St. John's Episcopal Church

415 South Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204 (703) 671-6834 www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org

December 20, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – via Zoom Liturgy of the Word, Rite II, 10:00 a.m.

Getting to the Service Using Zoom

Zoom provides the capability for individuals to participate in the service using video or just audio by telephone. We will try to start the service as close to 10 am as possible so be sure to access the meeting early. The session will be open about 15 minutes before the service starts.

To participate using zoom click the link below or copy it and paste it into your browser address box.

CURRENT LINK AND MEETING ID BELOW

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87353789589?pwd=OWImaEINYnpDZ1N2ZVFSWDNIK0ZDUT09 If you can't copy the link - - go to zoom.com/join and enter Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589 and Password: 2020. If you don't have zoom on your device you will need to do that prior to the service.

If you only want to participate by phone, dial either 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782. When you are connected you will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589. You will then be prompted to enter the password 2020.

MUTING/UNMUTING PROCEDURES

To address a number of issues, Zoom has made numerous updates in their software over the past couple of months to address security related issues. One prevents us from centrally unmuting an individual or everyone.

In the past we centrally muted everyone then selectively unmuted when the priest or the leader of the prayers was speaking or Judith was playing. We would then unmute all for the response. As noted above we can no longer centrally unmute. We are now asking everyone to unmute themselves at the appropriate times.

You will see that at several places where there is a short prayer or reading by the priest, we previously had muted everyone; this week we will <u>not mute</u> everyone in those instances. We will mute everyone for the Epistle and Gospel readings and the sermon, but the reader may have to unmute themself. Each of you will need to unmute yourself at the appropriate time as is noted below. Please be very aware of any sounds in your area and mute yourself to not disturb the rest of the congregation.

How to Unmute or Mute your connection – If you are using the Zoom app, you will see one of these two icons at the bottom left of your screen. When the top one shows you are unmuted, if click on it, it will change to the bottom one indicating you are muted.



If you dial in by phone, press *6 to switch between Mute and Unmute. You can temporarily unmute some devices by holding the space bar.

ORDER OF **W**ORSHIP

OPENING HYMN WLP 724: "People, look East"

(There will be one time through with just the music then we will each sing) (Centrally Mute All – Judith unmutes herself)

1. People, look East.

The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look East and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.

3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look East and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad.

Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish.

People, look East and sing today:

Love the rose is on the way.

4. Stars, keep the watch.

When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.

People, look East and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.

5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look East and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) © Eleanor Farjeon; Reprinted by permission of Harold Ober Associates, Inc. Music: Besançon Carol, harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944); harm. © 1997 John L. Hooker

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Priest Our King and Savior draws nigh. (each person unmutes themself)

People O come let us adore him.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Priest and people say (we will pause at the end of each phrase until all are ready for the next phrase)

Almighty God, (p-pause) to you all hearts are open, (p) all desires known, (p) and from you no secrets are hid: (p) Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts (p) by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, (p) that we may perfectly love you, (p) and worthily magnify your holy Name; (p) through Christ our Lord. (p)

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH FOR ADVENT 4

Leader Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath — the candles of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY.

Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of LOVE. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing

with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift.

People As God is love, let us be love also. From the Gospel of John we read:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for

one another." - John 13:34-35

Priest The Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Advent. 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.

People Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Magnificat: Proclaim the Greatness of God" by James Chepponis A Media Presentation

Please join in singing the refrain:

Proclaim the greatness of God. Rejoice in God my savior, rejoice in God my savior!

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 (Centrally Mute All - reader unmutes themself)

Now 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. (each person unmutes themself)

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89:1-4, 20-22, 24-26 (Book of Common Prayer, p. 713)

(We will say the Psalm responsively by whole verse with a pause until all are ready for the next phrase at each (p))

1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; * from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; * (p) you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; * I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

4 'I will establish your line for ever, * (p) and preserve your throne for all generations."

20 I have found David my servant; * with my holy oil have I anointed him.

21 My hand will hold him fast * (p) and my arm will make him strong.

22 No enemy shall deceive him, * nor any wicked man bring him down.

24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, * (p) and he shall be victorious through my Name.

25 I shall make his dominion extend * from the Great Sea to the River.

26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, * (p) my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

Second Lesson: a reading from Romans 16:25-27 (Centrally Mute All - reader unmutes themself)

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord. (each person unmutes themself)
People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 265: "The angel Gabriel from heaven came" (vs. 1-3)

(There will be one time through with just the music then we will each sing) (Centrally Mute All – Judith unmutes herself)

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,

came,

his wings as drifted snow,

his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he,

"thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady,"

Gloria!

2. "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!

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,

"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,

"my soul shall laud and magnify

his holy Name."

Most highly favored lady,"

Gloria!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Copyright © 1961, B. Feldman & Co. Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd., 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2HOLD, England.

Music: Gabriel's Message, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943)

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. (each person unmutes themself)

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

(Centrally Mute All ¬- readers unmute themselves)

PLEASE UNMUTE BEFORE YOU READ

Larry/Narrator: 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,

Gabriel: "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

Larry/Narrator: But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her,

Gabriel: "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."

Larry/Narrator: Mary said to the angel,

Mary: "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

Gabriel: "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."

Mary: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

Larry/Narrator: Then the angel departed from her.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord. (each person unmutes themself)

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Laurence K. Packard

(Centrally Mute All – the Priest unmutes himself)

THE APOSTLES' CREED (each person unmutes themself)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, (p) creator of heaven and earth. (p)
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. (p)
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit (p) and born of the Virgin Mary. (p)
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, (p) was crucified, died, and was buried. (p)
He descended to the dead. (p)
On the third day he rose again. (p)

He ascended into heaven, (p)
and is seated at the right hand of the Father. (p)
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
(p)
I believe in the Holy Spirit, (p)
the holy catholic Church, (p)
the communion of the saints, (p)
the forgiveness of sins, (p)
the resurrection of the body, (p)
and the life everlasting. (p)

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM III

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; *That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest. **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Intercessor and People offer their prayers.

St. John's Collect

The Priest and people say (we will pause at the end of each phrase until all are ready for the next phrase)

Gracious God, (p)

Send your Spirit upon us (p)
during this interim period, (p)
and bless our ministries (p)
for the building up of our parish (p)
and the mission of your Church. (p)
Grant us all things necessary for our common life, (p)
And help us to reach out our hands in love of others (p)
Even as your Son Jesus (p)
reached out his arms on the cross. (p)
In his name, we pray. Amen

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SIN

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

Priest and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; (p) in your compassion forgive us our sins, (p) known and unknown, (p) things done and left undone; (p) and so uphold us by your Spirit (p) that we may live and serve you in newness of life, (p) to the honor and glory of your Name; (p) through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Priest 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.

People Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the people greet one another in the name of the Lord. (We will call out each person's name and they will offer us all a greeting.)

THE OFFERTORY: REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE LORD JESUS AND HOW HE SAID IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Priest says

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

Priest and People

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Our Father, who art in heaven, (p)
hallowed be thy Name, (p)
thy kingdom come, (p)
thy will be done, (p)
on earth as it is in heaven. (p)
Give us this day our daily bread. (p)
And forgive us our trespasses, (p)
as we forgive those (p)
who trespass against us. (p)
And lead us not into temptation, (p)
but deliver us from evil. (p)
For thine is the kingdom, (p)
and the power, and the glory, (p)
for ever and ever. (p)
Amen.
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A PRAYER OF GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Priest and People

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Almighty God, Father of all mercies, (p)
we humbly thank you for your goodness to us (p)
and to all that you have made. (p)
We praise you for your creation, (p)
for keeping us and all things in your care, (p)
and for all the blessings of life. (p)
Above all we bless you for your immeasurable love (p)
in redeeming the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, (p)
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. (p)
In this season of Advent, (p)
give us such an awareness of your mercies (p)
that with thankful hearts we praise you, (p)
not only with our lips but in our lives, (p)
by giving ourselves to your service (p)
and by living out your gifts of holiness and righteousness (p)
as we prepare for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
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THE BLESSING

People Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN 74: "Blest be the King"

(There will be one time through with just the music then we will each sing) (Centrally Mute All - Judith unmutes herself)

- 1. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!
 For him let doors be opened, no hearts against him barred!
 Not robed in royal splendor, in power and pomp, comes he; but clad as are the poorest, such his humility!
- 3. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!
 He only to the humble reveals the face of God.
 All power is his, all glory!
 All things are in his hand, all ages and all peoples, till time itself shall end!

- 2. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!
 By those who truly listen his voice is truly heard; pity the proud and haughty, who have not learned to heed the Christ who is the Promise, who has atonement made.
- 4. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!
 He offers to the burdened the rest and grace they need.
 Gentle is he and humble!
 And light his yoke shall be, for he would have us bear it so he can make us free!

Words: Frederico J. Pagura (b. 1923); tr. F. Pratt Green (b. 1903), alt. Copyright © 1974 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission. Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635) alt.; harm and desc. Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930).

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THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE (Centrally Mute All – Judith unmutes herself)

"Town Hall" Discussion of the Survey Results

Immediately following the Postlude, we will begin our presentation and discussion of the Survey Results. We will make every effort for a smooth transition into this program.

Participants in today's service

Officiant: The Rev. Dr. Laurence K. (Larry) Packard

Readers: Barbara Olivere

Prayers of the People: Del Hunt

Announcements

Please note the <u>CURRENT</u> ZOOM link and Meeting ID for this service on the front page!

Please Join Today's Parish "Town Hall Meeting" (immediately following the postlude—about 11:05 am) Survey Results & Discussion We Need You to Help Tell our Story!

Our thanks to Lisa Pope, Chair of the Profile Committee, for moderating our discussion. We are profoundly grateful to all the members of the committee for generating the survey: Jeff Aitken, Pete Olivere, Del Hunt, Lynn Robinson, Dave Dunlap, ex officio Sandy Winger, and consultant the Rev. Larry Packard. The Committee thanks the congregation for its full participation and support.



Please Join Us!

St. John's Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve Service, 5 p.m. (Zoom)

We will celebrate a Christmas Eve Service using an adapted form of the traditional "Festival of Lessons and Carols." We will hear the great lessons leading up to and proclaiming the birth of Jesus. Some of the great carols will be presented with on-screen lyrics for your participation as well as a special sung presentation by Lynn Robinson and accompanied by Carol Dunlap from our nave: *Glory Hallelujah, He Is Born* by Jay Althouse & Mary Kay Beall. Our thanks to Peter Olivere for his advance recording so that we can celebrate with this service crafted by the Rev. Larry Packard, our supply priest. The service is timed for about 50 mins. Join **this** Zoom Service at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88079791176?pwd=eEQ1MWw4dHRtSWl0YjlYMlhnZjVXZz09

Meeting ID: 880 7979 1176 Passcode: 2020 301-715-8592

Pastoral Care during the Interim Period. The Rev. Dr. Laurence K. ("Larry") Packard is available for pastoral care—abiding by the Diocesan health and safety guidelines. He may be reached at: minister@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or 703-425-8315 or 703-606-3109.

The church building and office are still closed. Please refrain from going there. Virginia checks the office phone messages and the mail. If you have any administrative questions, you can reach her at office@stjohnsarlingtonva.org (preferred) or leave a message on the church phone, 703-671-6834.

Our Senior Warden, Cassandra (Sandy) Winger, is the individual charged with leadership until St. John's appoints a successor to Ann. She can be contacted at srwarden@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or on her cell phone at 703-498-6990.

Would you like to receive Holy Communion?

If you would like to receive the Holy Communion, please contact The Rev. Larry Packard, and he will arrange for you to receive it in the safety of strict health protocols and at your most convenient time and place. Contact him at minister@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or on his cell phone 703-606-3109 (no voice mail).

Our Coat Drive continues. You can put your gently used and clean coats for all family members, as well as gloves, hats, and thermal socks in the box on the Pritchard's front porch, 5713 Fifth St S., a half-block down from St. John's. If you have no gently used coats, hats, and gloves to donate and would still like to contribute, please consider using Carlin Springs Amazon Wish List at https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2KZ52LRLFYSFM?ref.

St. John's position on racism can be found on the home page of our website, www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org.

A note from Sandy Winger, Sr. Warden/Arlington Thrive board member: St. John's contributes to Arlington Thrive. If you are coming up short on expenses, you can contact Thrive for assistance at https://arlingtonthrive.org/.

Are you in need of a Notary Public? Sandy Winger is a notary and she is offering her services to parishioners. Feel free to contact her at 703-498-6990 or srwarden@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.

Have you turned in your 2021 pledge card yet? If you haven't there's still time.

Back to School Supplies

We <u>continue to collect</u> school supplies for our neighborhood elementary schools. A collection bin has been set up on the Pritchard's front porch, 5713 Fifth Street South, just a half-block down from the church. Faye will deliver the supplies to the school and the school will bundle the supplies into packets to be sent home to the students.

As an aid to choosing what supplies to buy, an updated list for Carlin Springs has been posted on St. John's website, www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org, as well as last year's list from Campbell.

Prayers and Cards

Prayers for Sunday Services. We are inviting you to send the names or intentions which you would like included by the person leading the prayers, as we had been doing via the book at the rear of the church. Email your request to prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org no later than Friday so Barbara Olivere can be sure to get the information to the person leading the prayers. Please note in your email that this is a "Service Prayer" request.

Cards. We have been sending birthday and anniversary cards to members, when we are aware of it, cards to those who are sick, and periodic "thinking of you" messages. Please let us know if your think someone needs a card. Email requests to prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org and note in your email that this is an "Card" request.

St. John's Intercessory Prayer group is a ministry which will include prayers for anyone who needs it. If you have a need for prayer for yourself or for a loved one, please let us know.) If you are interested in participating in this ministry, let us know.) Email to prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org and note in your email that this is an "intercessory" request not for Sunday service prayers.

Barbara Olivere is the coordinator for these three items and if you would rather call you can reach her at 571-228-1399. The prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org emails go to Barbara and Virginia Pearson.

AFAC still needs our help. They are looking for non-perishable food, such as low-sugar cereals, tuna, cooking oil, dried spaghetti (not canned), and condiments (salsa, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, and salt & pepper). Seasonings such as brown and cane sugar, poultry seasoning, sage, ginger, vanilla extract, canned milk, and any other spices are always welcome. If you can, please bring items to the church now and drop off in the big box in front of the church door (Lexington St. side). The need is great as we have so many more people who are hungry. You can also donate money to AFAC by sending a check to AFAC, 2708 S. Nelson St., Arlington, VA 22206. Or you

can give online at their website www.afac.org.



Happy New Year! The season of Advent begins the new church year as we prepare for the coming of the Christ child. Our Advent wreath follows the medieval custom of lighting a candle each Sunday to mark the advent of God's Light that dawns in Jesus Christ.