

ST. JAMES HOUSE OF PRAYER EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TAMPA, FL

December 22, 2024

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



The Gathering of God's People

Prelude

Carillon

Jan Nieland

*****Bells ring announcing the beginning of worship*****

Advent Reading

Lorraine Williams-Nunn and Virginia McKinney

Opening Hymn

Rise Up Shepherd And Follow

LEVAS #24

1 There's a star in the east on Christmas morn,
Rise up shepherd and follow,
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born,
Rise up shepherd and follow.

Refrain:

*Follow, follow,
Rise up shepherd and follow,
Follow the Star of Bethlehem,
Rise up shepherd and follow.*

2 If you take good heed to the angel's words,
Rise up shepherd and follow,
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds,
Rise up shepherd and follow. *[Refrain]*

Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer, 355

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity *(in unison)*

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.

Canticle of Praise: *Kyrie* (sung)

LEVAS #236

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.

The Collect of the Day (in unison)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the
LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

To end, the Lector says The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15

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The Song of Mary Magnificat
Luke 1:46-55

Refrain: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his
Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

The Epistle Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Speak Lord, I'm Listening

Chorus: Speak Lord, I'm listening; plant your word down deep in me.
Speak Lord, I'm listening; please show me the way.

1 Sometimes my heart is slow to follow you;
teach me to hear and understand.
And I'm told the things you promise,
and I hope they all come true.
And I know what waits for those who wait,
and put their trust in you. (*chorus*)

2 Sometimes I stumble on my way to you;
stretch out again your healing hand.
And I'm told the things you promise,
and I hope they all come true.
And I know what waits for those who wait,
and put their trust in you (*chorus*)

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me
blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

To end, the Deacon says The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon The Rev. Ed Henley
After the Sermon, we take a few moments to reflect on God's word to us.

The Nicene Creed (*in unison*) **BCP, 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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin
Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered
death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People (*Sung*)

O Lord, our God, we lift up our hearts to You.
O Lord, our God, your people rejoice in You.

God of the living, God of all people,
Lord of all life, we lift up our hearts to You.

In peace we pray to You, Lord God, who hears our prayers:
Lord, hear our prayers, hear our prayers...

For our families, friends, and neighbors,
and those who are alone, we pray today.
Lord, hear our prayers, hear our prayers.

For this community, Lord, our nation,
and our world, we pray today.
Lord, hear our prayers, hear our prayers.

For all victims of hunger, fear,
and injustice, we pray today.
Lord, hear our prayers, hear our prayers.

For all who proclaim the gospel,
and all who seek the truth, we pray today.
Lord, hear our prayers, hear our prayers.

For all who have died, may they rest within your care eternally,
Lord, hear our prayers, hear our prayers.

And now we give You thanks for Your presence in our lives,
O Lord, our God.

Lord, hear our prayers, hear our prayers.

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

BCP, 360

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

Deacon and People

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.

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.

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebrant says a sentence from Scripture to begin the Offertory.

All are encouraged to make an offering in thanksgiving for all the blessings God has bestowed.

Gifts may be made on the parish website, sjhoptpa.org,

or by texting [sjhop](https://www.sjhop.com) to 73256, or by postal mail to:

St. James House of Prayer Episcopal Church / 2708 N. Central Ave. / Tampa FL 33602

Offertory Anthem

I Wonder As I Wander

Julius James

Presentation Hymn

Walk in love as Christ loved us
And gave himself for us.
An offering and sacrifice to God. (*Repeat*)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B)

BCP, 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Then, facing the Holy Table, 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.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

Celebrant and People (sung)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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.**

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

Celebrant

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

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Agnus Dei (*sung*)

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world (x3)

Grant us thy peace. (Repeat)

The Celebrant invites the People to Communion, in these or similar words

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.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion for those unable to worship with us in person

(if you are watching the live stream, please feel free to say this prayer during the sharing of Communion)

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

Communion Songs

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2 "Fear not," said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind
"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3 "To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4 "The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid."

5 Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
to those on whom his favor rests
goodwill shall never cease."



Prepare Ye The Way

Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the
salvation of our God.

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

**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 (pronounced by the Priest; the People respond, Amen.)

All are seated for announcements.

THE SENDING OUT OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE

Closing Hymn

Soon And Very Soon

1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

2 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King, (x 3)
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King! (*Refrain*)

3 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King! (*Refrain*)
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah. x3

4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King;
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah. x3 (*Refrain*)

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the Name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude

Festive March

Gilbert Bowlin



Remember In Your Prayers for healing, guidance, comfort, or strength

Camden Agboglo
Charnell Williams
Lejoan Franklin
Margaret Booth
Jacquelyn Brown Reeder
Victor Ferguson
Delores Thomas
Eleanor Solomon
Richard Grinnell
Morris Kennedy
Maureen Cybulski
Denise Moore Contreras
Denise Morris

Lydia Williams
Carol Moorehead
Olivia Whittiker
Mozelle Rhodes
Joe Buczek
Dorothy Batson
Mac Alexander
Stella Jacob
Deborah Blanchett
Virginia McKinney
Roderick James
Anna Valdes
Yvonne Thomas

Janelle Goodwin
Denise Andretta
Michael Carter
Arsenta Sibilly
Clare Kennedy
Gina Norris
Ruby Lockhart
Ernest Reese
Warren Nunn
Rick Cybulski
Errol Kirk
Cory McIntosh

Give thanks for...

Birthdays this week: Gene Samuel (12/28)

Anniversaries: Art and Mary Dunnigan (12/23)

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Celebrant and Preacher

The Rev. Ed Henley

Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Lynn Grinnell

Musicians

Jay Findlater, Julius James & SJHOP Choir

Lector

Larraine Williams-Nunn and Virginia McKinney

Usher

Robert Reeder

Camera Operator

Leila Mizer



St. James House of Prayer Episcopal Church

Priest-In-Charge: The Reverend Ed Henley

2708 N. Central Ave. Tampa, FL 33602

813-223-6090 sjhoptampa@gmail.com

www.sjhoptpa.org