first advent and, most poignantly, in his resurrection, but that redemptive will is **not yet** fully completed. But there will be a time (in God's good time) when with Jesus' second advent all things will be fulfilled. In the meantime, Advent warns and guides us: Stay awake! Be ready! God is not yet done – Thank God!

\*Our Advent liturgies will seek to express this season's comprehensive meaning. Consequently, there will be some changes to note in the way we worship:

- 1) Each week and to set the Advent tone of quiet attentiveness, our **ENTRANCE RITE** will begin with a **silent procession**. Once the liturgical party is in place, we will sing the **OPENING HYMN, *Canticle of the Turning***.
- 2) Reserving the angels' song (the *Gloria*) for Christmas, we will again strike the season's tone with the **"TRISAGION"** (the "three holies": "Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us" – BCP, pg 356);
- 3) All Advent and up to the Season of Lent, we will use **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B** with its sense of the immediacy of God's actions: *In these last days you sent [Jesus your Son] to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world;*
- 4) **The Prayers of the People for Advent** correspond to the season.
- 5) We will shift to the **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING** found on page 366 and use it for the coming year to reinforce the breadth of our liturgical resources.

Prelude

"Pastorale"

Arcangelo Corelli

## THE ENTRANCE RITE

Advent Reflection

"First Coming" ~ Madeleine L'Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace.  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.  
He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine.  
He did not wait till hearts were pure.  
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
he came, and his Light would not go out.  
He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.  
We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

*The People STAND for the silent Procession.*

## Silent Procession

*When the liturgical party is in place, all sing the "Canticle of the Turning."*

**Opening Hymn** "Canticle of the Turning" *Star of the County Down* (Irish traditional)  
arr. Rory Cooney



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



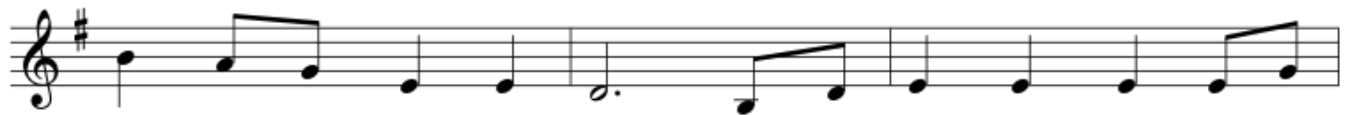
God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the  
work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be

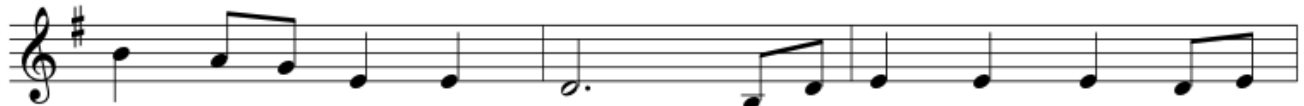


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

#### Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, And the world is a - bout to turn!

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952

Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN, Irregular with refrain; Irish melody; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952

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## Opening Sentences

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

*People:* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

## Collect for Purity *[said in unison]*

*Book of Common Prayer, pg 355*

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.

*The People remain STANDING and all sing*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: Ver. *Hymnal 1982*, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

## The Collect of the Day

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

*The Celebrant prays the Collect*

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The People SIT.*

## A Brief Teaching Word

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### THE LESSONS:

**First Lesson**

Isaiah 35:1-10

Beverly Bullock, Lector

**Isaiah 31-10** is a prophecy of hope, promising God's transformative power to turn barren wilderness into a flourishing garden, bringing healing, joy, and safety through the coming Messiah and His kingdom. Described by the Prophet as a "Highway of Holiness" this will be the place where the redeemed will return with everlasting gladness, overcoming all sorrow and fear. It's a message of ultimate restoration, a proclamation that indicates the establishment of a "new creation".

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of

the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

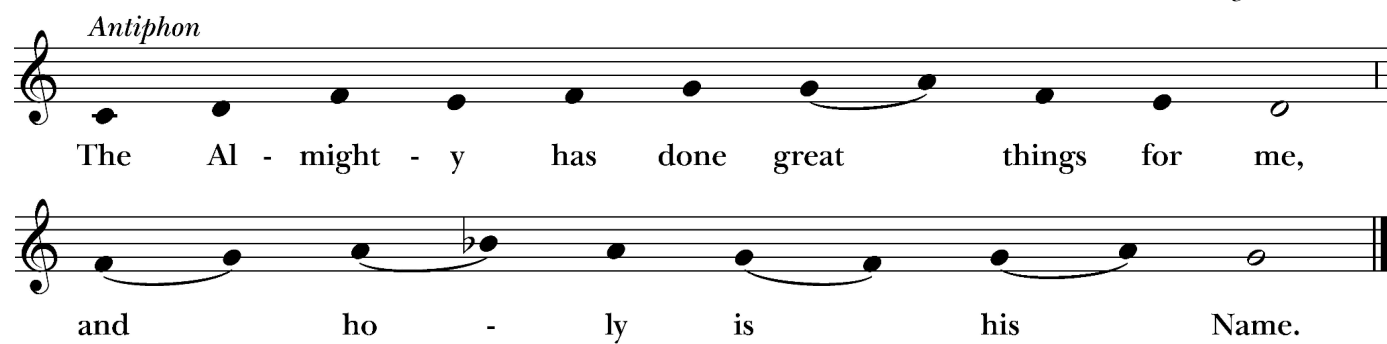
*Silence is kept for a time. SEATED, the People offer the Canticle.*

## Canticle 15 #S242

"The Song of Mary"

*Magnificat  
The Hymnal, 1982*

*Antiphon*



The Al - mighty - y has done great things for me,  
and ho - ly is his Name.

1. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices ,  
in God my Sav - ior; for he has looked with favor on his

low - ly ser - vant. 2. From this day all generations will

call me bless - ed: the Almighty has done great things for me,

and ho - ly is his Name. 3. He has mercy on those who fear him

in every gen - er - a - tion. 4. He has shown the strength of his arm,

he has scattered the proud in their con - ceit. 5. He has cast down

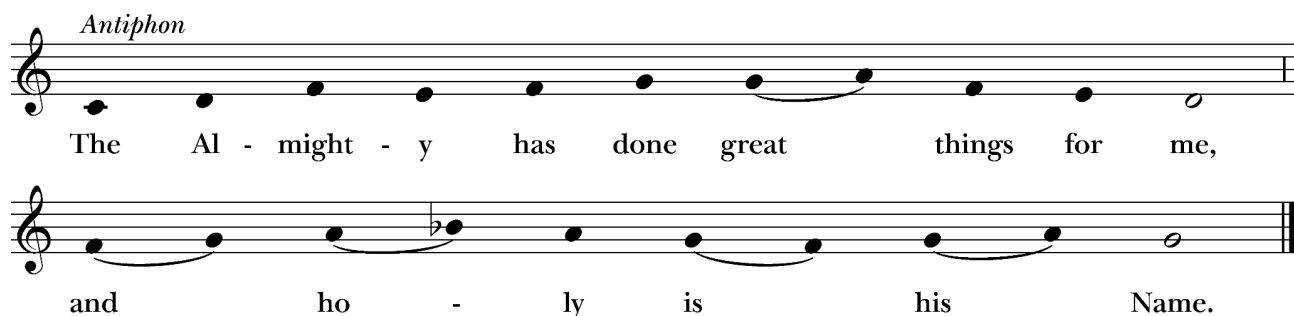
the might - y from their thrones, and has lifted up the low - ly.

6. He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich he has sent a - way

emp - ty. 7. He has come to the help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el,

for he has remembered his promise of mer - cy, 8. The promise he

made to our fa - thers, to Abraham and his children for ev - er. [Ant.]



*Silence is kept for a time. Then the Epistle is read.*

## Epistle

James 5:7-10

Clare Bullock Boyd, Lector

**James 5:7-10** encourages believers to be patient and steadfast in suffering, drawing hope from the certainty of Christ's return and the justice that will follow. The passage emphasizes that this patience is not passive but is strengthened by faith, community, and by observing scriptural examples like the prophets and Job, who also endured hardship while waiting for God's timing.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of

the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

*Silence is kept for a time. Then, at the organ's introduction, the People STAND to sing.*

## Sequence Hymn #71

"Hark! the glad sound!"

*Bristol  
The Hymnal, 1982*

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior  
2 He comes, the pri - soners to re - lease in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come



prom - ised long: let ev - ery heart pre -  
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
soul to cure; and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751). Music: *Bristol*, from *The Whole Booke of Psalmes*, 1621.

## Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

The Rev. Michael A. Bullock

**Matthew 11:2-11** focuses on John the Baptist's imprisonment and his doubt about Jesus's identity as the Messiah, to which Jesus responds by pointing to his works as indications that the God-life (the Messianic age) has already begun in the life and presence of Jesus, which is the fulfillment of the prophecies. The passage explores themes of faith, doubt, and Jesus's humble ministry, which contrasts with the common expectations of political or military power.

*Gospeler:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare

your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

*Gospeler:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*The People SIT.*

**The Sermon**

The Reverend Michael Anderson Bullock

**Sermon Reflection Music**

“Sing Now with Great Rejoicing”

Johann Pachelbel

Choir Singers

harm. by J.S. Bach

*Reflection time is taken. At the Celebrant’s invitation, the Creed is recited, all STANDING.*

**The Nicene Creed**

*Book of Common Prayer, pg 358*

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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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],

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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

*At the invitation of the Celebrant, the people KNEEL (as they are able) for the Prayers. At the invitation of the Intercessor, the People may offer their prayers publicly and aloud.*

## **The Prayers of the People for Advent**

Beverly Bullock, Intercessor

*A Cantor will sing the stanzas of the hymn, a cappella.  
The Intercessor will offer the petition, followed by a period of prayerful silence.*

**THEN, ALL SING THE CHORUS: "Rejoice, Rejoice..."**

*Cantor:* O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

*Intercessor:* Lord God, we groan from deep need, yet with hope. We are captive, Lord, captive to the enslavement of trying to be in control; captive to the fear of having to admit that we are not equipped to replace you in our lives. We are captive to the enervating habit of being on our own – feeling painfully alone. But you, dear God, know all this about us and still you ransom us from such crippling possession. In your mighty power and merciful love, deliver us, O Lord our God.

*(Silence)*

**CHORUS: REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO THEE,  
O ISRAEL.**

*Cantor:* O Come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in her ways to go.

*Intercessor:* O gracious God, our lives are swamped with information and statistics and incessant demands. We are aware of so much and yet grasp so little. In these times of high requirement and uncertainty, grant us your Wisdom, that our hearts and minds may truly know you as you are revealed both in the majestic and in the routine. And then, teach us to run swiftly to you with utter delight.

*(Silence)*

**CHORUS: REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO THEE,  
O ISRAEL.**

*Cantor:* O Come, O Come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

*Intercessor:* To us, Most Holy God, to us you have given the legacy of being your beloved people. Grant us your grace to be visible stewards of such life; that having taken to heart the heritage of your sons and daughters, we may, in turn, touch the world in your Name in all that we do.

*(Silence)*

**CHORUS: REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO THEE,  
O ISRAEL.**

*Cantor:* O Come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny that trust thy mighty power to save and give them victory o'er the grave.

*Intercessor:* O changeless and calm, deep mystery, help us continually to be more rooted in Thee. Fortify our confidence; hold us in your mighty hand, that we may endure all that threatens to uproot us from your steadfast love, presence, and plan; that even under the pressure of the Enemy's pursuit, we may not fall but know your joy and the fruits of our salvation.

*(Silence)*

**CHORUS: REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO THEE,  
O ISRAEL.**

*Cantor:* 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.

*Intercessor:* We offer to you, O gracious God, all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. In their time of anxiety, pain, and trial, grant to them and to us the patient strength to embrace you in the hour of darkness, that suffering may be conquered, and all injury healed by the merits of Christ's passion.

*(Silence)*

**CHORUS: REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO THEE,  
O ISRAEL.**

*Cantor:* O Come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.

*Intercessor:* Mighty God, the source of all light and life: in all times and in all places, fill our hearts with profound gratitude for all that you have given to us and for all that you have kept away; that continually filling our minds with the vibrant memory of your mighty acts, we may shine with your redeeming and glorious light.

*(Silence)*

**CHORUS: REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO THEE,  
O ISRAEL.**

*Cantor:* O Come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.

*Intercessor:* Lord God, to whom all hearts are open, all our desires known, and from whom no one can hide: Overcome the frustration of our striving and cause us to acknowledge the true source of all our desires: namely, our need to receive you as the Sovereign Lord of our hearts and lives, that your peaceful will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*(Silence)*

**CHORUS: REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO THEE,  
O ISRAEL.**

*Cantor:* O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

*Intercessor:* Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our spirits and the spirits of those we love and see no more. For you have redeemed us, O Lord, O God of truth. Keep us as the apple of your eye; and hide us under the shadow of your wings, and grant that with your Christ, we may always watch the unfolding of our salvation with great expectation and unencumbered joy.

*(Silence)*

**CHORUS: REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO THEE,  
O ISRAEL.**

*The Celebrant adds this concluding Collect*

Come among us, O God, and hear our prayers, so that when your Son Jesus comes among us with great might, and in manger mild, we might recognize his face and his voice, and come to adore him. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

*Enriching Our Worship I, pg 56*

*Celebrant:* In silence, let us acknowledge those things that separate us from God and from one another; and then publicly and aloud, let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept for a time. With the Celebrant's bidding, the congregation joins in the General Confession.*

GOD OF ALL MERCY,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.

*The Celebrant says*

## The Absolution

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 service continues with The Peace. ALL STAND.*

## The Peace

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

*People:* And also with you.

## Community Blessings

### The Building of the Creche

### The Offertory

*The People STAND for the Presentation.*

Offertory Presentation and Proclamation

*Celebrant:* All things come of thee, O Lord.

*People:* And of thine own have we given thee.

## THE LITURGY OF THE ALTAR

*All those who hunger for the God-life revealed in Jesus  
are welcome to receive at this altar.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request (please speak with an usher prior to the liturgy).  
If reception in the pew is required, please notify an usher and the Sacrament will be brought to you.*

## The Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B

*Book of Common Prayer, pg 361*

*Sursum corda* ["Lift up your hearts"]

*#S120 The Hymnal, 1982*

*Celebrant*                      *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*

Lift up your hearts. 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.

*The Celebrant proceeds.*

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

### Proper Preface

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

*Celebrant and People*

### Sanctus: #S124

*"Holy, holy, holy"*

Hurd

*The Hymnal 1982*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and

earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

*The People STAND or KNEEL for the Eucharistic Prayer.*

*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 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.**

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

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,  
**hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD: THE FRACTION**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*All join in the singing of the Fraction Anthem*





Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

*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.

### THE SHARING: The Invitation to Communion

*IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO RECEIVE FROM THE COMMON CUP,  
PLEASE REVERENTLY HOLD THE CHALICE'S BASE AND ACKNOWLEDGE "THE BLOOD OF CHRIST."*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.  
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.  
Behold what you are. Become what you receive.

### Post-Communion Thanksgiving

*Book of Common Prayer, pg 366*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLIVING 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.

*All STAND for the blessing.*

## The Blessing for Advent

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, God beyond us, God beside us, the God within us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and keep you, now and for ever. Amen.

*The People remain STANDING for the closing hymn.*

## Closing Hymn #57

“Lo! he comes with clouds descending”

*Helmsley*

*The Hymnal, 1982*



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

“Fughetta on ‘Comfort, Comfort Ye My People’”

Alfred Fedak

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***Be Careful: IF YOU COME HERE YOU WILL GROW***

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## Prayer List

Nancy D., Mary R., Deborah H., Kevin C., Bob  
Noah B., Graciela B. and Baby Pru, Josh C., Betty S.  
Rod G., Andy G., Bob C., Christopher S.

Please keep in your prayers the groups that use our facility during the week:  
including the Easthampton Family Center (Tues-Fri) and AA Meetings (Sat-Wed).

## Birthdays

Holly H ~ Dec 16  
Susan B ~ Dec 21  
Lale RL ~ Dec 22

## Announcements

December 14, 2025

### TODAY'S LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The Rev. Michael A. Bullock,  
Celebrant & Preacher  
Weyehn Reeves, Verger/Crucifer  
Beverly Bullock, Clare Bullock Boyd,  
Lectors  
Beverly Bullock, Intercessor  
Karen Banta, Organist & Choir Director  
St. Philip's Choir Singers  
Fran Kidder, Lay Eucharistic Minister  
Steve Taylor, Tech Minister

David & Joan Haines, Ushers  
Deborah Murray Hrubesh, David Brown,  
Altar Guild  
Robert Shaw, Janet Couch, Counters

**COFFEE HOUR TODAY** is hosted by  
Becky and Steve Taylor. Thank you!

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR  
QUIET WEDNESDAYS** at 7 pm starting  
Dec 3rd through Advent. (replaces Compline)

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Dec 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - 10 am

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve - 4:30 pm  
(prelude begins at 4:15)

Dec 25 - Christmas Day - 11 am

**IN SUNDAY SCHOOL** today our young people continue to get ready to come close to the Mystery of Christmas by remembering how the prophets pointed the way to Bethlehem, how Mary and Joseph made their way there, and how the shepherds did, too. During Advent we journey with all of them to Bethlehem.

**One last push to "Pay back the endowment" fund.** Please consider contributing to this effort to pay back the loan we took from our endowment. We are hoping to reach our goal by the end of 2025. Thank you for continued donations.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR REHEARSALS

Sing with us! We'll gather at the Church piano to learn "Shepherds, Awake" for our Christmas Eve service. Come to as many rehearsals as you can. They are:

**Sunday, 12/14, 11:30 am**

**Saturday, 12/20, 11:30 am**

Thank you! KAREN BANTA

Minister of Music

[kdbanta@gmail.com](mailto:kdbanta@gmail.com)/413-548-5076

## ST. PHILIP'S OFFERS COMPLINE ON FACEBOOK

Sunday through Friday at 8 pm. Please join us!

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE:** Thank you to all who have contributed pajamas and socks to children being served by the Easthampton Community Center. This is an annual outreach ministry of our parish and is led by our young people. They will help deliver our gifts today after worship.

**BROWN BAG LUNCH** on **Tuesdays at noon** in the parish hall. This is a drop-in event held weekly on Tuesdays. Please come as you can, to share a meal and conversation with other parishioners. Bring your lunch! Tea and other beverages are provided.

**WE ARE ALL PILGRIMS.** Join us on Zoom Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. for a Pilgrims gathering. Currently we are reading the Epistle to the Ephesians, with some occasional help from NT Wright. Please contact Linda Moore with any questions. [bythegraceofgod@outlook.com](mailto:bythegraceofgod@outlook.com)

**What Is THE BIBLE Anyway?** Join us on **Thursdays at 4:00** to experience a certain kind of answer to this question. An answer that is joyful and engaging. To get the **Zoom** link email Linda Moore at [bythegraceofgod@outlook.com](mailto:bythegraceofgod@outlook.com)

**JOIN THE ST. PHILIP'S CONNECT GROUP!** We share blessings, ask for prayers and help or favors. You'll receive emails from all the parishioners who belong, only 2 or 3 times a month. Ask a vestry member for more information.

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**What is the N.O.W.?** Find our weekly newsletter, (News Of the Week) at <https://www.stphilipseasthampton.org/weekly-newsletter>. Subscribe and you'll receive the sermon every Monday and the N.O.W. every Thursday.

**SEE CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS** on our website at <https://www.stphilipseasthampton.org/upcoming-events>

**SUNDAY LECTIONARY STUDY GROUP** meets on Zoom every Sunday at 8:15 a.m. The gathering of the curious and the prepared reads, reviews, and discusses the scripture lessons that will be offered in the day's liturgy. The link will be printed in the bulletin announcement in the NOW. Please join us in what has always been a lively and helpful discussion.

**TO JOIN SUNDAY SERVICE &/or LECTIONARY STUDY:**

The Sunday Service is on live-streamed on our website:

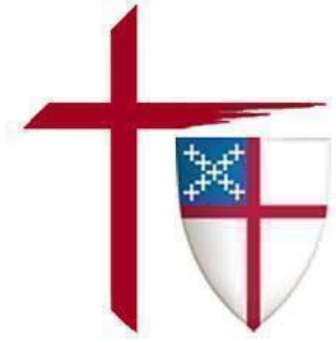
<https://www.stphilipseasthampton.org/live-stream-channel>

Lectionary Study is on Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83207829066?pwd=N0k0emc5NGkxdGFxQVpKMUNlaWJldz09> Meeting ID: 832 0782 9066;  
Passcode: 270862

**TO JOIN BY TELEPHONE:**

Audio conferencing participant (joining by telephone) will need to call:

+1 929 436 2866 and follow the verbal instructions. Enter the meeting ID you wish to join followed by the # key. If you are asked for a password, enter the password followed by the # key. You will be asked to enter your participant ID. If you do not know your participant ID, simply press the # key.



## ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

128 Main Street  
Easthampton, MA 01027

[www.stphilipseasthampton.org](http://www.stphilipseasthampton.org)      [www.facebook.com/stphilipseasthampton](https://www.facebook.com/stphilipseasthampton)  
[stphilipseasthampton@gmail.com](mailto:stphilipseasthampton@gmail.com)

*A parish of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts*

The Right Rev. Dr. Douglas John Fisher  
IX Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts  
The Very Rev. Miguelina Howell, Bishop-Elect  
[www.diocesewma.org](http://www.diocesewma.org)

### THE VESTRY OF ST. PHILIP'S

Becky Taylor, Senior Warden; Deborah Murray Hrubesh, Junior Warden;  
Joy Hermansen; Janet Couch; Walter Schiff; Fran Kidder  
Joe Bianca, Treasurer; Robert Shaw, Clerk

### ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

The Rev. Michael Bullock, *Priest-in-Charge*  
[stphilispriest@gmail.com](mailto:stphilispriest@gmail.com)  
Karen Banta, *Minister of Music*    [kdbanta@gmail.com](mailto:kdbanta@gmail.com)  
Lesa Sweigart, *Parish Administrator*    [stphilipseasthampton@gmail.com](mailto:stphilipseasthampton@gmail.com)  
Chip Secco, *Sexton*

### Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday mornings  
[stphilipseasthampton@gmail.com](mailto:stphilipseasthampton@gmail.com)  
Available for appointments anytime