



Episcopal Church of the Cross  
9:30 AM; December 11, 2024  
Advent I  
18101 W. Highway 71, Austin  
Ecclaketravis.org

*The mission of the Episcopal Church of the Cross is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and soul, and strength, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. We are the ECC: Loving God and our Neighbors.*

**Welcome to Church of the Cross!**

If you would like to learn more about the life and future of Church of the Cross, please scan the code below and we'll be in touch later this week. Thank you!



**Lighting of the Advent Candle:**

**Candle Lighters:** John the Evangelist begins his Gospel this way: 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 into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

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

**Presider:** Let us pray: Loving Lord, we light this single candle as a reminder to await you with expectation. Fill us up. Shine in us. Light our way. Prepare our hearts to receive you anew. Lift up our eyes. Strengthen our hope. May we see you in the faces of family and friends, strangers and neighbors. And then, we pray, give us every grace to seek and follow your will, to the glory of your Name and the welfare of your people. Amen.

**Presider:** Blessed be God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** **And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Opening Song:**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall to come thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

**Presider:** Lord, have mercy;

**People:** **Christ, have mercy;**

**Presider:** Lord, have mercy. 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. Amen.

**The First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

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

**Gradual:**

**Simple Gifts**

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,  
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,

'twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
To turn, turn, will be our delight  
till by turning, turning we come round right

**The Gospel: Luke 21:25-36**

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

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

Jesus said, 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

**Presider:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Message**

**The 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.**

## Prayers of the Community

**Prayer Leader:** Good morning, Lord. We are your people gathered in prayer, and we love you. We pray for your Church, near and far. We place before you the people and bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas; this congregation, and all the local congregations; and the ministries to which you call us. We remember before you those who can worship you this day only in secret, and those whose faith is known to you alone. Hear us, Lord;

**People:**           **For your mercy is great.**

**Prayer Leader:** We pray for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, and all the world; for goodwill among the nations; and for the well-being of all people. We pray for justice and peace. Hear us, Lord;

**People:**           **For your mercy is great.**

**Prayer Leader:** We pray for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and all who are in any need or trouble. We pray for all prisoners, captives, and refugees. We remember before you all who grieve. Hear us, Lord;

**People:**           **For your mercy is great.**

**Prayer Leader:** We pray for all who seek you, and a deeper knowledge of you; and thank you for always seeking us. Hear us, Lord;

**People:**           **For your mercy is great.**

**Prayer Leader:** We thank you for the promise of your heavenly banquet table and pray for all the departed. Hear us, Lord;

**People:**           **For your mercy is great.**

**Prayer Leader:** We now place before you what rests upon our hearts...

*An open space to offer our own supplications, either silently or aloud.*

Hear us, Lord;

**People:**           **For your mercy is great.**

**Prayer Leader:** And now, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All:**               **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 our Savior 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 Peace:**

**Presider:**       The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

**The Offering:**

*Offerings made by check or in cash may be placed in the offering basket near the back of the worship service. Offerings can also be made by texting ECCLAKETRAVIS with your amount to **73256**.*

**Song of Offering:**

**Fairest Lord Jesus**

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son,  
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

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

**Presider:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Presider:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right give God thanks and praise.**

**Presider:** It is a right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty; because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and 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 offer this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**All:** **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Presider:** 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.

With those who have loved you, and sought you, and followed you throughout the ages, we pray this ancient story: 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:

**People:**           **Christ has died.**  
                          **Christ is risen.**  
                          **Christ will come again.**

**Presider:**       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.

**All:**               **AMEN!**

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Presider:**       Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

**People:**         **Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!**

**Presider:**       The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Please come forward to receive communion as you are led to do so.*

**Song during Communion:**                               **Beautiful Things**

All this pain  
I wonder if I'll ever find my way  
I wonder if my life could really change at all  
All this earth  
Could all that is lost ever be found  
Could a garden come up from this ground at all

You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of us

All around  
Hope is springing up from this old ground  
Out of chaos life is being found in you

You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of us  
You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of us

You make me new, you are making me new  
You make me new, you are making me new

You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of us

### **I Could Sing of Your Love Forever**

Over the mountains and the sea;  
Your river runs with love for me.  
And I will open up my heart  
And let the Healer set me free.  
I'm happy to be in the truth;  
And I will daily lift my hands  
For I will always sing of when your love came down.

I could sing of your love forever. I could sing of your love forever.  
I could sing of your love forever. I could sing of your love forever.

Over the mountains and the sea;  
Your river runs with love for me.  
And I will open up my heart  
And let the Healer set me free.  
I'm happy to be in the truth;  
And I will daily lift my hands  
For I will always sing of when your love came down.

I could sing of your love forever. I could sing of your love forever.  
I could sing of your love forever. I could sing of your love forever.

Oh I feel like dancing, it's foolishness I know.  
But when the world has seen the light,  
They will dance with joy like their dancing now

I could sing of your love forever. I could sing of your love forever.  
I could sing of your love forever. I could sing of your love forever.

**Prayer of Sending:**

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

**Blessing**

**Closing Song:**

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art:  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

**Dismissal**

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**The Episcopal Church of the Cross**

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