



December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

WELCOME to all visitors and guests this morning. We are happy you are here to worship with us. If you want to know more about the Church of Reconciliation, you may email the church office at info@cor-satx.org to receive our weekly e-mail.

All are welcome at the table of the Lord for Holy Communion. If you would prefer to receive Communion at your seat instead of at the rail, please let an usher know. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Large-print bulletins are available at the church entrances.

Christingle

Have you ever heard of a Christingle? Want to learn more about it? Make plans to join us on Sunday, December 19 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. by **Zoom**. We will be making our very own Christingle candle holder, learning all about Christingle and ending our time together with a Christingle service. You don't want to miss all the fun! **EVERYONE IS** WELCOME to join us! Supplies must be reserved and will be available for pick-up on Sunday, December 12 and Sunday, December 19 (in Brown Hall) so all you have to do is turn on Zoom!! Any questions? Please chat with Jennifer Murphy. Reservations are required: https://corsatx.org/christingle-2021/

Please Join Us!!

Want to help pack backpacks for Interfaith Welcome Coalition? We would LOVE to have YOU ioin us!!

We are blessed to have 2 teams that serve with this amazing ministry:

Team #1 is led by Ron and Betty Graham and meets the FIRST SUNDAY of every month in the Alban Classroom, after the 10:30 service.

Team #2 is led by Jennifer Murphy and meets the SECOND SUNDAY of every month in the Alban Classroom, after the 9:00 service.

Even if you are not able to join us, both teams can always use donations of:

- Stuffed animals (from the Dollar Tree)
- Individual packages of peanut butter crackers
- Individual packages of gummies •
- Granola Bars

Once backpacks are packed, they are then taken to the San Antonio Airport, where they will be handed out to families being released from detention centers.

Still have guestions?? Please call, email or text: Ron and Betty Graham

at ronnbetty@gmail.com or 210-998-9086. Jennifer Murphy at jennifer@cor-satx.org or 210-725-3080.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00am – Holy Eucharist (no music) 9:00am - Christian Education & Formation 9:00am - Chapel with Holy Communion, Labyrinth 9:30am-10:15am - Children, Youth & Family Formation **10:30am –** Holy Eucharist (livestreamed, with music) The outdoor Labyrinth is available at any time.

Alternative Gift Market Sunday, December 19 during Coffee Hour

Gifts purchased at our Alternative Gift Market celebrates the true spirit of Christmas with gifts that inspire change through humanitarian causes. Honor your loved ones with donations to one of the non-profit organizations affiliated or associated with Rec.

Christmas Flowers and Music

Each Christmas season, we have special flowers and music to enhance the worship services. If you wish to contribute funds for the flowers and/or music, please complete the yellow form in the church entrances and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the office no later than December 20.

The form should be accompanied by your check, made out to the Church of Reconciliation and have "Christmas Flowers" or "Christmas Music" on the memo line.

Flowers or music may be given to the glory of God, in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a special person or occasion. Donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted. Questions? Email info@corsatx.org.

Christmas Eve at Reconciliation

We will celebrate Christmas this year with two services on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

- Our first service will begin at **4:30pm**, with • prelude music at 4:00pm.
- Our second service will be at 6:00pm.

There will be no services on Christmas Day, December 25.

Today's altar flowers are given by Suzanne and Parker Scott: Celebrating the birthday of our daughter, Genevieve."

Sunday Worship Service Options

8:00am Worship Service

• This service is a full Holy Eucharist, without music. All are welcome!

9:00am Chapel with Holy Communion followed by Children, Youth and Family Formation

- Everyone is invited to join us at 9:00 a.m., in Brown Hall, for Chapel with Holy Communion! (Weather permitting, we will be on the Labyrinth for this service).
- Following our Chapel service, those who would like to participate, can join us for Children, Youth and Family Formation in the Children's Building and Rec Room. We will wrap up by 10:15 a.m.
- Any questions? Please don't hesitate to chat with Jennifer!

10:30am Livestream Worship Service

• On Sundays, Reconcilers will be allowed in the sanctuary for our 10:30am livestream service. This is a full Eucharist service with music. All are welcome!

Order of Service <u>10:30</u>

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Advent means "Coming". We begin our church year with the season of Advent. Who is coming, where are we going and who will show us the way? It is a season to spiritually prepare to enter the Mystery of Christmas, a mystery so big that it takes four weeks to get ready.

During the four Sundays of Advent our eyes will be focused on Bethlehem. The altar rail will be transformed by the lights of those who are to show us the way. Come with the prophets, the Holy Family, the Shepherds, and the Magi as we all make our way to Bethlehem.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"The Light of the Magi" pays homage to the three kings, the wise ones, who were following the wild star to find the King its shining was to show them.

PROCESSION

THE OPENING HYMN

O Come, desire of nations, bind in me the hearts of all mankind; Bid thou our said divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Song of God appear. Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Hymnal #56, verses 7, 8

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

Celebrant: 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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant:The Lord 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.**

Janice and Cris Lopez

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Lector: A Reading from Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,

whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

and he shall be the one of peace.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need. She makes me lie down in green meadows, beside the still waters She will lead. She restores my soul, she rights my wrongs, She leads me in a path of good things, and fills my heart with song. Even though I walk, through a dark and dreary land, there is nothing that can shake me. She has said, She won't forsake me, I'm in Her hand. She sets a table before me in the presence of my foes, She anoints my head with oil, and my cup overflows. Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me, all the days of my life, and I will live in Her house forever and ever. Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter, and to the Holy of Holies, As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Psalm 80:1-7

Lector: Please join me in reciting the psalm.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your strength and come to help us.
Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. O LORD God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; *

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE EPISTLE

Lector: A reading from Hebrews.

Hebrews 10:5-10 Read by Mike Moneer

When Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."
When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. *All:* Thanks be to God.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, As men of old have sung. It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind; With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, She bore to men a Savior, When half spent was the night.

Lo, How a Rose e're Blooming

THE GOSPEL

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

| "My soul magnifies the Lord, |
|---|
| and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, |
| for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. |
| Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; |
| for the Mighty One has done great things for me, |
| and holy is his name. |
| His mercy is for those who fear him |
| from generation to generation. |
| He has shown strength with his arm; |
| he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. |
| He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, |
| and lifted up the lowly; |
| he has filled the hungry with good things, |
| and sent the rich away empty. |
| He has helped his servant Israel, |
| in remembrance of his mercy, |
| according to the promise he made to our ancestors, |
| to Abraham and to his descendants forever." |
| |

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Josh Woods

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant: Let us affirm our faith together. All: 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

Intercessor: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work, especially military, medical workers, and first responders; **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world, especially our president, Joe, our governor, Greg, our mayor, Ron, and all other leaders;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation; today we acknowledge the extinction of the turgid-blossom pearly mussel.

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble, especially all those affected by the tornado in Kentucky, and those we name either silently or aloud____; and from our parish family: Kimberly, Ron, Benny, Randy, Stella, Randy, Alfred, Luke, Virginia, Phyllis, Jean, and Maureen; **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, David and Rayford, our Bishops, Josh and Judy, our priests, and all other ministers of the church;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We will exalt you, O God our King; And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially Arlene, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant reads the Concluding Collect.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Minister Let us confess our sins to God.

Minister and People 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.

THE ABSOLUTION

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

| Celebrant: | The peace of the Lord be always with you. |
|------------|---|
| People: | And also with you. |
| | |

(The people exchange greetings)

THE GATHERING HYMN

Awake, Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story; may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy birthday to:

| Genevieve Scott | 12/20 |
|-----------------|-------|
| Ernesto Clauzel | 12/21 |
| Dru Dunn | 12/21 |

Milestones:

On December 14, Brenda Moneer celebrated 14 years of being cancer-free.

If you would like your birthday, anniversary, or other milestone mentioned here, please email <u>info@cor-satx.org</u>.

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant: O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

Awake, Awake

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

Herself a rose, who bore the Rose, She bore the Rose and felt its thorn. All loveliness new-born Took on her bosom its repose, And slept and woke there night and morn.

Lily herself, she bore the one Fair Lily; sweeter, whiter, far Than she or others are: The Sun of Righteousness her Son, She was His morning star.

She gracious, He essential Grace, He was the Fountain, she the rill: Her goodness to fulfil And gladness, with proportioned pace He led her steps through good and ill.

Christ's mirror she of grace and love, Of beauty and of life and death: By hope and love and faith Transfigured to His likeness, 'Dove, Spouse, Sister, Mother,' Jesus saith

DOXOLOGY

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part, yet what I can I give him; give him my heart.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

| Celebrant | The Lord 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 our thanks and praise. |

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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. Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 for ever. **AMEN**.

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. *The people respond:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE INVITATION

He whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread. He who redeemed us and called us by name, now meets us in this cup. So take this bread and this wine, in them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the table of the Lord for Holy Communion.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Ave Maria Mark Mangus, soloist

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: And now, let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us the strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

THE BLESSING

THE CLOSING HYMN

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness With One Voice #730

THE DISMISSAL

The Priest dismisses the people saying: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

The People Respond: Thanks be to God.

Rec Nursery: "Come One, Come All" "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them." (Matthew 19:14)

Ages: 6 weeks old through 3 years old

Elementary Ministry: "Fun In Our Faith" "He will fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouting!" (Job 8:21)

Ages: 4 years old through 4th Grade

Elementary Sunday School: Join us on our next adventure with Story Makers: The Flood from 9:30-10:15 a.m. in the Children's Building.

Rec Middle School Ministry: "Faith Over Fear" "Do not be afraid! Do not be discouraged!" (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Ages: 5th Grade thru 8th Grade

MS Sunday School: The Middle School Youth and parents will be discussing the Gospel Reading, alongside a devotional from the Book of Common Prayer, in the Rec Room, every Sunday morning from 9:30-10:15.

MS Youth Group: Wednesday Evenings from 7:00-8:30p.m. Please chat with Jennifer for the details!

Rec High School Ministry: "Carried By The Lord"

"Where you saw how the Lord your God carried you..." (Deuteronomy 1:31)

Ages: 9th Grade through 12th Grade

HS Sunday School: The High School Youth and parents will be discussing the Gospel Reading, alongside a devotional from the Book of Common Prayer, in the Rec Room, every Sunday morning from 9:30-10:15.

HS Youth Group: Wednesday Evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Please chat with Jennifer for the details!

Please call/text or email Jennifer Murphy at 210-725-3080 or jennifer@cor-satx.org for more information.

Ministering and Serving This Sunday December 19, 2021

<u>8:00</u>

Verger: George Zayas Usher: Carol Westerkom Lector: Carol Westerkom Prayers of the People: Carol Westerkom Altar Guild: Team IV (Roxie Montesano Team)

<u>10:30</u>

Verger: George Zayas Lector: Suzanne Scott, Mike Moneer Prayers of the People: Katheryn Cox Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Bob Russo, Joan West Altar Guild: Team IV (Roxie Montesano Team) Ushers: Eddie Cox (lead), Leslie Allison Greeters: Nancy Daniels (lead), Suzanne Scott Coffee Hour: All Hands on Deck (Favorite

Christmas Cookies and Treats)

Second Sunday Service Day for Children, Youth and Families

Please make plans to join us on the second Sunday of every month, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Chapel service for **Second Sunday Service Day**! This time will be set aside for ALL of our Children, Youth and Families (and anyone else who would like to join us) to serve our San Antonio community, right here in our very own **Alban Classroom (please take note of the location change.)**

Service projects will vary, but we will finish in time for the 10:30 service. (This time of service will take the place of Family Faith Formation for the week.) Additional service opportunities will continue to be offered throughout the school year for our Middle School and High School Youth. Any questions?!? Please call/text or email Jennifer Murphy.

Upcoming Second Sunday Service Days: January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8

We invite your prayers this week for: Jan, **Kimberly, Ron,** Nora, Reese, **Benny**, Garnet, Kes, **Randy**, Susan, Audie, **Stella**, Robert, Carolyn, **Randy**, Larry, Tiffany, **Alfred**, Luke, Virginia, and **Phyllis, Jean, and Maureen.**

Use this QR code to make a donation to Rec via

