

“COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY, COME TO THE WATERS;  
AND YOU WHO HAVE NO MONEY, COME, BUY AND EAT!”  
ISAIAH 55:1



THE JUDGEMENT DAY | AARON DOUGLAS | 1939 |  
OIL ON TEMPERED HARDBOARD | AMERICAN



THE CHURCH OF THE  
INCARNATION

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN  
ADVENT  
DECEMBER 22, 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.

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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.***

## THE LAW OF GOD°

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 80:1 Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth

<sup>2</sup> before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us.

<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

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

<sup>4</sup> How long, LORD\* God Almighty, will your anger smoulder against the prayers of your people?

<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

<sup>6</sup> You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

\*When LORD is printed in small capital letters, it is the personal name for the one true God, the creator of heaven and earth and all things. In the original language it was likely pronounced yahweh.

***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.

***Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, 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.*

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### ISAIAH 45:18-25

*After the Scripture is read:*

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

### PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

*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\***

***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 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.

\*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.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The leader will invite us to pray.*

...

***O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men, women, and children everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.\****

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

\*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.

\*Ephesians 5:2

## 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.

## THE OFFERING\*

### ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY

*Brenton Brown & Glenn Robertson © 1998 Vineyard Songs CCLI 11069486.*

All who are thirsty  
All who are weak  
Come to the fountain  
Dip your heart in the stream of life

Let the pain and the sorrow  
Be washed away  
In the waves of His mercy  
As deep cries out to deep  
(We sing)

Come Lord Jesus come  
Come Lord Jesus come  
(repeat)

Holy Spirit come  
Holy Spirit come  
(repeat)



As deep cries out to deep  
As deep cries out to deep  
As deep cries out to deep we sing

*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.*

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## **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**

...

\*Hosanna is a Hebrew word that carries a twofold meaning: to praise Jesus as the Son of God sent to save us and to cry out to Jesus for that salvation.

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.*

## COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

*Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore; CCLI 11069486.*

Come behold the wondrous mystery

In the dawning of the King

He the theme of heaven's praises

Robed in frail humanity

In our longing in our darkness

Now the light of life has come

Look to Christ who condescended

Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery

He the perfect Son of Man

In His living in His suffering

Never trace nor stain of sin

See the true and better Adam  
Come to save the hell-bound man  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment  
Of the law in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
Christ the Lord upon the tree  
In the stead of ruined sinners  
Hangs the Lamb in victory  
See the price of our redemption  
See the Father's plan unfold  
Bringing many sons to glory  
Grace unmeasured love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
Slain by death the God of life  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him  
Praise the Lord He is alive  
What a foretaste of deliverance  
How unwavering our hope  
Christ in power resurrected  
As we will be when He comes

### **LET THIS HEART NOT WANDER**

*Eric J. Marshall © 2014 Young Oceans CCLI License #11069486*

Let my eyes see nothing  
Let my eyes see nothing but Your glory my Lord  
Let my eyes see nothing  
Let my eyes see nothing but Your glory my Lord

Let this heart not wander  
Let this heart not wander from Your mercy my Lord  
Let this heart not wander  
Let this heart not wander from Your mercy my Lord

May I always linger  
May I always linger in Your presence my Lord  
May I always linger  
May I always linger in Your presence my Lord

I will ever praise You  
I will ever praise You You are worthy my Lord  
I will ever praise You  
I will ever praise You You are worthy my Lord

## **ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME**

*Words: Edward Perronet, 1780; Music: Oliver Holden, 1793. Public domain.*

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' Name!

Let angels prostrate fall

Bring forth the royal diadem

And crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the royal diadem

And crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race

Ye ransomed from the fall

Hail Him who saves you by His grace

And crown him Lord of all!

Hail Him who saves you by His grace

And crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe

On this terrestrial ball

To Him all majesty ascribe

And crown him Lord of all!

To Him all majesty ascribe

And crown him Lord of all!

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng

We at his feet may fall!

We'll join the everlasting song

And crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the everlasting song

And crown him Lord of all!

## **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!***

• • •

Let us bless 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 Morning Prayer

We will host Advent Morning Prayer starting at 7:30am Monday and Tuesday this week in the Prayer Room. Enter through the Elizabeth Street doors.



**COOKIE  
SIGNUP**

## Christmas Eve Services - Cookies and Cocoa

Our 'Lessons and Carols' Christmas Eve services will be held at 4pm and 6pm on December 24th. We will have hot cocoa and cookies. Please use the QR code to sign up to bring some cookies! Childcare will not be provided.

## Baptism - Jan 12

If you desire baptism for yourself or your child, we will be having a baptism service on January 12. Please email one of the clergy for more information.

## Rector's Discretionary Fund Offering - Dec 24 & 29

On Christmas Eve at both services and on December 29 (5th Sunday) we will take an offering for the RDF. This fund is used solely to help people in our church and community with physical and financial needs.



**RDF  
OFFERING**

## Clean Up

In preparation for Kush Anglican's afternoon service, please straighten your chairs and dispose of all cups and worship guides.

## Office Closed

The church office will be closed for the Christmas holiday.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Dec 24** Christmas Eve Services & RDF offering

**Dec 29** One Service at 10am & RDF offering

**Jan 3** Arts Incarnate Art Opening

**Jan 5** Children's Ministry and Youth Group resumes

**Jan 12** Baptism Sunday

*\* 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:

*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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