



# Sherwood Episcopal Church

Five Sherwood Road  
Cockeysville-Hunt Valley, MD 21030

410-666-2180

sherwoodcockeysville.org

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**10 AM**

**December 6, 2020**  
**Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

*Watch live on our Facebook page and our website at 10 am, and on our YouTube channel after 2 pm*

## THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Mr. Greg Sesek, Music Director

Welcome and Announcements

The Reverend Nancy H. Hennessey, Rector

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*Celebrant:*

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."

*The candles are lit.*

*Lector:*

Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. **Amen.**

*Prayer by The Rev. Matthew Kolowski:*

<https://buildfaith.org/advent-wreath-prayers-liturgy-church-home/>

## THE OPENING SENTENCES

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

## THE COLLECT FOR 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.**

KYRIE

*Arranged by Edmund Brownless*

*p* Lord, have mer-cy u-pon us. Christ, have mer-cy u-pon us.

*Slow*

The musical score consists of a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The vocal line begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes the lyrics "Lord, have mer-cy u-pon us. Christ, have mer-cy u-pon us." The piano accompaniment is marked *Slow* and features a steady, rhythmic accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

Lord, have mer-cy u-pon us. *p*

The musical score continues with a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line ends with a fermata over the final note and a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar rhythmic pattern, ending with a fermata over the final chord.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

*Said in unison*

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

ALLELUIA



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Nancy H. Hennessey

*Following the sermon, let us pause for a period of silent reflection on God’s holy word.*

HYMN - 56

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!

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.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for all those impacted by COVID-19, and especially for those on our parish prayer list: Sally, Debbie, Shannon, Jeff & Kim, Norma, Sharon, Margaret, Ed, Laura, Joyce, Christine, Mike and his family, Kendall, Jean, Marge, Sarah, Joe, Gail, Mark, Steve W., Pam, Michelle, Joe G., Jay, Stan, Rick; David C., Ella Mae, Steve & Debbie, Jeanetta, Christina, Khalil, Charles, Samantha, Courtney, Bud, Steve S., Debbie H., Chris D., Patti and the Banister family, Bill P., and Danny.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the blessings of this life; especially for those celebrating birthdays including Ruthie.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. We especially remember and give thanks for the life of Helen M. "Boots" Banister.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant concludes*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP pg. 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept*

**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.**

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The people greet one another virtually with a sign of God's peace.*

### **A Special Note: Stewardship 2020-2021**

Our annual Stewardship Campaign has begun. The theme this year is "Faith-Filled Generosity." Through prayer and reflection, how will you use the gifts you have been given to help our church this coming year? How will you hear the Gospel call to seek and serve Christ in all people, and respond with generosity?

You may now [make your pledge online](https://sherwoodcokeysville.org/2021-stewardship-pledge-form/). <https://sherwoodcokeysville.org/2021-stewardship-pledge-form/>

If you are not on our mailing list and would like to pledge support to Sherwood for 2021—in time, talent and treasure, please contact Carey Mednick at [sherwoodparish@gmail.com](mailto:sherwoodparish@gmail.com). Thank you.

*We continue to do God's work and your contributions of any size make a huge difference. You may now contribute online via our website. Go [here](#) to check it out. ([sherwoodcokeysville.org/give](https://sherwoodcokeysville.org/give)) Or if you would prefer, mail in your contribution to 5 Sherwood Road, Cokeysville, 21030. We are checking the mail regularly and depositing any checks. Thank you!*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN

*He shall feed his flock (Messiah) - G.F. Handel*

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; and he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto him, all ye that labour, come unto him that are heavy laden, and he will give you rest.

Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The Celebrant offers thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available in Christ, and in response the people sing:*

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS – S123

*Setting by Howard E. Galley*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 hea - ven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's passion and resurrection and prayers over the bread and wine.*

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic prayer and at the conclusion says*

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 forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP pg. 364

*The Celebrant says*

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

*People and Celebrant*

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,  
 forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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

AGNUS DEI - S157

*Lamb of God*

John Merbecke

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the  
 sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the  
 sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the  
 sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

## A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*Episcopal Prayer Book for the Armed Forces (1988)*

*Celebrant:*

Let us say together the prayer for spiritual communion.

**In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

*The Celebrant pronounces a blessing over the People, and the People respond, Amen.*

HYMN - 76

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let each heart prepare a home  
where such a mighty guest may come.

4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

## DISMISSAL

As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission as a congregation:

**God commands us to enthusiastically cast open our doors to embrace all, impacting lives through bold service, no exceptions!**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Postlude

*Postlude on Advent plainchant - Everett Titcomb*

**Worship Participants from Studio Sherwood**

Officiant: The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey

Music Director & Organist: Greg Sesek

Cantor: Cassidy Dixon

Lector: Sheila Fitzgerald

Broadcast Engineer: Anne Wismer

*Thank you for joining us for our virtual worship this morning. Please be sure to check out our Facebook page for updates and also remember to subscribe to our YouTube channel. If you are interested in receiving our e-newsletter, please contact Carey Mednick at [sherwoodparish@gmail.com](mailto:sherwoodparish@gmail.com).*

**This Week @ Sherwood**

**Monday**

Office closed

Loaves and Fishes Advisory Board Meeting via Zoom @ 5 pm,  
Mother Nancy

**Tuesday**

Advent Bible Study via Zoom @ 1:30 pm

United Churches Assistance Network (UCAN) Board Meeting via Zoom  
@ 4 pm, Mother Nancy

**Wednesday**

Vestry Meeting @ 6 pm via Zoom

**Saturday**

Advent Bible Study via Zoom @ 9 am

## Announcements

### **Communion by the Red Door:**

This Sunday, receive the Eucharist and blessing from Mother Nancy from your car between 11:15-11:45 am. Masks and gloves will be worn, and each wafer has been carefully and safely wrapped. We hope to see you Sunday!

### **Sherwood Virtual Giving Tree:**

We can all use a little extra warmth this year. Since we cannot gather together in person our Giving Tree is virtual, but the need is real. During the month of December, Sherwood will be collecting donations of new, unused winter clothing items for the clients of the Clothing Closet at Loaves and Fishes. Small items such as warm hats, gloves, scarves, ear warmers, and socks are appreciated.

Donations may be left in the bin outside of the office. If you are leaving a donation in the bin, please contact Joyce Mann (joymann3@hotmail.com) for pick up.

If you wish to make a monetary contribution, the check should be made out to Sherwood with "Giving Tree" in the notation line. **The deadline for donations is Sunday, December 27.** Please contact Joyce Mann if you have any questions.

### **Flowers for Christmas:**

Even though we are unable to gather in person this Christmas, we will still continue the tradition of flowers given for loved ones—in memory of or in thanksgiving for. Names will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. There are four ways to send us your names; whichever method you chose, you may mail in your check or drop it off in the blue bin on the parish office porch. Please make a note of *Christmas Flowers* on the memo line.

- 1) Mail to Sherwood @ 5 Sherwood Road, Cockeysville 21030 (Please print legibly!)
- 2) E-mail your list to Carey Mednick (sherwoodparish@gmail.com)
- 3) Fill out this form on our website (sherwoodcockeysville.org/christmas-2020-flowers/)
- 4) Leave a message on the office voicemail (Please spell out the names!) @ 410-666-2180

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NAMES AND PAYMENT BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18.**

Flowers may be picked up after the service on December 27.

### **Advent Series Has Begun:**

Mother Nancy is offering two opportunities each week to participate in the Advent Series, *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*. Chose the time that fits your schedule, either on Tuesday @ 1:30 pm or Saturday @ 9 am. Week one is over, but there are four remaining sessions. Everything is done via Zoom. If you are still interested contact Carey Mednick (sherwoodparish@gmail.com) and she will get you connected.

### **Receiving Communion on Christmas Eve:**

If you would like to participate in receiving communion on Christmas Eve, Mother Nancy will be consecrating wafers at our virtual service on December 20 to distribute to you and your family prior to our virtual Christmas Eve service. This will allow you to take in the body of Christ on Christmas Eve from your home. See pick-up dates under the Christmas bags announcement.

### **Christmas Bags for Our Christmas Eve Service:**

In order to bring a bit of our Sherwood Christmas to your home this year, we will be distributing Christmas bags for our Christmas Eve service. The bags will include the Christmas bulletin, candle tapers for Silent Night, consecrated wafers for communion, and more. All you need to make our virtual Christmas Eve worship sacred and holy. There will be two distribution opportunities:

1. **Sunday, December 20 (11:15 am-12:15 pm)** Come for *Communion by the Red Door* and pick up your Christmas Eve bag at the same time.
2. **Wednesday, December 23 (10-11 am)** Come to Sherwood and pick up your Christmas Eve bag from Mother Nancy. Sign up is required for the 12/23 pick-up. Please call the church office and leave a message or email Carey Mednick. (sherwoodparish@gmail.com)

For those who are unable to leave their home, please speak to or email Carey and arrangements will be made to get a Christmas Eve bag to you.  
(sherwoodparish@gmail.com)

### **Our Christmas Day Service:**

Each year at Sherwood, there is a small group that gathers on Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a contemplative service in comparison to our Christmas Eve worship in all its splendor, but it is equally as moving. This year, Mother Nancy will be offering a quiet and reflective Christmas Morning service from her home to yours. Whichever Christmas 2020 service you attend (and you are

welcome to attend both) may you catch the spirit of God's love that transcends all generations as we rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior.

**Creating Sacred Space at Home:**

For the past several months, we have been worshipping virtually from our homes. This Christmas we will be doing the same. If you haven't done so already, prepare a space where you and your family can be a part of our community of faith for our virtual Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service. Make the space comfortable with enough chairs or space for everyone—even the family pet(s). Light candles, dim the lights, turn off the television, put away your cell phones, and create a holy and sacred area to welcome the birth of Jesus. It will be different and may feel a bit strange in comparison to Christmases past, but it is important that we keep our focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Creating a peaceful and contemplative space to help quiet our minds and open our hearts will allow us to focus on the true importance of Christmas—God's enduring love brought to us in the gift of a newborn child.