

# Sherwood Episcopal Church

Five Sherwood Road  
Cockeysville-Hunt Valley, MD 21030

410-666-2180

sherwoodcockeysville.org

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**10 AM**

**December 20, 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:*

Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

*The candles are lit.*

*Lector:*

Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. **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 first system of the musical score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and contains the lyrics "Lord, have mer-cy u-pon us. Christ, have mer-cy u-pon us." The piano accompaniment is written in two staves, with a treble and a bass clef, and features a tempo marking of *Slow*. The accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

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

The second system of the musical score continues the 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 chords and moving lines in both hands, also 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.

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.**

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 15     The Song of Mary *Magnificat* - Luke 1:46-55

*Said in unison*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
 for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
 From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
 the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  
 He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
 in every generation.  
 He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
 and has lifted up the lowly.



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*

O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!

THE NICENE CREED

BCP pg. 358

**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

Form IV, BCP, p. 388

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, 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., Patti and the Banister family, Danny, Allison, the Daniels family, and Linda and her family.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

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

*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 Pam Noble.

*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.**

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://sherwoodcockeysville.org/2021-stewardship-pledge-form/). <https://sherwoodcockeysville.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.*

([sherwoodcockeyville.org/give](http://sherwoodcockeyville.org/give)) Or if you would prefer, mail in your contribution to 5 Sherwood Road, Cockeysville, 21030. We are checking the mail regularly and depositing any checks. Thank you!

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN

*Ave Maria* - Schubert

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A - BCP pg. 361

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

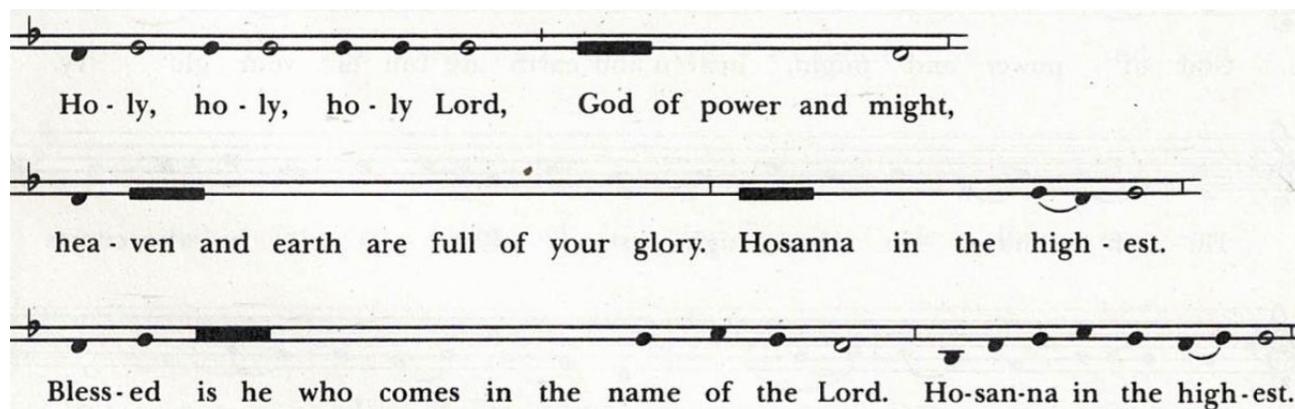
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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



## 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 - 67

*Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes*

1 Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

2 He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure;

and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved Name.

## 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

Mr. Greg Sesek, Music Director

### **Worship Participants from Studio Sherwood**

Officiant: The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey

Music Director & Organist: Greg Sesek

Cantor: Cassidy Dixon

Lector: Laure Covert

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**

#### **Saturday**

Advent Bible Study via Zoom @ 9 am

#### **Sunday**

Communion by the Red Door & Christmas Eve Bag Pick-Up 11:15 am-12:15 pm

**Monday**  
Office closed

**Tuesday**  
Advent Bible Study via Zoom @ 1:30 pm

**Wednesday**  
Christmas Eve Bag Pick-Up 10-11 am

**Thursday**  
Virtual Christmas Eve Service @ 5 pm

**Friday**  
Virtual Christmas Morning Service @ 9 am

### **Announcements**

#### **Fun Had by All!**

A special thank you to the Strong family for hosting Sherwood's first trivia night via Zoom. Everyone had a great time and we even learned some new things. The topic was on the season of Christmas – both in pop culture and the bible. Bronwyn and Christina did a wonderful job emceeing and tallying up answers. Thank you!

#### **There's Still Time to Donate to the Giving Tree:**

Donations of socks, scarves, hats, gloves, mittens, and ear warmers are still needed and may be left in the bin outside of the office. If you are leaving a donation in the bin, please email Joyce Mann for pick up. All donations will go to Loaves and Fishes.

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.

#### **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. **TODAY 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.