



EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HOLY EUCHARIST

FORTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2023
10:00 A.M.

EMMANUEL CHURCH
21 STRATFORD STREET | WEST ROXBURY, MA 02132
WWW.EMMANUELWR.ORG

PRELUDE

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant Our King and Savior now draws near.
People **O come, let us adore Him.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant May God 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 FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

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.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26

Misericordias Domini

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; 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, and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: "I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

20 I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.
 21 My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong.
 22 No enemy shall deceive him, nor any wicked man bring him down.
 23 I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.
 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, 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, my God, and the rock of my salvation.'"

THE SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

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

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, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "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." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "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." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Jonathan Eden

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand as you are able.

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 IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Intervenor Stir up your whole church, O Lord, and with great might prepare our hearts to receive your
Word,

People **That all your people may hear your truth. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, today we remember: the Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard, Cambridge, the
Lutheran Episcopal Chaplaincy at MIT, Cambridge, The Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge, and
all Hospital Chaplaincies & Healthcare Chaplains. That their lives and teaching may glorify your name
through all the world.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Bring wisdom and patience to all in positions of authority, here and around the world, that a sense of
community and harmony may be found in all their decisions and that all their actions may serve the
common good.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Cast away the darkness of war in all the world, and teach us to put on the armor of Christ's peace, that,
living in unity with one another, all people of the earth may dwell in safety and look with confidence to the
coming of your kingdom.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Swell our hearts, Lord Christ, with the love you make known to us in this season, that we may take to heart
the care of the poor, the outcast, and all who suffer from any grief or trouble.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send again the message of repentance, preached once by your prophets, and give us grace to heed their
warnings and forsake our sins of prejudice, injustice, and greed.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Have mercy, O Lord, on all the sick and those who have requested our prayers, especially Christina, Donald,
Carol, Julie, Stanley, Peter, Felix, Mary, Catherine, Michael, Parker, Sergio, Martha, Anne, Patricia, Barbara,

Maureen, Rachael, Louise, Scott, Kathleen, Paul, Eddy, Christopher, and those we now name silently or aloud (*pause*). Enfold them with your healing hands, that they may feel your presence and be made whole.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Remember, O God, all those we love but see no longer, especially, those we now name silently or aloud (*pause*), and all who find their delight in your kingdom, that they may feast forever at a table we hope, one day, to share.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In this season of waiting, your grace surrounds us and we thank you for all the gifts manifest in our lives and communities, especially those we now name, silently or aloud (*pause*), that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, Give us grateful hearts and abundant hope, that we may recognize your hands at work in us and in the world around us.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Prepare us. Purify us. Stir cold hearts and open blinded eyes,

That, watching, we may be ready to receive the gift that even now you prepare for Bethlehem's manger. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant And, as we know that without you we cannot please you, hear our prayer of confession that we make before you:

People **Have mercy upon us, most merciful God. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, things known and unknown, deeds done and left undone; and lift us by your spirit's presence that we may live to serve you and one another in new life, to the honor and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant May the power of God, who comes to dwell among us, forgive you all your sins and offenses, prepare your hearts for joy, and embrace you in an eternal kingdom.

People **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant May God 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 God thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Dear God, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of Mary his mother, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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

And so, Most Gracious God, we who have been redeemed by Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our forebears; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Deborah, Hannah and Rebecca. God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, O God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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

Celebrant [Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]**
Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

A period of silence is kept.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.
People **O God, who bids us wait in this season of longing: As you have fed us with the body of Christ, make us hungry for your justice in the world; As you have given us drink from the cup of salvation, make us thirsty for the fullness of your kingdom; In these days of expectation, stir our hearts and awaken hope that we may share the gifts of your reconciling love with all creation. Amen.**

BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace, be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honor all persons. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. And the blessing of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us, be upon you, and remain with you always.

HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel

H82 #54



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

WELCOME TO EMMANUEL CHURCH

We are glad that you joined us today and pray that you will know God's presence through our worship and in this community. Wherever you are in your journey with God or toward God you are welcome here. Indeed, you are invited and welcome here in our pews and in all the things we do together as a community each week. We would also love to be in better touch throughout the year. Please reach out to our Bridge Priest, the Rev. Jonathan Eden at therev.jonteden@gmail.com or [617.798.0700](tel:617.798.0700) for more information.

We meet every Sunday for worship at 10:00 A.M. and you can also learn more about who we are and what we do together through our Web and Social Media pages:

Facebook



Instagram



YouTube



Web



SERVING TODAY

Celebrant
Altar Server
Altar Guild
Lector
Gift Bearers
Organist

The Rev. Jonathan Eden
Terri Halliday
Terri Halliday, Gail Halpin-Evans
Ken Thelen
Weekly volunteers
Esther Kwok

PARISH DIRECTORY

The Parish Office	21 Stratford St, WR 02132 617-323-1440 www.emmanuelwr.org	Vestry Co-Wardens Treasurer Clerk Vestry	Terri Halliday Ken Thelen Kellon Belfon Anne Jackson Ed Fleming Gail Halpin-Evans Cathy McCarthy Seraiah Belfon
Bridge Priest	The Rev. Jonathan Eden therev.jonteden@gmail.com 617.798.0700		
Office Hours	Tues 10 a.m. –5:30 p.m.	Social Media Leader	

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please be in touch with The Rev. Jonathan Eden.