



Free Church of the Annunciation
New Orleans, Louisiana

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FREE CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

an Episcopal Church founded in 1844

DECEMBER 05, 2021 ✦ 11:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST ✦ Rite II ✦ Year C
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome to Annunciation

Celebrant

The Reverend David P. Casey, O.P.

Please remember to silence your mobile phones

Welcome & Announcements

Father David Casey

FOR VISITORS

If you are visiting, we would love to know! Complete a CONNECT card found in the pew rack and drop it in the offertory plate, or hand it to a vestry member. To receive our weekly newsletter or to learn more about us, visit AnnunciationEpiscopal.com or call the church office at (504) 895-8697. You can also find us on [Facebook.com/AnnunciationNOLA](https://www.facebook.com/AnnunciationNOLA).

ABOUT THE SERVICE

*All are invited to God's table for Communion. **Words in this bulletin in BOLD, we say or sing together.***

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

Masks are optional. We have masks at the entrance should you need one. Non-contact greetings should be offered to those outside your household at the peace or before/after the service. Please continue to practice rigorous hand hygiene. Anyone with symptoms of a potentially contagious illness should stay home. We continue to livestream our 11:00 AM Sunday service.

The Entrance Rite

MUSICAL PRELUDE

Performed by Steven Kennedy

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING LITURGY

Adult reader

The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace. When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peacemakers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. We light the candle of peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

A candle is lit.

Child reader

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Adult reader

Let us pray: Thank you God for the peace you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Performed by Jessica Holl & Steven Kennedy

Comfort Comfort Ye My People

1982 # 67

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One

People You have come to your people and set them free.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant may say

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.*

SONG OF PRAISE

Performed by Jessica Holl & Steven Kennedy

(3) O come, O come, thou Lord of might, // who to thy tribes on Sinai's height //
in ancient times didst give the law, // in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

(Refrain) ***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

(4) O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, // free them from Satan's tyranny //
that trust thy mighty power to save, // and give them victory o'er the grave.

(Refrain) ***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

COLLECT OF THE Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

People Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Please be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

Before the reading, the reader says

A Reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

After the reading, the reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah

Cantor Jessica Holl

***Refrain: In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn
from on high shall break upon us.***

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

Before the reading, the reader says

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

After the reading, the reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Sequence Hymn

Performed by Jessica Holl & Steven Kennedy

Prepare the Way, O Zion

1982#65

Before the Gospel,

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as 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.

⁵Every 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;
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

After the Gospel,

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

Father David Casey

Please stand.

THE NICENE CREED

**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

Leader

All remain standing.

Leader

Wherever we are, in the wilderness, the countryside, or the city, O God, you are there. That our hearts may be stirred up in thanksgiving for the life you have given us let pray saying: Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day, for the moon and stars that shelter our night: May our eyes be open to beauty all around us. Help us to protect and nurture your creation and ever proclaim its wonders. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the Church in this and every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of your family, those in our pews and those in our neighborhoods. Let us give thanks for the web of friendship and trust that you give to those who are called friends of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those in authority: Let us pray for the leaders of nations, states, and cities that Christ may transform strangers into friends so all may see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this community in our joys and sorrows. Help us to look for what is below the obvious, and from this depth reach out to others. Let us give thanks for this gathering of God's people and for the renewal of life we are given. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those at greatest risk among us: Let us pray for the lonely and rejected, for the sick and those who struggle to regain their strength. May we always give thanks for those with the longest memories to link us to the past, and also for the newborn, in whose baptism our own baptism is renewed again. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us remember those who have gone before us, and those who have sacrificed. Help us to know peace that our loved ones rest in you even as we grieve. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Silence may be kept as we offer up our own requests either silently or aloud.

The Celebrant then prays a concluding Collect:

Almighty, ever loving, and ever lasting God: Gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place, and as you prepare the way, making every valley filled and every mountain brought low in blessing and adoration, guide to Christ, our Saviour, our Lord, and our friend. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be 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.**

The Priest stands and says

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.

PRAYERS FOR BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND TRAVEL BCP p. 830-1

Anyone celebrating a birthday or anniversary, or preparing to travel is invited to stand or raise your hand for a prayer.

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people may offer each other a sign of peace while maintaining distance between households, such as bowing, nodding, waving, smiling, or making a peace sign.

OFFERTORY Sentence

Celebrant Offer to God a sacrifice of Thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

At the beginning of the Offertory Hymn, the bread and wine are brought to the altar. Then plates will be passed to collect the weekly offerings that support our church. Electronic donations may be made by texting GIVE to 504-565-2682 or donating at AnnunciationEpiscopal.com/GIVE

OFFERTORY Hymn

Performed by Jessica Holl & Steven Kennedy

God Will Take Care of You

LEVAS # 183

Please stand as you are able as the collection is brought forward.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Doxology sung by Jessica Holl

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Oh Praise Him, Oh Praise Him
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p. 367

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 him 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:

Sanctus

LEVAS # 255

Celebrant and People

**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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**People We remember his death,
 We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues with the Prayer of Thanksgiving.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us

to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

THE GREAT AMEN

LEVAS #261

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LEVAS #264

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,,

Celebrant and People

**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

FRACTION ANTHEM

LEVAS #268

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Distribution of Communion: *All are invited to come forward to receive Communion. Please maintain a minimum 6-foot distance between households, waiting to step into the aisle until there is room to do so. To receive the host (Communion wafer) hold your hands out, one palm resting open on the other. The celebrant will place the host in your hand for you to lift to your mouth and consume. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please inform the priest when you come forward.*

*If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the host, cross your arms over your chest as you approach the Celebrant. After receiving the bread or blessing, the response is **AMEN.***

COMMUNION SOLO

Performed by Jessica Holl & Steven Kennedy

Creator of the Stars of Night

1982 # 60

Post-Communion Prayer

Please stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Performed by Jessica Holl & Steven Kennedy

1982 # 75

DISMISSAL

Celebrant dismisses the people.

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

All respond Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Performed by Jessica Holl & Steven Kennedy

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The word "Advent" is from the Latin, "Adventus," which means either "coming" or "arrival." It is a season of holy expectation and preparation as we remember God coming to earth to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ. In the beginning of the season, we also prepare for Christ's return at the end of the age. This is reflected in our Scripture readings leading up to this season. These readings also take center stage today, Advent's first Sunday. One of the ways we prepare for Jesus' arrival is by making an Advent wreath and lighting its candles to remind us of the gifts Christ brings to the world. The gifts we are particularly mindful of this season are hope, peace, joy, and love.

The Advent wreath includes many symbols to help us think about Christ and his gifts. The wreath itself is in the shape of a circle. A circle has no beginning and no end. This reminds us that there is no beginning and no end to God and that God's love, care, and faithfulness are eternal. The light from the candles - which grows stronger each Sunday in Advent, reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pageant REHEARSALS

Rehearsals for the Christmas eve pageant and service will be held this Sunday and the following two Sundays, after the 11 AM service.

BAPTISMS JANUARY 09

On Sunday, January 9, we will celebrate the Baptism of Christ. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact Fr David at priest@annunciationepiscopal.com or text/call 646-416-0218. On that day, we as a community will reaffirm the vows made in our baptismal covenant.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

December 24, Friday, 7PM

Christmas Eve service and children's pageant

December 26, Sunday, 10 AM

Service of Lessons and Carols (Mount Olivet invited for joint worship)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers are requested for April, Jana and Greg, Ed and Octavia, Eddie, Marilee, Vicky, Fay, Emily, Maida, and Lila.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Amy Laws (12/01), Lily Darenbourg (12/03), Keri Holton (12/12), Kenny Zitzmann (12/13), Martha McKnight (12/14), Marcie Courtney (12/17), James Foshee (12/22), Chris Escalante (12/28)