

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023



St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church

WELCOME

St. Cyprian's is a welcoming, inclusive, vibrant community of faith, where every person is invited to engage in our worship, mission, and ministry. This booklet contains all you will need for this morning's worship. Information about upcoming events, activities, and ministries are found on the Announcement page. If you are a visitor to our live-streaming service, we would be honored if you would leave your name and email address to keep you informed of news of our church and ministries. WELCOME!

About Our Worship

The worship in this booklet follows the outline of **Holy Eucharist: Rite II** in the **Book of Common Prayer**. The **Declaration of Faith** is borrowed from the Moravian Book of Worship. (The Moravian Church and the Episcopal Church are in full communion with each other.) The **Eucharistic Prayer** is from **Enriching Our Worship**, a resource for the Episcopal Church's liturgy. The readings from Holy Scripture are from **Lectionary Year B** using the **New Revised Standard Version** of the Bible.

A Note about Communion – Our communion is bread and wine (by intinction). The celebrant will dip the bread in the chalice, placing it on your hand. If you do not wish to have the wine, simply let the celebrant know. Those not wishing to receive may come forward for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

PRELUDE

""Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Kriebel

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (Please stand as able)

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Genevan 42

1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING ACCLAMATIONS FOR ADVENT

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People You come to your people and set them free.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Song of Mary"

1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God; my
2 My God has done great things for me: yes,
3 From age to age to all who fear, such
4 Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -

heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
ho - ly is God's name. All peo - ple will de -
mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice
motes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past

low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways.
clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
sat - is - fied; the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

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.**

THE FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the 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." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I 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. ⁷Wherever 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?" ⁸Now 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; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹from 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. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26

¹Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing; *

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

²For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

³"I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁴"I will establish your line forever, *

and preserve your throne for all generations.' "

¹⁹You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *

"I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

²⁰I have found David my servant; *

with my holy oil have I anointed him.

²¹My hand will hold him fast *

and my arm will make him strong.

²²No enemy shall deceive him, *

nor any wicked man bring him down.

²³I will crush his foes before him *

and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *

and he shall be victorious through my Name.

²⁵I shall make his dominion extend *

from the Great Sea to the River.

²⁶He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *

my God, and the rock of my salvation.' "

THE SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

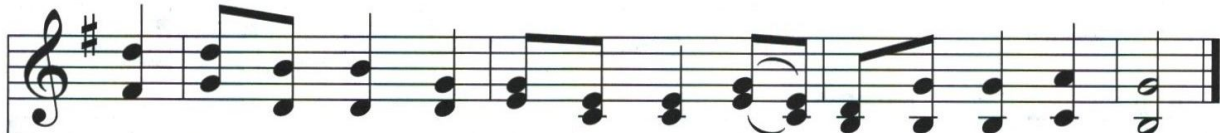
GRADUAL HYMN *(Please stand as able)*

"The Lord is God"

Azmon



1 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise
2 With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,
3 At night or day, at home, a - way, to - geth - er and a - part,
4 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise



to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.
O peo - ple, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.
O chil - dren, take these ho - ly words and keep them in your heart.
to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.



THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

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

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Deacon The Gospel of our Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Jim Dannals

(A period of silence follows the sermon)

A DECLARATION OF FAITH *(Please stand as able)*

**I believe in the one true God, the Creator of humanity,
who creates and sustains the universe
in wisdom and power,
who calls us into being and into relationship
with God by grace,
whose nature is love.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
who lived that we might see God,
who died that we might be reconciled to God,
who rose again that we might experience the life of God,
who freely accepts and welcomes all who come to him,
not on the basis of merit,
but on the basis of unconditional love.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
who is God present with us now,
who shows us our need for God,
who assures us of God's love in all circumstances,
who lives the life and love of Jesus Christ through us.**

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader

Blessed are you eternal God.

People

To be praised and glorified for ever.

Leader

Source of all love, hear us as we pray for the unity of the Church.

People

May we all be one that the world may believe.

Leader

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you.

People

That the life of Christ may be revealed in us.

Leader

Strengthen all who minister in the name of Christ.

People

Give us courage to proclaim your gospel.

Leader

Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world.

People

Guide us and all people in the way of justice and peace.

Leader

Make us alive to the needs of our community.

People

Help us to share one another's joys and burdens.

Leader

Look with kindness on our homes and families.

People

Grant that your love may grow in our hearts.

Leader

Have compassion on those who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble.

People

In your presence may they find strength.

Leader

We remember those who have died.

People

Father, into your hands we commend them.

Leader

Remembering blessed Cyprian we praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

People

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Leader

Lord you have called us to serve you.

People

Grant that we may walk in your presence:

Your love in our hearts,

Your truth in our minds,

Your strength in our wills,

Until, at the end of our journey,

We may know the joy of our homecoming

And the welcome of your embrace,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

"Jesus Christ the Apple Tree"

Tucker

PRESENTATION HYMN (Please stand as able)

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

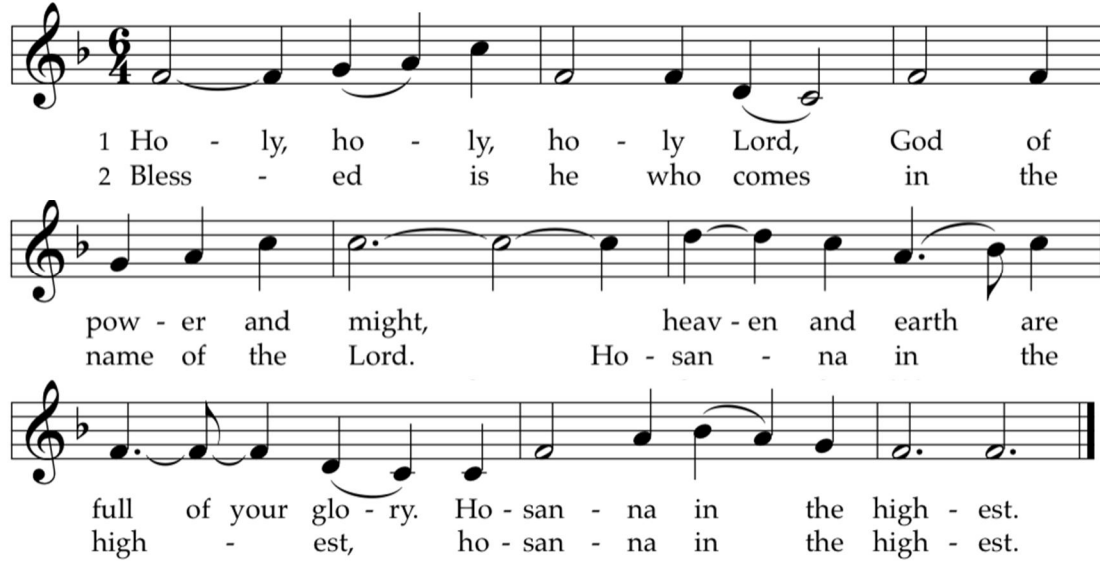
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

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.**

Celebrant
We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with blessed Mary, blessed Cyprian and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**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 forever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION ANTHEM "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

plainsong

COMMUNION CHANT "Wait for the Lord"

Taize

(All sing together)

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
In the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior, Amen.**

BLESSING



**The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God
by Mary-Francis and Thom Mitchell.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (Please stand as able)

"People, Look East"

Besancon

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look
a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace, to love and serve God's world.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Noel"

D'Aquin

St. Cyprian's Activities & Announcements

Christmas Eve Service Tonight at 5:30pm

Annual Congregational Meeting –Jan. 7th

in the Mission House after the Service

We will be electing 4 people to 2 year terms on the Mission Board, 2 people as delegates and 2 alternate delegates to Diocesan Convention. The Nominating Committee is Lanny Ballard, Melinda Hilsenbeck and Jim Vande Berg, who will be receiving nominations. You may nominate yourself or someone else.

Healing Service – Second Wednesday, Jan. 10th at 3pm

Zoom Meetings

Aging Angels – Tuesdays at 10am

Virtual Coffee Hour – Wednesdays at 10am

Centering Prayer – Wednesdays at 4:30pm

Racial & Social Justice Discussion Group – 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 10am

Prayer List

We pray for those known to the people of St. Cyprian's who are ill or who have asked for our prayers: Theo & Lily Pignataro, Pat Laurencelle, Janet Stowers, Lynelle & Jeff, Penelope, Goody Seymour, Karen Honans, Leila Seibert, Fr. Christopher Martin, Domingo C., Lanny Ballard, Mtr. Celeste Tisdelle, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Anita McDonough, Lynn Timmons, Martha Bailey, Mignon Williams, Jonathan Brunjef, Joe Finnegan, Carrie C., Barb Lofquist, Michelle Curlee, Jane Schwab, Harrison, Brandi Killings, Kenny Brown, Clifford Romeo, Sue Rausch, Pat Ethridge, George Paul, Kirby von Egidy, Henning Toensmann, Carol Ann Romaine, Bobbi Miller, Elise Osako and Jim Colee.

Those listed below will be prayed for by The Daughters of the King, and members and clergy of St. Cyprians.

Dennis Edwards, Clayton, Richard & Darlene, Carole Prior, Ron, Jim, Tom, Chloe, Elena, Parker Aune, Penny Rolleston, Alan Turner, Sally Yocum, Isaac Katcher, Roger & Sandy Pinnicks, Susie, Bruce Cudworth, Melissa & Family, Traude, Pam & Dick Sherry, Michael, Lurna, Margaret, Sandy, Diane, Michael Kratz, Diane Radibeau Wise, Dick & Karin Jeter, John Neuman, Donna Bahr, Bev Curry and family, Patricia Maxwell, Anthony Patterson, Jane Rhodes, Anthony & Claire, Raymond & Leslie Stricklen, Cheryl Hundley, Curt Charlton, Susie Calvaruso, The Morrissey Family, Catherine Martin, and Liza Aston.

About the Prayer List – To add a name to our Prayer List, with their permission, please call 904-829-8828 or email Deacon Steve at stcyprianssteve@gmail.com. Please let us know when to take off someone's name.

St. Cyprian's Staff

The Rev. James C. Dannals – Interim Vicar

jdannals@gmail.com

The Rev. Steve Seibert – Deacon

Deacon's Office Hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am-4pm

Kathleen Vande Berg – Music Director & Organist

Holly Horahan – Office Administrator

Stewardship Progress Report

2024 Pledge Goal \$154,000

Thank you so much to everyone who has made their pledge for 2024! If you are still planning to make a commitment to St. Cyprian's in the coming year, we urge you to please turn in your card as soon as possible. A final accounting of the pledges will help us present an accurate 2024 budget at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 7th.

Cards returned so far:	44	Total amount pledged:	\$119,117
# of households who increased their pledge:	26	Average increase amount:	29%

This graph shows the distribution of last year's annual pledges.

