

# St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024 – 9:00 AM  
Holy Eucharist – Contemporary Music



*The Magnificat* by James Tissot

919 Tennis Ave  
Maple Glen, PA 19002  
215-646-4092

[saintmattsec.org](http://saintmattsec.org)

Rev. Rodney Roehner

**Prelude**

*Breath of Heaven*

**by Grant & Eaton**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. (*Isaiah 40:5*)

Let us pray. Holy Father, as we wait for the coming of your Son, help us to recognize him in those we know and also in the stranger. Help us to love not only our families and our friends, but also our enemies. Help us to be patient and to be prepared to receive your Son in our hearts, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Gather**

*Fill This Place*

**by Espy & Matrone**

**Verse 1**

There is a Light that burns  
in the darkness  
There is a Hope that  
washes the fear away  
There is a Peace that settles around us  
It is Your love that sets  
our hearts ablaze

**Verse 2**

There is a King that reigns in victory  
There is a mercy strong enough to save  
We feel it rising up from the ashes  
There is a Love that  
overcame the grave

**Chorus**

Father we're on our knees  
With every heartbeat  
We bring you this offering  
Lord come and fill this place  
Father we're crying out  
Spirit, we need you now  
Glorious love surrounds us  
Lord come and fill this place

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

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

*The Celebrant continues with the Collect of Purity*

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.**

*Celebrant:* Lord, have mercy.

*People:* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* Lord, have mercy.

## **The Collect of the Day**

*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 Lessons** *Please be seated*

### **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.

The Word of the Lord.

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

**Meditation***What Child Is This***Traditional**

What Child is this who laid to rest  
 On Mary's lap is sleeping  
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
 While shepherds watch are keeping

This this is Christ the King  
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud  
 The Babe the Son of Mary

**Gospel****Luke 1:39-55**

✠ 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon** (*seated*)

Rev. David Robinson

## Faith Song

*I Believe It*

by Carson, Leonard, Reddick & Smith

### Verse 1

I believe in the life of Jesus  
I believe that he conquered death  
I believe in the resurrection  
I believe he's coming' back again  
I believe that his Spirit's with us  
I believe that he gives us power  
I believe that he is the son of God  
I believe in the life of Jesus  
I believe it, I believe it, I believe it

### Verse 2

I believe in the life of Jesus  
I believe that he conquered death  
I believe in the resurrection  
I believe he's coming' back again  
I believe that his Spirit's with us  
I believe that he gives us power  
I believe that he is the son of God  
I believe in the life of Jesus  
I believe it, I believe it, I believe it

### Chorus

We cry, "Holy, holy, let the earth rejoice  
He is worthy of all praise, yeah"  
We cry, "'Holy, holy. let the earth rejoice  
He is worthy of all praise"

## The Prayers of the People

As we wait with pregnant expectation for the coming of Jesus, let us offer prayers to God who sends his Son in the womb of a virgin.

For the coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the coming of Wisdom to teach and guide us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the coming of Emmanuel, the hope of all the peoples. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For Daniel our bishop, for Rodney and Dave; for the clergy and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the Church throughout the world and the faithful in every place, especially St. Matthew's and our school. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For all first responders and those in law enforcement, especially Jamie and Justin, and those who serve our nation in the armed forces, especially Steven, Jonathan, Kyle, Justin, Zack, William, and their families. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For travelers, for the hungry and the oppressed, for the sick and the suffering, especially Betsy, Ava, Laura, Carol, Millie, Jane, Kathleen, Anthony, Steve, Fred, Christy, Tyler, Steve, Caleb, Patti, Virginia, Polly, Daniel, Roger, Erin, Giuliano, Brody, Dave, Sean, Tom, Constance, Ethan, Sue, Colleen, Carolyn, Lou, Elaine, Lauren, Lyla, Liam, Michael, and Dee. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who rest in Christ and for all the departed, especially the loved ones of the Pack family for whom the altar flowers are given this week. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Joining our voices with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Matthew our patron, and all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord our God.**

*Celebrant*

O Wisdom, breath from the mouth of God most high, you reign from one end of the earth to the other, and govern all creation with strong and tender care: Come and teach us the way of wisdom. Glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

## **General Confession**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All* Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*Celebrant* 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 Peace** (*all stand*)

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

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

**Offertory**

*Mary, Did You Know*

**by Green & Lowry**

**Verse 1**

Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Would one day walk on water  
Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Would save our sons and daughters  
Did you know  
That your baby boy  
Has come to make you new  
This Child that you delivered  
Will soon deliver you

**Verse 2**

Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Would give sight to the blind man  
Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Would calm a storm with His hand  
Did you know  
That your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod  
And when you kiss your little baby  
You've kissed the face of God

### Verse 3

Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Is Lord of all creation  
Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Will one day rule the nations

Did you know  
That your baby boy  
Is heaven's perfect Lamb  
And the sleeping Child  
you're holding  
Is the great I Am

### Bridge

The blind will see  
The deaf will hear  
The dead will live again  
The lame will leap  
The dumb will speak  
The praises of the Lamb

### Eucharistic Prayer B

*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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.



Holy, Holy, Holy  
Is the Lamb of God  
Honor, praise and glory  
Are Yours, oh Lord, Forever

*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 the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Matthew, our patron, and 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.**

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

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

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

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

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**Anthem**

*Soon and Very Soon*

**by Andrae Crouch**

Soon and very soon  
We are going to see the King (3x)  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
We're going to see the King  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

*The Celebrant then faces the People while elevating the Sacrament and says*

✠ The Gifts of God for the people of God.

**Communion Hymn**

*Look to the Skies*

**by Graham Kendrick**

**Post-Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **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.**

*The Celebrant says the following blessing*

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Service Hymn

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

by Smart & Montgomery

### Verse 1

Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth

### Chorus

Come and Worship  
Come and Worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

### Verse 2

Shepherds in the field abiding  
Watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing  
Yonder shines the infant light

### Verse 3

All Creation join in praising  
God the Father Spirit Son  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One

## Dismissal

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

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



**Christmas  
Schedule**

Thursday, December 19.  
6:00 pm Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve  
3:00 pm Children's Pageant and  
Family Service  
5:00 pm Holy Eucharist with  
Contemporary Music  
7:30 pm Prelude Music  
8:00 pm Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Hymns