

AND  
THE  
WORD  
BECAME  
FLESH

AND  
LIVED  
AMONG  
US

*He is the image of the invisible God,  
the first born of existence, in him  
all things were created, visible  
and invisible, whether thrones  
or dominions or angels or powers,  
all things have been created by  
and for him. He himself became  
flesh and dwelt among us,  
and all things were made through  
him, and without him nothing was  
made that has been made.  
He is the beginning, the firstborn,  
so that from the dust  
he may create for himself  
a new heaven and earth  
and a new people of his own  
making, and all things were  
made through him, and  
without him nothing was  
made that has been made.*



## Vespers for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome: Sister Michele Bisbey, CDP Provincial

Call to Prayer:

O God who gives us times of quiet and times of action, abide in us this Christmas so that all people may be filled with the joy of your presence.

(Caryll Houselander)

**Evening Hymn: (*please stand*)** We will sing verses 1, 3, and 6.

### Creator of the Stars of Night



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse  
3. When this old world drew on toward night,  
4. At your great Name, O Je - sus, now  
5. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,  
6. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,  
*Cre - á - tor ál - me sí - de - rum,*



Your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
Should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
You came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
Re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;  
And God the Spir - it, Three in One,  
*Ae - tér - na lux cre - dén - ti - um,*



O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
You came, O Sav - ior, to set free  
Not as a mon - arch, but the child  
All things on earth with one ac - cord,  
De - fend us while we dwell be - low  
Praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be  
*Jé - su, Red - ém - ptor ó - mni - um,*



We pray you hear us when we call.  
Your own in glo - rious lib - er - ty.  
Of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.  
Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.  
From all as - saults of our dread foe.  
From age to age e - ter - nal - ly.  
*In - tén - de vó - tis súp - pli - cum.*

Prayer of Blessing Over the People *(please be seated)*

*Please repeat the refrain after the Cantor and then sing after each verse.*

Psalm 141 David Haas



My prayers rise be - fore you, like in - cense, O  
Lord. My hands like the eve - ning of - f'ring.

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Prayer As Candles Are Lighted:

As we light four candles on our Advent wreath, may we open our hearts to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. **All: Amen.**

Psalm One

**Antiphon: Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

1. O Divine Guest within, we have readied ourselves for a time of prayer. We now prepare what is most important, the shrines of our hearts.
2. May the incense we have enkindled be a smoking sacrament of the desire for the thoughts, words, and actions of this time of prayer to become sacred gestures, on fire with a love for you.

1. Grant to us a devotional zeal, that our bodies may become living vessels, sacraments of incense pleasing to you, delights in your sight.
2. Like the incense consumed by fire, may our lives become fuel for your blazing love, that the offerings of our hearts may give forth the pleasing aroma of selfless service and a love for all the world.
1. Like the incense that arises on high, so may our prayer, empty of ourselves and our needs, rise effortlessly in silent salutation to you, that it may be a prayer for all the world.
2. May this prayer reach you through your Holy Spirit, who prays continuously within each of us and dwells eternally with you and your Son.

**Antiphon: Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Psalm Prayer:

To, you, Provident God, our eyes are turned as we stand in eager expectation of that day when peace shall flow from Zion and the deserts shall bloom with your justice. As our prayers ascend to you like the fragrance of incense, may your glory come down upon us in the kingdom of your Son, our Emmanuel.

**All: Amen.**

Psalm Two (Psalm 24: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6)

**Antiphon:**

Christ, cir - cle round us. Christ, may your light sur -  
round us. Shine in our liv - ing. Fill our hearts  
with great thanks giv - ing.

1. The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For the Lord founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.
2. Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord? Or who may stand in God's holy place?
  1. One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain.
  2. This one shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God, the savior. Such is the race that seeks for the Lord that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

**Antiphon (sung): Christ, circle round us, Christ, may your light surround us, Shine in our living, Fill our hearts with great thanksgiving.**

Psalm Prayer:

With tender comfort and transforming power you come into our midst, O God of mercy and might. Make ready our way in the wilderness, clear a straight path in our hearts, and form us into a repentant people, that the Advent of your Son may find us watchful and eager for the glory he reveals.

**All: Amen.**

Gospel: *Luke 2:1-7 (please stand)*

Reader One:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.*

*He was in the beginning with God.*

*All things came to be through him,  
and without him nothing came to be.*

*What came to be through him was life,  
and this life was the light of the human race;*

*the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

*He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him.*

*He came to what was his own,  
but his own people did not accept him.*

*But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.*

*And the Word became flesh, and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son,  
full of grace and truth.*

The Gospel of our Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

***(Please be seated)***

Reader Two:

The image of Christ seems to be stepping from the darkness – striding forward, recalling the chaos and nothingness of the creation story. The Cosmic nature of Christ's incarnation is evident by the background. In the center of the upper register is an artistic rendering of a dying star, based on a photograph from the Hubble telescope. We are invited to imagine the Word stepping out of eternity and becoming flesh. The process of incarnation is not quite complete here.

Time of Reflection:

To the left of the illumination, a keyhole seems ordinary and perhaps misplaced. What does it signify?

Perhaps it recalls the tradition of locked and hinged manuscripts which secured/protected the key to the word of God.

Are there keyholes you can identify in your spiritual journey?

Collection:

*While some quiet music plays, we will take up a collection for the homeless.*

Magnificat: (please stand)

**GOSPEL CANTICLE (MAGNIFICAT)**

Bernadette Farrell

1. My soul pro - claims the great-ness of the Lord.  
2. Through me great deeds will God make man - i - fest,  
3. God's might - y arm, pro - tec - tor of the just,  
4. Soon will the poor and hun - gry of the earth  
5. All glo - ry be to God, Cre - a - tor blest,

1. My spir - it sings to God, my sav - ing God,  
2. And all the earth will come to call me blest.  
3. Will guard the weak and raise them from the dust.  
4. Be rich - ly blest, be giv - en great - er worth.  
5. To Je - sus Christ, God's love made man - i - fest,

1. Who on this day a - bove all oth - ers fa - vored me  
2. Un - bound - ed love and mer - cy sure will I pro - claim  
3. But might - y kings will swift - ly fall from thrones cor - rupt.  
4. And Is - ra - el, as once fore - told to A - bra - ham,  
5. And to the Ho - ly Spir - it, gen - tle Com - fort - er,

1. And raised me up, a light for all to see.  
2. For all who know and praise God's ho - ly name.  
3. The strong brought low, the low - ly lift - ed up.  
4. Will live in peace through - out the prom - ised land.  
5. All glo - ry be, both now and ev - er - more.

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Prayers of Intercession: Our response will be, "Provident God, hear our prayer."

In anticipation of your promise, O God, we ask for dew to drop down from the heavens, for the clouds to rain down the Just One. We pray:

Gentle God, you satisfy our thirsty hearts; may we respond to the needs of those thirsting for justice. We pray:

Loving God, you give us bread for our table and bread for our spirit; may we share our bread generously with those around us. We pray:

Peaceful God, you desire harmony for us; may we be free from our selfish and defensive ways. We pray:

Comforting God, you give sight to the blind; may we see with new eyes Your life in our midst. We pray:

Liberating God, you set the captives free; may we support those people who are imprisoned for the sake of justice. We pray:

The Lord's Prayer: Let us sing the words of Jesus who is our Emmanuel.

Sign of Peace: Let us extend to one another the peace of Christ.

Closing Prayer (pray together)

Here in our midst, O God of mystery, you disclose the secret hidden for countless ages. For you we wait; for you we listen. Upon hearing your voice, may we, like Mary, embrace your will and become a dwelling fit for your Word. We ask this through Jesus whose coming is certain, whose day draws near; Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song: We will sing verses 1 & 7.

## O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

Verses



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And  
 2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who  
 3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who  
 4. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se's stem, From  
 5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And  
 6. O come, Thou Day-spring from on high And  
 7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In



1. ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in  
 2. or - d'rest all things might - i - ly; To us the  
 3. to thy tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient  
 4. ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them That trust thy  
 5. o - pen wide our heav - 'nly home; Make safe the  
 6. cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the  
 7. one the hearts of all hu - man - kind; Bid thou our



1. lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of  
 2. path of knowl - edge show, And teach us in her  
 3. times didst give the law, In cloud and maj - es -  
 4. might - y pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry  
 5. way that leads on high, And close the path to  
 6. gloom - y clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ow  
 7. sad di - vi - sions cease, And be thy - self our

Refrain



1. God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -  
 2. ways to go.  
 3. ty and awe.  
 4. o'er the grave.  
 5. mis - er - y.  
 6. put to flight.  
 7. Prince of Peace.



el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: LM with refrain; Latin, 9th cent.; verses 1, 3-6, para. in *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; verses 2, 7 tr. fr. *The Hymnal 1940*, alt.  
 Music: *Processionale*, 15th cent. French; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890; Chant, Mode I.

Please join us for a dessert reception in the Community Room.