

St Philip's

episcopal church

11 a.m.

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Prelude

'Of the Father's Love Begotten'

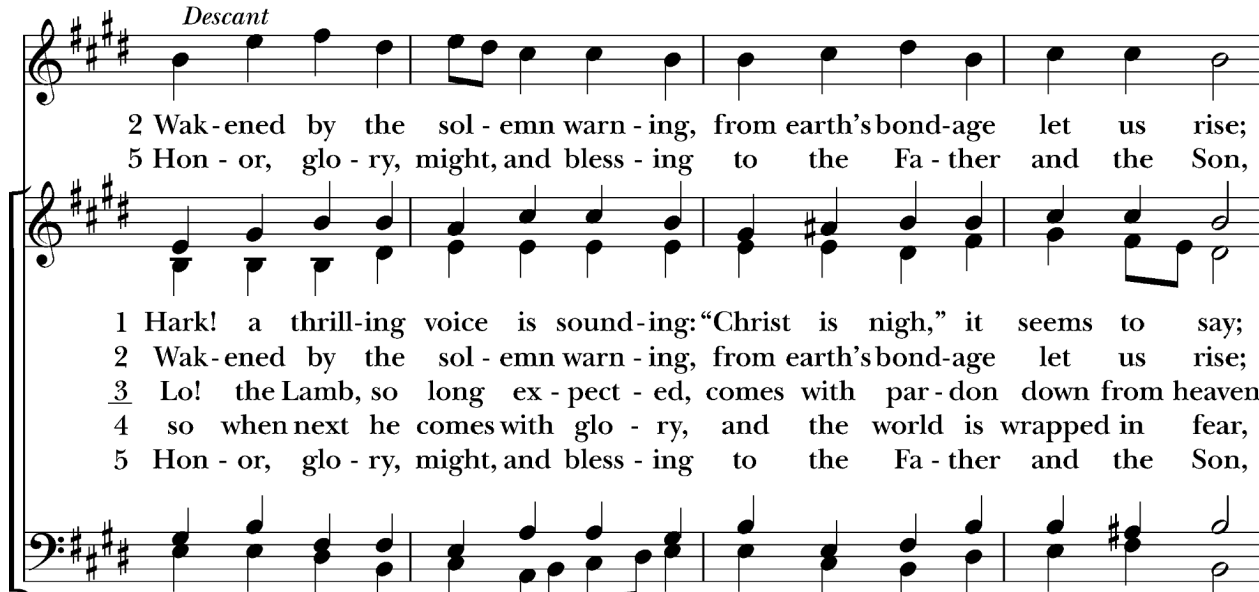
Arranged by Wilbur Held
(1914-2015)

Opening Hymn

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

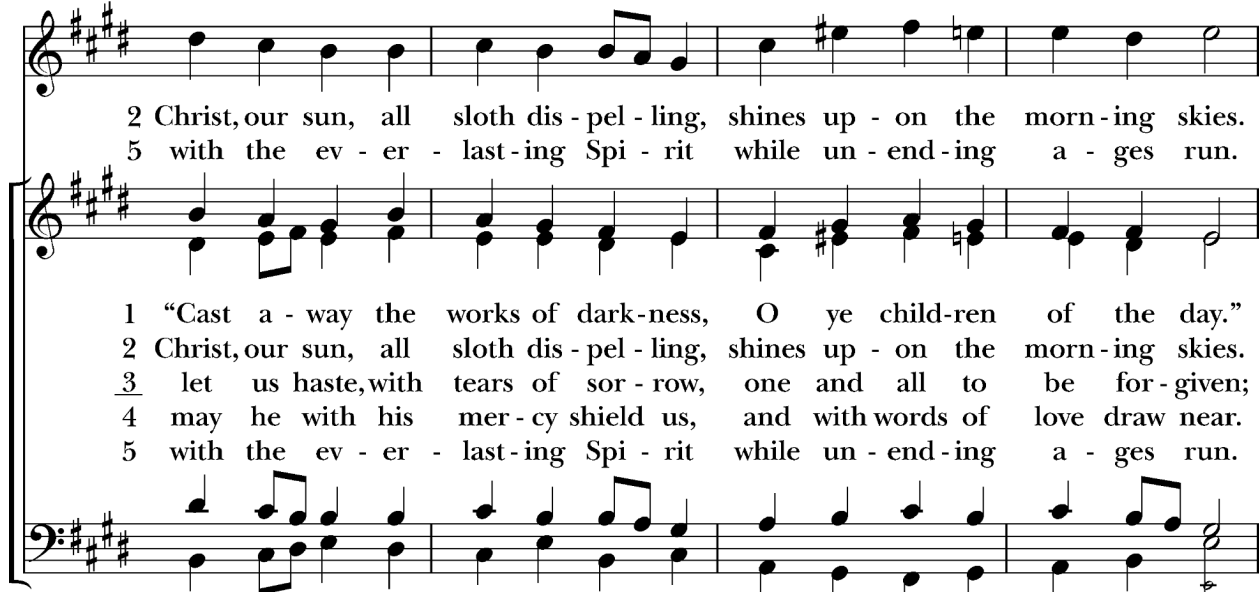
Hymnal 59

Descant



2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,



2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

The First Song of Isaiah

Sung by the choir.

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Philippians 4:4-7

Reader A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Philippians.

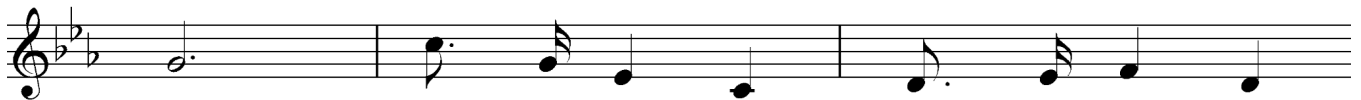
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**



1 Her - ald, sound the note of judg - ment, warn - ing us of right and
2 Her - ald, sound the note of glad - ness; tell the news that Christ is
3 Her - ald, sound the note of par - don— those re - pent - ing are for -
4 Her - ald, sound the note of tri - umph; Christ has come to share our



wrong, turn - ing us from sin and sad - ness
here; make a path - way through the des - ert
given; God re - ceives his way - ward child - ren,
life, bring - ing God's own love and pow - er,



till once more we sing the song.
for the one who brings God near. Sound the trum - pet!
and to them new life is given.
grant - ing vic - tory in our strife.



Tell the mes - sage! Christ, the Sa - vior King, has come!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

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

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them,

"Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Maryann D. Younger

PRAYER LIST

Anne, Coye, Catherine, Anne, Erin, Sue, Claudia, Cal, Lisa, Peter, Beth, Nilda, Ken, Holley, Dan, Diane, Nick, Angie, Diane, Gail, Diane, Karen, Dean, Fred, Mike, Mina, Eileen, Jim, Lily, Marie, Carole, Sam, Julie, Betsy, Becky, Federico, Kasandra, Lindley, Tom, Michele, Brenda, Elisabeth, Kappy, Ian, Lynda, Ciara, Marcia, Charlotte, Ellen, Steve, Nicole, Sandy, Dana, Truman, Diana, Kristen, Liz, Anita, Carol, Emmanuel, Christina, Ken, Madison, Freeman, Susan, David, Cora.

For prisoners in the Durham County Jail: Gary, Darrell, Brett, Javier, Allen, Mujahid, Timothy, Miguel, Paul, Nathan.

With thanksgiving for the birth of Dahlia (Dolly) Shumate, granddaughter of David and Cyndy Shumate.

Offertory Anthem

Text from Scripture
Music by Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.
Let your moderation be known unto all men.
The Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing;
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Communion Voluntary

Variations on Cranham, Es ist ein Ros

Communion Hymn

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Hymnal 75



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a____
 2 O____ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 but the word of our God____ en - du - reth, the____



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst____ of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The____
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 flowers of the field they____ per - ish, like
 feed his____ flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our____ God____ may go!
 na - tions shall____ pass like a dream____ a - way;
 lead them, and____ bring them____ safe to his fold.

Closing Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Hymnal 76

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Postlude

‘From Heaven Above’

Arranged by Wilbur Held
(1914-2015)

WORSHIP LEADERS

Lectors

Josh Witten
Donna Hicks

Eucharistic Ministers

Richard Ammons
Sue Guptill

Intercessor

Carolyn Coolidge

Verger

Bill Pierson

Social Hour Hosts

St. Philip’s Adult Choir

Ushers

David Kneeburg
Jim Desper
Carol Linden
Tom Murray

Livestream Support

Henry Sommerville

Healing

Anne Goetz

Crucifer

Rafi Sommerville
James Irvén-Moore

Torch Bearers

Ezra Viars
Clara Viars

Altar Guild

Pam Denning
Louise Lavine
Shields Reh
Natalie Sommerville

Guest Organist

Julie Mitchell

Choir

Soprano

Sarah Ázeline
Erin Conn
Nancy Davis
Claire Diefenderfer
Erin Gasch
Barrett Mardre

Alto

Carolyn Coolidge
Erica Jackson
Elizabeth Lindquist
Kimberly Slentz-Kesler
Rachel Stenbuck
Valerie Wettlaufer

Tenor

Miles Jenkins
Tim Riggs
David Smith
Gabe StClair
Del Wigfall

Bass

Colin Anderson
David Graham
Jacob Groff
Jack Mitchell

NEWS

Come see our vision statement

Today after every service

Today's our last Visioning Sunday – and after every service we're sharing our new vision statement! The vision statement sums up all the ways you've helped us think, pray, ponder, and dream about what God is calling us to be and do. We can't wait to share it with you:

9 a.m. – Chapel

10 a.m. – Parish Hall and Zoom

12:30 p.m. – Library

Come, engage with our new vision statement!

Give Christmas flowers and greenery

Donate by today

Do you love Christmas at St. Philip's? The poinsettias, the candles, the greenery? Consider a gift to help transform the church with Christmas flowers and greenery. Any amount is welcome. You can donate in memory or in honor of a loved one, and you can give online or by check.

However you give, please fill out the form below so we can properly attribute your donation.

Make a gift: [Tinyurl.com/StPChristmasFlowers](https://tinyurl.com/StPChristmasFlowers)

Pledge your support today!

With Advent in full swing, it's not too late to pledge to support St. Philip's in 2025. Will you join us in caring for our church in the upcoming year? Pledge online, or email stewardship@stphilipdurham.org and we'll send you a pledge packet.

Pledge online: stphilipdurham.org/pledge

Blue Christmas service

Wednesday, December 18

7:30 p.m., Church

December can be a hard month. For many, the holidays can bring feelings of loneliness, sadness, and grief. If you need refuge or solace this season, the Blue Christmas service provides a space of quiet holiness, a time of prayer and meditation, and a reminder that we're not alone. Come as you are.

Book Group Christmas Party

Today, 12:30 p.m., Parlor

St. Philip's Book Group will have their annual Christmas Party after the 11 a.m. service. We'll bring assorted treats, including... Susan's homemade eggnog! We'll also discuss "James," by Percival Everett. It's not necessary to have read the book in order to attend. All are welcome!

Serve on the vestry

Interested? Let us know by TODAY

In February, we'll elect four new vestry members for a three-year term. Serving on the vestry is a great way to share your gifts, lead our church, and deepen your connection to St. Philip's. No special expertise is required—just be a confirmed member, at least 16, who hasn't served in the last two years, and ready to help shape St. Philip's future.

Deadline: TODAY. Email Wes Neman (wnewman@kontek.com) or Shamielka Rhinehart (shamielkar@hotmail.com) to nominate someone or yourself.

Volunteer Opportunities at St. Philip's

We're looking for volunteers to help with a few exciting roles:

- **Love throwing parties?** We need 3-4 party enthusiasts to form a committee to plan our big annual gatherings (3-4 events per year).
- **Have accounting expertise?** Are you a CPA or accountant (or do you know someone who is)? We could use your skills for some important questions.
- **Front desk helpers needed:** Cover a shift (9 a.m. - 12 p.m. or 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.) to answer phones and greet visitors – plus it's great for catching up on your reading!

If you're interested or want more info, email Maryann at maryann@stphilipdurham.org.

Help with Greening the Church

*Sunday, December 22
1:30 p.m., Church*

It's almost time to green the church! That's Episcopal speak for decorating for Christmas with wreaths, swags, and poinsettias. Can you help? We're looking for volunteers who can climb ladders and lift heavy-ish things, and for those who like to arrange roping, hang smaller wreaths, and set out poinsettias. **Email Ron Thompson** at ncron271@hotmail.com to volunteer.

Haitian Coffee & Chocolate

Available after each service, Dec. 15 - 22

Support Haitian farmers and our Global Missions partnerships in Haiti and Liberia – deliciously! The Global Missions Committee will be selling fair-trade, organic coffee and chocolate after every service through Christmas, starting November 24. Shop early for the best selection!

Advent Book Series - *Do Not Be Afraid: The Joy of Waiting in a Time of Fear*

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m. Engage!

Sunday, Dec. 22, 10 a.m. Sunday Forum

This Advent, join us in reading and discussing *Do Not Be Afraid: The Joy of Waiting in a Time of Fear* by Rachel Mann. Gabe will lead us in discussing the book at one more Sunday Adult Forum and on more Wednesday night *Engage!* session.

NEW: Adult Forum Resources Page

Check out our new Adult Forum Resources page, where you can dig into materials from previous Adult Forums. We'll continue updating this page as more Adult Forums take place. Currently featured: "Shaped But Not Bound by History," last month's three-part forum series exploring the history of institutional racism in our diocese.

Visit Tinyurl.com/StPForumResources

Sign up to host Social Hour

Hosts needed December 22 and 29!

Our social hour after the 11 a.m. service is lay-led – and it takes you to make it work. Sign up to bring snacks, set them up, and hang around to talk to folks. You'll have a great time – and you can get everything from the store if you don't want to cook. (Reimbursement available.)

Sign up on easel in parish hall.

Bearing Witness: A Journey with Holy Land Christians

Sign up to participate

If you missed the Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple's visit, there's still time to sign up for "Bearing Witness," a five-week, video-based course sharing the stories of people living in Palestine and Israel and the ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Modeling what it means to walk in love in one of the hardest regions on earth, the course offers a way of listening, praying, and discerning how God might be calling us to be in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land. The course is planned for January at a time best for those who sign up. Our priest associate, Steve Pogoloff, will facilitate.

Learn more: afedj.org/bearingwitness/overview

Sign up: Email gabe@stphilipdurham.org

Wanted at Urban Ministries of Durham

Books: The bookshelves at UMD are empty! If you have books you're done with, consider donating them to UMD. There's a continuing need for books – they disappear quickly because folks are hungry for things to read.

Sweatpants: Please help us provide sweatpants to the men at UMD to wear during cold winter weather. All sizes (M, L, XL, XXL) and colors are welcome. We'll collect pants until December 22.

Please place donations on the parish hall donations table. Thanks!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Monthly Vespers: Now at St. Philip's!

*This Sunday, December 15
7 p.m. in the Parish Hall*

Beginning this Sunday, monthly vespers will move back to St. Philip's parish hall. All are invited to join in this meditative service of sung vespers, led by a schola of local choristers.

Come enjoy this brief, beautiful, contemplative service of ancient music and prayer, or tune in via YouTube at bit.ly/SundayVespers.

Annual Homeless Memorial Vigil

*Saturday, December 21
6 p.m. at Durham Central Park*

Join Durham Congregations in Action at the annual Homeless Memorial Vigil at Durham Central Park. This event is held on the longest night to remember unhoused neighbors who have died in the prior year. Hot beverages and snacks will be provided. Donations of handwarmers, sleeping bags and gloves will be collected to hand out to our neighbors in need.

Advent

Sun, Dec 15 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Visioning Sunday: Visioning after each service

Wednesday, December 18

7:30 pm Blue Christmas Service

Sun, Dec 22 – 4th Sunday of Advent

12 pm Pageant Rehearsal

** please RSVP*

Christmas

Tuesday, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve

4 pm Holy Eucharist with Pageant
9:30 pm Carol Sing
10 pm Solemn High Mass

Wednesday, Dec 25 – Christmas Day

10 am Holy Eucharist

Sun, Dec 29 – 1st Sunday after Christmas

10 am Holy Eucharist with Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, Jan 1 – The Holy Name

5:30 pm Holy Eucharist (no dinner or Engage!)

Sun, Jan 5 – 2nd Sunday after Christmas

8, 9, 11 am Holy Eucharist
10 am Forum: *The Trees Discernment*
(no atrium/youth program)

Monday, Jan 6 – Epiphany

5:30 pm 3rd Annual Chili Cookoff *
7 pm Epiphany Eucharist



Connect With Us

Learn more about St. Philip's at our website,
www.stphilipsdurham.org



Join our email list

Sign up for our weekly e-news, The Epistle,
at tinyurl.com/StPhilipsEpistle

Find us on Social Media

@stphilipsdurham



As a community of worship, love, and action, St. Philip's is a church for all people. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you at St. Philip's. We believe God loves us all – no exceptions!