

✙ St. Nicholas Church

A member of the Anglican Communion

The Love of Christ Changing Lives

Welcome

November 29 , 2020

Advent 1
Holy Communion



ADVENT

The word “Advent” means “coming” and refers to the coming of Jesus Christ. The church refers to three comings of Christ:

1. The coming of Jesus as a baby 2000 years ago
2. The coming of Jesus into one's heart as Lord and Savior
3. The final coming of Jesus in all glory

Advent begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The first Sunday of Advent occurs near or upon November 30. While always including four Sundays, the season may vary in length from twenty-two to twenty-eight days, concluding on Christmas Eve.

The tradition of preparing an advent wreath containing five candles is part of the devotional. Evergreens (symbolizing eternal life) are arranged in a circle with the use of a frame, and four candles are inserted. (A fifth optional candle is lit on Christmas Eve and is placed in the center of the wreath.)

The color of the candles should be three purple, one rose and the optional center candle, white. The purple candles symbolize penance and longing. The rose candle symbolizes joy and is lit on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. The white candle symbolizes Jesus, and pure, unblemished Lamb of God, who has come into the world.

CHRISTMAS

For many, Christmas is the time to think of Jesus Christ as a baby in a manger. While the birth of Christ is a special and miraculous event, it isn't the primary focus. The central truth of the Christmas story is this: the Child of Christmas is God.

Christmas is not about the Savior's infancy; it is about His deity. The humble birth of Jesus Christ was never intended to conceal the reality that God was being born into the world.

But the modern world's version of Christmas does just that. And consequently for the greater part of humanity, Christmas has no legitimate meaning at all.

I don't suppose anyone can ever fathom what it means for God to be born in a manger. How does one explain the Almighty stooping to become a tiny infant? Our minds cannot begin to understand what was involved in God's becoming man.

Nor can anyone explain how God could become a baby. Yet He did. Without forsaking His divine nature or diminishing His deity, He was born into our world as a tiny infant.

He was fully human, with all the needs and emotions that are common to us all. Yet He was also fully God--all wise and all powerful. For nearly 2,000 years, debate has been raging about who Jesus really is. Cults and skeptics have offered various explanations. They'll say He is one of many gods, a created being, a high angel, a good teacher, a prophet, and so on. The common thread of all such theories is that they make Jesus less than God. But the biblical evidence is overwhelming that this child in the manger was the incarnation of God. Baby Jesus born in the hay is GOD!

THE PEACE

The Peace is the exchange of the Peace of Christ. It follows immediately after the confession of sin and the absolution. It is fitting that this physical symbol of love, an embrace or a handshake, be given to express the peace of Christ received after confessing our sins to the Lord and receiving His forgiveness. The Peace is not merely to be a visiting time among the members. It is an outward and visible sign of Christ's love and peace given to one another.

ONE HOLY CATHOLIC & APOSTOLIC CHURCH

One holy catholic and apostolic church...

As far as we know, Ignatius of Antioch was the first person to use the word catholic in relation to the church. In his letter to the Smyrnaeans, written around A.D. 112, he wrote, "Where Jesus Christ is, there is the universal church." Early Christian writers believed in the catholic church—that Christians everywhere trusted in one God, confessed one faith, received one baptism, and shared one mission. In that sense, catholic meant "real" or "authentic."

From the third century on, the word became synonymous with orthodoxy. Thus, "the catholic church" was in contrast to heretics and schismatics. By the middle of the fourth century, the word came to mean more than authentic and orthodox. It was also used to connote the church's extensive reach to every land and every class of people. So from the early church until the modern period, the word catholic has been used to distinguish the church from that which is irregular or erroneous, much like conservative American Christians use evangelical in opposition to cult.

While the term catholic never appears in the Bible, the ideas behind it are found throughout Scripture. For example, Paul says in Galatians that anyone—no matter who they are, where they live, or what time period they live in—can have a relationship with God, so long as they have faith in Christ.

And in Ephesians, Paul practically gives a theological treatise on the universal nature of the church: "This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus" (3:6). According to Scripture, the church is a universal entity, and anyone can be a part of it.

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER (BCP)

St. Nicholas is a liturgical church. We use the Anglican Book of Common Prayer in our gatherings of worship. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer is a collection of ancient and modern prayers and worship services for occasions when the church community gathers. The use of a printed liturgy gives opportunity for all members to participate in worship. Scripture is the foundation of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer. Two-thirds of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer comes directly from the Old and New Testaments. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer is not meant to eliminate spontaneity or personal prayers. Every service in the book has opportunities for personal prayers and thanksgivings. The Anglican book of Common Prayer is also a great guide for personal devotions.

EPIPHANY

Beginning on January 6th, the Epiphany season remembers three events that proclaim Jesus as the Messiah, savior of the world. The name "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word Epiphania, and means "to show, make known, or reveal." The three events are: 1. the visit of the Magi (wise men), 2. Christ's baptism in the Jordan River, and 3. Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana.

Churches observe the Epiphany season from January 6 to Ash Wednesday, with the last Sunday of the season as Transfiguration Sunday. Epiphany reminds us that we have been sought out by God. God has come looking for us through His son Jesus. God has revealed His Son to us personally, so that we may know Jesus to be the mighty God, the Savior of the world; and we believe Him to be our God and our Savior.

STANDING OR KNEELING

It has been a customary posture since worship in the temple of David that the people either stand or kneel during times of prayer, worship, and during the words the priest speaks over the bread and wine before receiving Communion. It is also fitting to receive the bread and wine either standing or kneeling.

Bold Type indicates words people are encouraged to speak or sing.

✠ PRELUDE

✠ PROCESSIONAL MUSIC

stand

✠ *Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant 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.**

✠ COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, you reveal your abundant generosity toward us in each breath we take and in the many ways you provide for us, but chiefly in sending your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to redeem us from sin and death. Grow us to reflect your character in all that we do. Make us generous with all you provide for us. Make us good stewards who discover the abundant life through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.

✠ THE LESSONS

sit

Isaiah 64:1-9

Page 623 in Pew Bible

Layreader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

7.

✠ THE PSALM

PSALM 23

(read together in unison)

**1. The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.**

**2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**3. He restoreth my soul;
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's
sake.**

**4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death,
I will fear no evil;
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**

**5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine
enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.**

**6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Layreader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Page 952 in Pew Bible

✠ THE HOLY GOSPEL

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

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

Mark 13:24-37

Page 850 in Pew Bible

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

✠ SERMON

The Rev. Mark Wright , RECTOR

✠ THE NICENE CREED

stand

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 PEOPLE FORM II

(After silence then audible prayers are offered)

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our bishop George; for our priest Mark, for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church. *(silence, then audible prayers)*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace. *(silence, then audible prayers)*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Especially those we now name. *(audible prayers)*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

(silence, then audible prayers)

I ask your prayers for the departed.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

(The People may add their own prayers and thanksgivings.)

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored, especially our brother Nicholas. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Celebrant Let us pray.

(Prayer at the formation of St. Nicholas Church 1998)

Almighty and ever living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with all of us who seek to extend the work of Your kingdom through St. Nicholas Church in Flower Mound. Teach us in all things to seek first Your honor and glory. Knowing that we work for You, Lord, we ask you to grant us the grace to let go of what we want in a church. Instead, Lord, give us the humility to ask what You want Your Church to be, and fill us with both the courage to pursue Your will and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ CONFESSION OF SIN

stand or kneel

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Celebrant 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.**

✠ THE PEACE

stand

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ BIRTHDAY & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

PRAYER FOR BIRTHDAYS

Heavenly Father, bless your children that they may grow in grace as they grow in years, and lead them to know you, to love you, and to serve you all the days of their lives. Amen.

PRAYER FOR WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and His Church. Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

✠ MUSIC AS WE PREPARE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

✠ PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

stand

Celebrant: All things come of Thee Oh Lord.

People: **And of hine own have we given three.**

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER A

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.**

Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth ...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All say **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.

kneel or stand

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.

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
**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.**

✠ THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

✠ PRESENTATION OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him on your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

BREAD/HOST

On Saturdays from 5pm-6-m, Fr. Mark will be in front of the church building with hosts that have been blessed on the previous Sunday to distribute in individual plastic bags. On Sundays at 11am as you enter you will receive a Host in a plastic bag.

On Sunday morning at 11am, during the Facebook Live service, and in church for those attending we will all consume the bread at the appointed time in the worship service.

The appointed time is after the Presentation of the Bread and Wine and before the singing of the first Communion Song.

✠ MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

✠ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ THE FINAL BLESSING

“Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13). Let everything you do be done in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you today and forever. **Amen.**

✠ THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

(The text of the service of worship contained in this program is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 1979. The Book of Common Prayer alone is of authority in the worship of the Episcopal Church. This program is provided for convenience of use on this occasion.)

✠ SERMON NOTES

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TODAY?

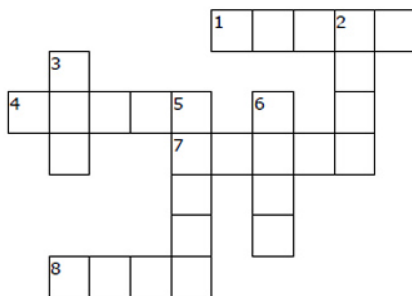
✠ SERMON NOTES

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TODAY?

The Waiting Place

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. Matthew 25:13 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Mark 13:35-37



ACROSS

1. The time of day when it is dark
4. To keep an eye on; to guard
7. The person who has something such as property
8. A particular moment in the day, such as eight o'clock

DOWN

2. A period of sixty minutes
3. A period of 24 hours
5. The place where a person or family lives
6. To have information about something; to be aware of something

| TIME WATCH | DAY KNOW | OWNER NIGHT | HOUSE HOUR |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
|---------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|



V B H D H P R E G W S W H O L
F O W O W E M F C H A R G E U
N L F O T I H X W M I X M I S
N H N S T O N O Z I A C O M E
R K O Q A V M W J D N H W J C
T O M U H L Y N J N G E A K T
R D G Y R O I E J I E A T L R
S W A G G N U R R G L V C R G
B C Q W U X M S J H S E H N X
U D R A N A K X E T P N I F D
B G A O F M R Z Y F S P C J V
F P A Y W N K D E V E N I N G
P T O X K S O S C E H T W T I
A L E R T E F X L M Y J G C C
S E R V A N T S Z M N U K Z X

| | | | | |
|---------|--------|----------|-------|----------|
| COME | CHARGE | MIDNIGHT | TIME | SERVANTS |
| ROOSTER | DAY | SLEEPING | HOUSE | DAWN |
| GUARD | WATCH | EVENING | OWNER | HOUR |
| ALERT | CROWS | ANGELS | KNOW | HEAVEN |

Today is the first Sunday of Advent.

Advent means “to come.”

Do you know what’s coming?

Of course, Christmas is coming. This is an exciting time, but it may also be a difficult time of waiting. What can we do during this time? We can think about the true meaning of Christmas. We can think about Jesus and his love. We can think about giving instead of receiving.

We are also waiting for something else. We are waiting for Jesus’ return. He told us that he would come again and he told us to watch and be ready for him.

What should we do while we are waiting?

We should worship and praise him, love and serve him, and share his love with others. When we are doing those things, we will be ready for his return.

Church Office

972-318-7070

The Rev. Mark Wright, Rector
Matt Stroud, Youth Minister
Debby Swackhamer, Children's Ministry Director
Joyce Neth, Pastoral Care Minister
Faith Epley, Bookkeeper
Debbie McMurtry, Administrative Assistant

Purpose Team Leaders

Worship: Jeff Brannen, 214-535-8285
Worship: Robert Schwartz, 817-490-9998
Outreach: Bryan Ware, 214-417-8345
Outreach: Meredith Holland, 214-642-2125
Fellowship: James Clay, 469-417-9049
Fellowship: Laura Kellogg, 214-497-3508
Ministry/Service: Joyce Neth, 214-415-4503
Discipleship: Fr. Mark Wright, 972-318-7070

Vestry

Rector, The Rev. Mark Wright
Sr. Warden: Doug Johnson, 972-467-9232
Jr. Warden: John Martin, 214-695-7404
Clerk/Assistant Jr. Warden: Alan McCutcheon, 817-822-0743
Bryan Ware, 214-417-8345
Laura Kellogg, 214-497-3508
Jeff Brannen, 214-535-8285
Robert Schwartz, 817-490-9998
James Clay, 469-417-9049
Meredith Holland 214-642-2125
Treasurer: Tom Swackhamer, 214-564-5085

St. Nicholas Church

4800 Wichita Trail, Flower Mound, TX 75022

972-318-7070 | office@stnicksonline.org

www.saintnicholasfm.org

**Visit St. Nicholas
Online**

