

# First Sunday of Advent: December 1, 2024

This packet contains all of the readings and hymns for today's service. The booklet will direct you to "See Insert" when applicable.

## **A note regarding the readings during the Season of Advent:**

*A Women's Lectionary For The Whole Church*  
The Rev. Dr. Wilda C. Gafney

"What does it look like to tell the Good News through the stories of women who are often on the margins of scripture and often set up to represent bad news? How would a lectionary centering women's stories, chosen with womanist and feminist commitments in mind, frame the presentation of the scriptures for proclamation and teaching? How is the story of God told when the women's brutalization and marginalization are moved from the margins of canon and lectionary and held as the center in tension with stories of biblical heroines and heroes? More simply, what would it look like if women build a lectionary focusing on women's stories? These were my initial questions when I sat down to draft a proposal for a women's lectionary, a lectionary designed by women - or an individual woman - for the whole church. I do not imagine that my questions and perceptions are questions and perceptions of all other women. But I do believe that my questions and perceptions invite women, men, and nonbinary readers and hearers to engage the scriptures in new ways. And in that engagement, they might find themselves and their questions represented." - The Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney

For more about *A Women's Lectionary For The Whole Church*, please visit  
<https://www.wilgafney.com/womenslectionary/>

"The gender-expansive translations throughout the *Women's Lectionary* and explicit feminine God language in the Psalter provide an opportunity for Christian education and formation on matters of biblical authority and translation issues, oft-neglected conversations in congregations (beyond creedal statements)."

With permission from the Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot, Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Des Moines, Iowa, adopts the *Lectionary* for the Advent season replacing either the Episcopal or RCL lessons. Clergy and lay preachers will use the *Lectionary* for Bible study and consider the preaching prompts as conversation starters. It is the hope of the Worship and Spiritual Formation team at Saint Andrew's that members will use the list of divine names and titles for God to enrich the theological language of the community in liturgy, corporate, and personal prayer.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning; this first candle is HOPE.

*The candle is lit.*

Reader The word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" (Luke 3:2b-6)

## Gathering Hymn

## Longing for Light

*All stand as able*



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for  
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less, long-ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone has  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see. \_\_\_\_\_  
 pow - er to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice. \_\_\_\_\_  
 bro - ken for o - thers, shared un - til all are fed. \_\_\_\_\_  
 shel - ter - ing o - thers, wall made of liv - ing stone. \_\_\_\_\_  
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come. \_\_\_\_\_

*Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.



Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!



Shine in your church gath - ered to - day. \_\_\_\_\_

**Collect of the Day** *All stand as able*

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Priest* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**People** **Amen.**

**First Reading - Zechariah 8:1-13** *All may be seated.*

*Reader:* A reading from the book of Zechariah

The word of the SOVEREIGN of heaven's legions came to me saying: Thus says the COMMANDER of heaven's vanguard: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and with great wrath am I jealous for her. Thus says the RULER of the multitudes of heaven: I will return to Zion and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called "The Faithful City" and the mountain on the SOVEREIGN of the vanguard of heaven shall be called "The Holy Mountain." Thus says the HOLY ONE of Heaven's armies: Elder women and elder men shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets.

Thus says the MAJESTY of Heavens: Though it seems miraculous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem miraculous to me, says the COMMANDER of winged warriors? Thus says the SOVEREIGN of Heaven's legends: It is I who will save my people from the east land and from the west land. Then I will bring them to dwell within Jerusalem; they shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.

Thus says the COMMANDER of Heaven's legends: "Strengthen your hands – you all who hear in these days these words from the mouths of the prophets, female and male, who were present when the foundation was laid for the rebuilding of the temple, the house of the Ruler of the Multitudes of Heaven. For before those days, the wages of the [labor] was nothing and of animal [labor, less]; as for those coming and going, there was no security from the enemy and I set every single person against their neighbor. Yet I will now not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, says the SOVEREIGN of Heaven's legends. For there shall be a sowing of peace: the vine shall yield its fruit, the earth shall yield its produce, and the heavens shall yield their due; and I will inherit the remnant of this people with all these things. And it will be just as you have been a cursing among the nations, house of Judah and house of Israel, so it will be that when I save you all, you shall be a blessing. Fear not; strengthen your hands.

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

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 46** *All remain seated, text is read in unison.*

**God is for us a refuge and strength,  
a help in trouble, easily found.  
Therefore we shall not fear, through the earth should change,  
though the mountains quiver in the heart of the sea;  
its waters roar and churn,  
the mountains tremble with its swell.  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;  
God will help her when the morning unfurls.  
The nations roar, cominions quiver;  
God puts forth her voice, the earth melts.  
The WARRIOR PROTECTRIX is with us;  
a stronghold for us is the God of Rebekah's line.  
Come, behold the works of the FIRE OF SINAI;  
See what desolations she has set on the earth.  
She makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
she breaks the bow, and shatters the spear.  
she burns chariots with fire.  
"Be still and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth."  
The WARRIOR PROTECTRIX is with us;  
a stronghold for us is the God of Rebekah's line.**

**Second Reading** – 1 John 4:13-21 *All remain seated.*

*Reader* A reading from the book of First John

By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God has given us God's own Spirit. And we have seen and so testify that the Father has sent the Son of God as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and the abide in God. So we have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in order that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as God is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, rather perfect love casts out fear, for fear relates to punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because God first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates their sister, brother, they are a liar; for those who do not love a sister or brother whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their sisters and brothers also.

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

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**Holy Gospel** – Luke 1:5-19 *All stand as able*

*Priest*            The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People**            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

And it was in the days of Herod king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the lineage of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living accordingly to all the commandments and righteous requirements of the Sovereign God blamelessly. Now they had no child because Elizabeth was barren, and they both were advanced in age.

And it happened that when Zechariah was serving as priest and his order had the service before God, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to offer incense and he entered the sanctuary of the Holy God. The whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the time of the incense offering. There appeared to Zechariah a messenger of the Living God, standing to the right of the altar of incense. Now Zechariah was shaken when he saw the messenger and fear overwhelmed him. But the messenger said to him, "Fear not, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to a son for you, and you will call his name John. You will have joy and gladness, and many at his birth will rejoice, for he will be great in the sight of the Sovereign God. Wine and strong drink he must not drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb. He will turn many of the women and men of Israel to the Holy One their God. He will go before the Holy God with the spirit and power of Elijah *to turn the hearts of parents to their children*, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to prepare for the Redeeming God a people made ready."

Then Zechariah said to the messenger, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man and my woman is getting old herself." The messenger answered him saying "I am Gabriel. I stand before God and I have been sent to speak to you and to proclaim to you this good news."

*Priest*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

# THERE IS A LONGING

Anne Quigley

Refrain

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -

veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our hearts for

love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Verses

- 1. For jus - tice,
- 2. For wis - dom,
- 3. For heal - ing,
- 4. Lord save us,

- |                      |                           |                  |    |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----|
| 1. for free - dom,   | for mer - cy:             | hear our prayer. | In |
| 2. for cour - age,   | for com - fort:           | hear our prayer. | In |
| 3. for whole - ness, | for new life:             | hear our prayer. | In |
| 4. take pit - y,     | light in our dark - ness. |                  | We |

to Refrain

- |                 |           |                                    |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 1. sor - row,   | in grief: | } be near, hear our prayer, O God. |
| 2. weak - ness, | in fear:  |                                    |
| 3. sick - ness, | in death: |                                    |
| 4. call you,    | we wait:  |                                    |

Communion -


# My Soul in Stillness Waits

Refrain




For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness  
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.


Verses



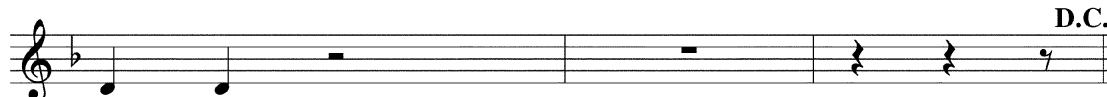
1. O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of  
2. O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our  
3. O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with -  
4. O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our  
5. Come, let us bow be - fore the God who  
6. Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the



glo - ry, your ra - diance shines in all who look to  
spir - its, our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your  
in us, and in your ad - vent, draw us all to  
pil - grim - age, we ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re -  
made us, let ev - 'ry heart be o - pened to the  
heav - ens, Cre - a - tor of the moun - tains and the



you, come, light the hearts of all in dark and  
Word, come, make us whole, be com - fort to our  
you, our hope re - born in dy - ing and in  
main, o - pen to us the path - way of your  
Lord, for we are all the peo - ple of his  
seas, Lord of the stars, and pres - ent to us



shad - ow.  
hearts.  
ris - ing.  
peace.  
hand.  
now.

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for our sal -  
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in dread - ful  
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his daz - zling  
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -

va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him,  
 bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion  
 ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;

swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture,  
 claim the king - dom for thine own: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.