



GOOD SAMARITAN
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Followers of Jesus, with open minds
and hearts to serve*

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024 | Harris Academy | 10:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nanci Slagle

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Lighting of the Candle - Week 4 of Advent

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

Prepare the way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

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 our Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Prepare The Way Of The Lord

James Moore

Canon

1 2
Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and

3 4
all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.____

Words: based on *Luke 3:4, 6*, adapt. The Taizé Community.
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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God 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.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

Reader A Reading from the book of Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE CANTICLE

(Congregation sings refrain only)

Canticle 15 | The Song of Mary Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

Refrain

My soul pro-claimsthe greatness o - o - f the Lord My spi - rit re
joi - ces in you God my Sav - ior My soul pro-claims the
greatness o o - f the Lord Myspirit re - joi - ces in youGod my Sav - ior

You have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all who hear will call me blessed:
You have done great things for me,
and holy is your name.
You have mercy on those who fear you
from age to age. **(Refrain)**

—

You have shown strength with your arm
spread-the-proud in their conceit,
Casting down their mighty thrones
and the lowly lifted high
You have filled with good things all the the hungry ones
and you have sent the rich away empty. **(Refrain)**

—

You have come to the help of your servant Israel,
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears long ago,
to Abraham and his children forever. **(Refrain)**

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 10:5-10

Reader Today's second lesson is taken from the book of Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

Please stand as you are able.

THE SEQUENCE

Plainsong



THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

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

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants
forever."]

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Jesus Christ.**

Repeat The Sequence - Plainsong

We invite all 1st through 5th graders to join Story Share with our Good Sam's kids & youth leaders.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. James T. Said

Please stand as you are able.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

Form IV

Litanist Holy God, wherever we are, you are there. Stir our hearts wherever we may go that we may see you and offer thanksgiving for the life you have given us. Hear these prayers we offer as we say, Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Litanist For the church in every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of the God's people, those next to us here, those in neighborhood churches, and those worshipping today across the globe. Help us to grow into a unity of mission and ministry in our common devotion to Christ that we might be faithful witnesses of your love. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Litanist For those in civil authority: That they be guided by hope and not fear. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Litanist For this faith community; amid joys and sorrows: Let us remember those who have gone before us; those who have sacrificed for us. Let us give thanks for this gathering of God's people and for the renewal of life we are given. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

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

People **Hear our prayer.**
Litanist For those at greatest risk among us: Let us pray for those who are lonely or neglected, and for those facing illness and disability. Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**
Litanist For those who have died, for those who are dying, and for those who grieve, that they might find hope in your promise of lasting life. Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**
Litanist In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Holy Family Episcopal Church in Fishers, and The Rev. Bruce Gray. Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**
Celebrant As is our custom, whom else shall we pray for?
Celebrant Lord, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place and time, and guide us to Christ, preparing the way for us by making every valley filled and every mountain low. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(a brief silence may be kept)

People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and 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 the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of God be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Our Mission: We are followers of Jesus who love all people, serve all people, and include all people, no exceptions.

Today's Altar Flowers have been donated by Don and Susan Noeller in thanksgiving for their family.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

Canticle of the Turning

The people's offerings are collected to support the ongoing work and ministry of our community. If you wish to make a gift by text, simply send the dollar amount you wish to give to 73256 with the keyword GoodSams, followed by a space, and then a dollar amount. For example, "GoodSams 25"

Please stand as you are able.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER 2

Presider The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Presider continues

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:

THE SANCTUS

Plainsong

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

The Celebrant continues

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 the blessed Virgin Mary 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

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we 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.**

Celebrant 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.

All who are followers of Christ, regardless of your church background (or not!), are warmly welcome to receive the gifts of bread and (non-alcoholic) wine in Holy Communion. Come forward and the priest will place a piece of bread into your palm. Gluten-free bread is available; simply ask the minister. You may either drink from the cup or cross your arms over your chest to pass the wine. Receiving bread only is still considered full communion if you prefer not to receive the wine at this time. If you do not wish to receive bread and wine, we welcome you to come forward anyway and to cross your arms over your chest. The priest will say a prayer for God’s blessing upon you.

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION

Love, Take A Walk With Me

Paperless Music Community

Love, take a walk with me.
 Love, take a walk with me.
 Love, take a walk with me.
 Oh, Spirit, guide my feet.

Hope, take a walk with me.
 Hope, take a walk with me.
 Hope, take a walk with me.
 Oh, Spirit, guide my feet.

Peace, take a walk with me.
 Peace, take a walk with me.
 Peace, take a walk with me.
 Oh, Spirit, guide my feet.

*Please stand as you are able.***POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER**

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Jesus Came Bringing us Hope

Verse 1

Jesus came bringing us hope,
 Jesus came bringing us hope,
 Jesus came bringing us hope,
 hallelujah forever more!

Verse 2

Jesus came bringing us peace,
 Jesus came bringing us peace,
 Jesus came bringing us peace,
 hallelujah forever more!

Verse 3

Jesus came bringing us love,
 Jesus came bringing us love,
 Jesus came bringing us love,
 hallelujah forever more!

Verse 4

Jesus came bringing us joy,
 Jesus came bringing us joy,
 Jesus came bringing us joy,
 hallelujah forever more!

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the spirit.
People Thanks be to God!

Our worship is over; now our service begins!

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Good Samaritan News

Mental Health Moment: Coping with Grief, Loss and Change - TODAY!

Grief, loss and change can cause feelings of despair, especially during the winter holidays. Good Sam's Mental Health & Wellness group will host a presentation providing information and resources to assist with coping during difficult times. Join us in the cafeteria **today** after the service.

Coming up at Good Sam's...

Tuesday, December 24th at 5 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service (**Festive Choral Music starts at 4:30 p.m.**) – Harris Academy

Sunday, December 29th at 10 a.m. - Last Sunday Service at Harris Academy

Sunday, January 5th at 10 a.m. - First Service at the New Church (3949 S. Green St.) – Epiphany on Green Street

Saturday, January 11th at 10 a.m. - Bishop Jennifer's Blessing of the New Church ((3949 S. Green St.) with guest preacher, The Very Rev. Gray Lesesne, D.MIN

Saturday, January 11th at 5 p.m. - Good Sam's Foodies Dinner at Homey Hot Pot

Sunday, January 12th at 10 a.m. - First Sunday after the Epiphany

Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. - Book & Fellowship Group

Online Pledge Form Update!

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted your pledges for 2025.

As we announced last Sunday, we are experiencing some technical issues with our website that has led to us not being able to access any of the pledges submitted using the online form. As such, we are requesting that those who used the form to submit your pledge in another way. You can bring your form to church, mail it to the P.O. Box, or fill a copy out at church on Sunday. There is also a way to submit your pledge electronically through Realm. If you go to the giving tab, there is an option to submit your pledge there.

If you have questions or need another option to submit, please email Katy Hilts at wardens@churchthatserves.org or Lucy Karam at treasurer@churchthatserves.org.

We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you again for continuing to Walk in Love with Good Sam's!

Building Renovation Fund and a Matching Gift

We are thrilled to share an exciting opportunity to assist with the cost of renovation for our new church home. We have an incredible opportunity to amplify your impact: a generous donor has pledged to match every dollar donated at \$0.50 on the dollar, up to a total matching amount of \$10,000 for donations received by December 31, 2024. This means your gift will have an even greater effect on transforming our new space. These renovations will allow us to create a safe, warm, welcoming, and vibrant space for worship, fellowship, and community outreach.

To contribute, you can give online using the QR code below, or write a check to Good Samaritan Episcopal Church and include "Building Renovation Fund" in the memo.



Thank you for your continued support, love, and commitment to our church's future!

Wishlist For Our New Facility

There is a Wishlist of items needed to do maintenance and groundskeeping at our new facility located at the Welcome Table. Please fill in your name and phone number next to any items that you can provide. Contact Scott Lockhart at 765-716-0636 or smlockhart1@hotmail.com to arrange to drop any items off at the new church property.

December Office Hours

The Good Sam's office will be **closed** for the holidays from 12 p.m. on Tuesday, **December 24th** until 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, **January 2nd**.

Recycle Sunday - January 5

#ChurchThatServes will start off 2025 by collecting several items to recycle and benefit various community organizations. On Sunday, **January 5th**, please bring any of the following items to in-person service. Collection containers will be available. Please bring any of the following items! Used flower vases (any size, shape, color - they especially need small to medium bud vases), hearing aids (any), eye glasses (any), empty/used ink cartridges (any size, color), books (gently used for all ages, any genre), leftover latex paint (QUART CANS ONLY, colors preferred). Contact Cindy Lockhart at cclockhart7217@gmail.com with any questions!

Good Sam's Foodies - January 11

The next Good Sam's Foodies event is being held at Homey Hot Pot on Saturday, January 11th at 5 p.m. Homey Hot Pot is a Chinese restaurant in which you can order meals off the menu, provide yourself food from a buffet, or, if you would like to try something new, there is a separate option to use the hot pot function, in which you can order a special pot of soup stock, which is delivered to a burner right on each table place, and then you can select all the components to add to your soup at a separate buffet area.

Homey Hot Pot is located at 3649 Lafayette Road in Indianapolis. New members are always welcome and are encouraged to reach out to Rita O'Connor (roconnor235@gmail.com) to RSVP. There is also a sign up sheet located at the Welcome Table on Sundays.

Book & Fellowship Group - January 14

Help us choose the books for 2025. We will meet Tuesday, **January 14th**, 6:30 p.m. at Anita Morrison's home to hear all the book pitches for 2025. If you would like to recommend a book (or two) for our discussion group, please come prepared to give a brief blurb about the book and why you think it would lead to a good group discussion. Note that we will choose a wide variety of books - fiction/non-fiction/memoirs/spiritual/secular. Afterwards we will vote on the 10 books that we will discuss at our monthly meetings. Reach out to Christa Nierzwick (christanierz@gmail.com) with questions or to RSVP.

The Book & Fellowship Group will meet on 4th Tuesday in February - November. Feel free to join this group whenever we are reading a book that interests you.

MLK Day of Service - January 20

Join us on Monday, January 20th at 10 a.m. as the #ChurchThatServes will be deep cleaning at the Family Promise shelter in Plainfield, which provides a safe environment and services for those who are unhoused. All ages and physical abilities are welcome to serve. Contact Beth if you would like to participate at hannonbeth@gmail.com or 812-340-1524.

Community Meditation - January 21

Silence is God's first language – St. John of the Cross

Join us **January 21st** as we kick off our Community Meditation group. We will have a short class on the various forms of Silence – Centering Prayer, Buddhist and Transcendental Meditation (Hindu). If you are curious about beginning a practice here is the perfect place to start. We will answer your questions and sit in Silence together. We will meet from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in our new Prayer Room! Reach out to Jan Byars (peaceisjlb@gmail.com) with questions.

With thanks to those who serve today!

<i>Preacher</i>	The Rev. James T. Said
<i>Presider</i>	The Rev. Dr. Amy Lindeman Allen
<i>Assisting Clergy</i>	The Rev. Yvonne Brandenburg
<i>Readers</i>	Susie Main & Beth Hannon-Penny
<i>Litanist</i>	Melinda Sowers
<i>Chalice</i>	Lara Dreyer & Gabe Reynolds
<i>Altar Guild & Prep</i>	Wendy Meaden
<i>Acolytes</i>	Clara Mitchell & Lucy Mitchell
<i>Greeters</i>	Burnie Wilkins & Courney Demmings
<i>Set-Up Team</i>	The Saims, Schofields, & Farmers
<i>Director of Music</i>	Kendall Ludwig
<i>Musician in Residence</i>	Ann Lovko
<i>Directors of Hospitality</i>	Susan Davis & Burnie Wilkins
<i>Tech Team</i>	Bryon Russell, Brian Weidner, & Zach Hunt
<i>Bishop's Committee Member on Duty</i>	Susan Burt
<i>Dir. of Children's, Youth, & Family Ministries</i>	Barbie Russell
<i>Children's Formation Leader</i>	Angela Reynolds
<i>Nursery Assistants</i>	Audrey Davis & Alora Winegard
<i>Parish Administrator</i>	Brianna Bleiler



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