

“COMFORT, COMFORT MY PEOPLE, SAYS YOUR GOD.”
ISAIAH 40:1



THE VISITATION | GIOTTO | 1305 | THE ARENA CHAPEL | FRESCO | ITALIAN



THE CHURCH OF THE
INCARNATION

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2024

Welcome To
The CHURCH of the INCARNATION

To all who are spiritually weary and desire rest,
To all who are mourning and long for comfort,
To all who struggle and desire victory,
To all who sin and need a Savior,
To all who are hungry and thirst for righteousness,
And to whomever will come,
This church opens her doors,
Offering welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

God calls us out of the world and welcomes us into his presence.
Opening our hearts to him in love, we respond by confessing our
sins, receiving his forgiveness, and fully devoting our lives to him in
praise and adoration.

Congregational responses are indicated in **boldface**.

Please stand.

HE SHALL REIGN

Tom Wuest. © 2007 Brass Trumpet Publishing. CCLI License 11069486.

Come broken come captive come all you who mourn
Oh groaning creation rejoice
A child a savior our healing he brings
What freedom what consolation

He shall reign (echo), he shall reign (4x)

He'll order his kingdom with justice and peace
O merciful one O lamb of God
All nations all people all heaven and earth
Will bow down and to him proclaim

THE ACCLAMATION

Surely the Lord is coming soon.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

PRAYER FOR PURITY

Let us pray.

**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.**

^oExodus 20:1-17

THE LAW OF GOD^o

God spoke these words and said: "I am the
Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me."
**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to
keep this law.**

"You shall not make for yourself any idol."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"Honor your father and your mother."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"You shall not murder."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"You shall not commit adultery."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"You shall not steal."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"You shall not covet."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these your laws in our hearts, we beseech you.

*When we confess our sins to God we are not groveling in guilt; we are dealing with our guilt. If we deny our sins, we will never be free from them.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN*

...

Please kneel and silently confess your sins against God and your neighbor.

MASS OF LOVE AND MERCY - KYRIE

Gabriel Wanous © 2013 CCLI Lic. 11069486.

Kyrie eleison Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy

Christe eleison Christe eleison

Christ have mercy

Kyrie eleison Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy

*Only God can forgive sins. In announcing God's forgiveness, pastors obey Christ's command to his ministers to pronounce Christ's forgiveness on his behalf (John 20:23).

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS*

• • •

Please stand.

THE PSALM

Refrains in bold are sung.

***O come, divine Messiah, the world in silence waits
When hope shall sing its triumphs,
and sadness flee away***

Psalms 50:1 The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

***O come, divine Messiah, the world in silence waits
When hope shall sing its triumphs,
and sadness flee away***

³ Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.

⁴ He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

⁵ "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made covenant with me by sacrifice!"

⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge!

***O come, divine Messiah, the world in silence waits
When hope shall sing its triumphs,
and sadness flee away***

***O come desired of nations, whom priest and prophet told,
Will break the captive fetters,
redeem the long lost fold.***

*The collect is a prayer that goes with the scripture readings, summarizing the theme of this particular worship service.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Children ages 9-12 are dismissed for Children's Ministry.

Please be seated.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

We encounter our risen Lord in Scripture. As a people defined by God's Word, we respond to God through confession of faith, corporate prayer, and a demonstration of our reconciliation with one another in passing the peace of Christ.

ISAIAH 40:1-11

After the Scripture is read:

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

MARK 1:14-15

Before the Scripture is read:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Scripture is read:

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

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

Please stand.

*The Nicene Creed has been prayed and recited since AD 325. It is the most widely used encapsulation of the essential and unifying beliefs of Christianity.

THE NICENE CREED*

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.

*Catholic here means that every local church founded on the gospel is part of the one universal church founded by God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*We close by praying together for the mission of the Church.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE*

The leader will invite us to pray.

• • •

Almighty and everlasting God, who alone works great marvels: Send down upon our clergy and the congregations committed to their charge the life-giving Spirit of your grace, shower them with the continual dew of your blessing, and ignite in them a zealous love of your Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*This ancient tradition is rooted in Luke 24:36-49. In these words we hear the promise that the dark side of life in the world and in us will not prevail. The power of the evil one has been overcome.

THE PEACE*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us greet one another in the name of our Lord.

*Greet those around you with some version of these words:
"The peace of Christ be with you."*

Parents pick up infants to 9 year-olds from upstairs at this time.

Please be seated.

*Acts 20:35

THE OFFERING*

PSALM 126

Bifrost Arts, 2017; CCLI #11069486.

Our mouths they were filled filled with laughter
Our tongues they were loosed loosed with joy
Restore us O Lord
Restore us O Lord

Although we are weeping
Lord help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom
For the day You will reap them
Your sheaves we will carry
Lord please do not tarry
All those who sow weeping will go out with songs
of joy

The nations will say, "He has done great things!"
The nations will sing songs of joy
Restore us O Lord
Restore us O Lord

Please stand.

PRaise GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Words: Thomas Ken, Tune: Old Hundredth. 1674; Public domain.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost
Amen.

CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

God welcomes his people to feast at his table. This meal, a means of grace for all who receive by faith, is a rehearsal of the central act of the Christian faith: Christ's death on the cross — his body broken and his blood shed as a sacrifice for our sins.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

...

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**

**Hosanna,* hosanna, in the highest
Hosanna, hosanna, in the highest**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory**

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

...

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your Name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who come with faith in Christ and repentance for sin are welcome to share in this feast. If for any reason you would prefer to abstain, cross your arms over your chest, and one of the servers will pray a blessing for you.

Come forward to receive communion row by row. If you do not wish to drink from the common cup, take a small cup at the front of the aisle as you go forward. When arriving at the front of the communion line, place your hands in front of you to receive a piece of bread, and consume it. After receiving the bread, proceed to the first server to take a drink from the common cup (please do not dip your bread) or to the second server with your plastic cup to receive a pour of wine. Grape juice is available at the far right station and is available poured only.

*Emmanuel is a Hebrew word meaning “God with us” (Matthew 1:23).

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

12th century Latin text; 13th century tune. Public domain.

O come O come Emmanuel*

And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

KING OF GRACE

Tenielle Neda. © 2024. Public Domain

Father, Son and Holy Spirit
present at creation
spoke the breath of life
Jesus, living word became flesh
brought to us his kingdom
breaking in the light

Oh what love is this? The King of Grace, He gives
His one and only Son for those he loves
See what love this is! The King of Grace, He gives
His life for those he loves, that we might become
children of God

From his fullness we have received
grace upon grace, freely
reconciled, redeemed
Blessed are those who have not seen
yet in his name believe—find everlasting life

OH GIVE THANKS (PSALM 107)

Wendell Kimbrough. © 2014, Kimbrough, Wendell. CCLI License 11069486.

We were wandering in the desert
With our souls so starved and weak
We were hungry for a homeland
We did not know how to seek
But we lifted up our voices
To the only One who hears
And the God of mercy came and brought us near

We were locked out of the garden
And our backs bent down with pain
In the shadow of death's darkness
We were slaves to sin and blame
Then we cried out in our labor
To the only One who hears
And the God of mercy wiped away our tears

Oh give thanks to the Lord
For His love endures forever
We were wandering and lost
And our Father brought us home
To a safe dwelling place
To a feast of joy and laughter
Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good

We were fools in our rebellion
With our hunger strike of pride
We were sick and growing closer
To the death we should have died
Then He heard of our condition
And He called us by our names
And the God of glory took away our shame

We were far out on the ocean
Making wealth and chasing dreams
But the waves of great destruction
Brought us trembling to our knees
And we cried like drunken sailors
To the only One who hears
And the God of comfort took away our fears

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Heavenly Father,

***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. Amen.***

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements can be found on page 12.

THE BLESSING AND COMMISSIONING

Please stand.

All our problems:

We send to the cross of Christ!

All our difficulties:

We send to the cross of Christ!

All the devil's works:

We send to the cross of Christ!

All our hopes:

We set on the risen Christ!

...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

All children's ministry is staffed by trained and screened volunteers.

Nursery: Also open for parents/caretakers and infants, anytime during the service for nursing or fussy babies. Located upstairs, midway down the hall to your left. Available throughout the service. You can bring your child prior to the service. Pickup at the Peace.

Toddler Room: For steady walkers up to 3 years old. Located upstairs; last classroom on the right. Check-in located outside the classroom. You can bring your child prior to the service. Pickup at the Peace.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

3–6 years: Atrium Level 1. Parents drop kids off upstairs; check in outside the classrooms before the service begins. Pickup at the Peace.

6–9 years: Atrium Level 2. Parents drop kids off upstairs; check in outside the classrooms before service begins. Pickup at the Peace.

9–12 years: New City Catechism. After the Collect, children will be dismissed to their class upstairs. Prior to the Lord's Supper, they will return to the service.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Advent Guides

This year, the churches in our Deanery (the smaller region within our Diocese) collaborated to produce a guide we'll all use. Our hope is that this guide will serve as a way to orient our lives toward Christ this Advent, and that we'll begin to establish habits of prayer that will continue beyond Advent.



**ADVENT
GUIDE**

Advent Morning Prayer

During the season of Advent, we will host Morning Prayer starting at 7:30am Monday-Friday in the Prayer Room. Enter through the Elizabeth Street doors.

Volunteers still needed for 2025

If you haven't filled out your service assignment form, here is a list of teams that still need more members for next year. You can still sign up for other things too, of course.

- Security/DoorKeepers: 10
- Coffee and Bagel Team: 6
- Vergers: 6
- Lay Eucharist Ministers (LEM): 5
- Welcome Team: 4
- Nursery/Toddler: 4 adults
- Children ministry: 1 (9-12 year-old assistant)
- Babysitter Coordinator: 2
- Children's Ministry Hallway Monitor: 4



**VOLUNTEER
2025**

Youth Group - No Youth Group Tonight

Youth group will not meet today. See you next week!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec 2 Birth Circle 7-9pm

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services

Dec 29 One Service at 10am

** Staff email addresses can be found on the back cover of the worship guide.*

Christmas Week

AT *The* CHURCH *of the* INCARNATION

As we joyfully celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior
and receive him anew in our hearts, our homes, and our church,
our plans for worship are as follows:

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve
Lessons & Carols followed by cocoa & cookies

4:00 pm and 6:00 pm - no child care

Sunday, December 29

One service at 10:00 am - nursery & toddler care



Office hours: 10 to 4, Monday through Friday
Ring bell at Federal Street entrance

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