



ST. FRANCIS  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

[www.stfrancisva.org](http://www.stfrancisva.org)

# Sunday Worship

December 8, 2013 – 10:00 AM

## Second Sunday of Advent

### The Word of God

**Welcome & Quiet Time** (↑ indicates when to stand) Welcome to worship today. We're glad you've come to glorify God with us. We invite you to take part in everything today. Follow the singing with the words in this bulletin. Come to the Table for communion. You are invited to stay for refreshments after the service.

#### Prelude

#### Call to Worship

#### ↑Gathering Song #1: Church on Fire

The Holy Spirit is here and His power is real. Anything can happen and it probably will. Something very good something good is going on around here.

There's a light that shines to make the dark disappear. A power at work but there's nothing to fear. Something very good something good is going on around here.

This is a church on fire. This is the Holy Spirit flame. We have a burning desire. To lift up Jesus' name. Let the fire burn in every heart. To light the way, defeat the dark. Let the flame of love burn higher. This is a church. This is a church on fire.

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

**All:** And blessed be His kingdom now and forever. Amen.

**Priest:** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you know 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### ↑Gathering Song #2: How Great Is Our God

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty; Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice. He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide, and trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice. How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God! And all will see how great, how great is our God!

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands; Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End. The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son, the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb. How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God! And all will see how great, how great is our God!

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God! And all will see how great, how great is our God!

↑**All:** 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.

(Please be seated) **A Reading from Romans**

(15:4-13)

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

↑**Gradual Song:** Let My Life Be A Sacrifice

Let my life be a sacrifice, holy and acceptable to You. Let each moment of each day be filled with Your praise, let my life be worship, to You. (Repeat)

For to worship is to sacrifice, and to love You, obey. Let my spirit be united with Yours, so I'll know just what to do and how to pray.

Let my life be a sacrifice, holy and acceptable to You.

Let each moment of each day be filled with Your praise, let my life be worship, to You.

You have called me to display your love, as a lamp unto the world. Change my heart, ignite my spirit o Lord, so I'll share Your shining light unto the world.

Let my life be a sacrifice, holy and acceptable to You.

Let each moment of each day be filled with Your praise, let my life be worship, to You.

Let each moment of each day be filled with Your praise, let my life be worship, to You.

↑**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew**

(24:36-44)

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: `Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

**All:** Praise to you Lord Christ.

## Message (please be seated)

↑**Leader:** Let us stand and profess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**All:** 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 VI

**Leader:** In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;

**All:** For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

**Leader:** For this community, the nation, and the world;

**All:** For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

**Leader:** For all who serve in our country's military. Defend and strengthen them with courage to deal with the perils they face.

**All:** For all veterans who helped keep our country free.

**Leader:** For the just and proper use of your creation;

**All:** For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

**Leader:** For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**All:** For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

**Leader:** For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**All:** For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

**Leader:** For Kathryn, our Presiding Bishop, and Shannon, Susan and Ted, our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers; for all who serve God in his Church; for the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *[Please feel free to add your own petitions either silently or aloud.]* Hear us, Lord;

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

**Leader:** For Tuckahoe Physical Therapy that the clients would be restored to good health and mobility.

**All:** That all businesses in our area would serve the common good.

**Leader:** For families of Metropolitan Richmond: For elderly persons living in their own homes, in retirement communities, and in nursing institutions.

**All:** That our elderly would know the presence of God.

**Leader:** Congregations and clergy of Holy Cross, Batesville; Trinity, Charlottesville; St. Andrew's, Burke; Falls Church, Falls Church; St. Patrick's, Fall Church.

**All:** That your church would walk on the power of Your Spirit.

**Leader:** That You would show us what kind of ministry would make the gospel plausible to these families with young children.

**All:** That all children would come to you.

**Leader:** We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *[Please feel free to add your own thanksgivings.]* We will exalt you, O God our King;

**All:** And praise your Name for ever and ever.

**Leader:** We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *[Please feel free to add your own petitions either silently or aloud.]* Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

**All:** Who put their trust in You.

**Leader:** We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**All:** Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Priest:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### ↑Exchange of Peace

**Priest:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## The Holy Communion

### Offertory

↑ **Doxology:** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## ↑Eucharistic Prayer A

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* And also with you.

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts.

*All:* We lift them to the Lord.

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

*All:* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Priest:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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

*Priest:* 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:

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

*Priest:* 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.**

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

*All:* 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 priest breaks the consecrated bread and says:*

*Priest:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

**Priest:** 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.

*[NOTE: All are welcome to receive Communion, whatever your faith tradition. Please receive the bread in the open palm of your hand. Then, either consume the bread and move to a chalice and receive from the chalice by guiding the base of the chalice to your mouth or take the chalice from the chalice minister. Or, you may intinct or dip the bread into the chalice and consume it. The glass chalice contains non-alcoholic wine for those who do not wish to consume alcohol for any reason. If you do not wish to receive communion but would like a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.]*

### **Communion Song: There Is a Higher Throne**

There is a higher throne, Than all this world has known, Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue, Will one day come. Before the Son we'll stand, Made faultless through the Lamb; Believing hearts find promised grace— Salvation comes.

(Chorus:) Hear heaven's voices sing; Their thund'rous anthem rings Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies. Their praises rise. All glory, wisdom, pow'r, Strength, thanks, and honor are To God our King, who reigns on high Forevermore.

And there we'll find our home, Our life before the throne; We'll honor Him in perfect song Where we belong. He'll wipe each tear-stained eye, As thirst and hunger die. The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King; We'll reign with Him.

(Chorus – 2 Times)

↑**Post-Communion Prayer (All):** 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 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**

#### ↑**Song of Dismissal: Forever**

Give thanks to the Lord; Our God and King. His love endures forever. For He is good, He is above all things. His love endures forever. Sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm. His love endures forever. For the life that's been reborn; His love endures forever. Sing praise, sing praise. Sing praise, sing praise

Forever God is faithful; Forever God is strong; Forever God is with us. Forever. Forever

From the rising to the setting sun, His love endures forever. By the grace of God. We will carry on; His love endures forever. Sing praise, sing praise. Sing praise, sing praise

Forever God is faithful. Forever God is strong. Forever God is with us. Forever. Forever.

### ↑**Announcements, Prayer Requests, and Dismissal**

**Priest:** Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Remember in your prayers:**

Neale Dickinson  
Christian Families in Pakistan  
Simon Bauers  
Amanda

Helen  
Virginia Gammon & Family  
Anna Hawk  
Chuck Haack

Arielle Niemeyer  
Vivian Murad  
Michelle Lambert  
Sonny B.

**Make yourself comfortable!**

Welcome to worship today. We're glad you've come to glorify God with the people of St. Francis Church.

**There is no "one right way" to participate. Join in as much as you want.**

If you wish to sing, all our music is included in the bulletin. We have a lively contemporary band and music is a significant part of our worship experience. However, we recognize that visitors may not know the music. If you and your family are among these, we encourage you to hum along or simply sit back and enjoy the sound.

Filling out a name tag and placing it on your person will permit us all to greet each other by name while visiting here at St. Francis. Likewise, signing our guest roster will permit us to follow-up with you following this Sunday's worship.

If you are a guest today, don't feel obligated to make a financial contribution to the offering.

Rest rooms are located in the entrance Narthex and in the mobile office/classroom building adjacent to the worship hall.

*"We are a welcoming community seeking to share God's unconditional love with all."*

**Your Vestry Members are:**

Senior Warden: Jack Martin

Junior Warden: Bill Weatherford

Other Members: Peter LeViness  
Ann James

Larry Kidd  
Richard Walker

Register: Marian Elam

Treasurer: Susan Kidd

Below is the schedule for greeters, lay readers and chalcers. If you have a problem with the dates on this schedule, please let Larry Kidd know as soon as possible and he will try to make adjustments. Otherwise, you will need to find a substitute if you are unable to be at church on your assigned date.

<u>Worship Service Date</u>	<u>Scripture Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Reader</u>	<u>Chalcers</u>	<u>Greeters/Ushers</u>
8-Dec	Kathy Gammon	Jack Martin	Kathy Gammon, Jack Martin	Paul and Ann James, Larry Kidd
15-Dec	Richard Walker	MJ Weatherford	Richard Walker, MJ Weatherford	Bill Weatherford, Larry Kidd
22-Dec	Bill Weatherford	Kathy Gammon	Bill Weatherford, Kathy Gammon	John and Libby Clark, Larry Kidd
24-Dec	MJ Weatherford	Larry Kidd	MJ Weatherford, Susan Kidd	Richard Walker, Larry Kidd
29-Dec	Missy Rand	Richard Walker	Marian Elam, Richard Walker	John and Libby Clark, Larry Kidd
5-Jan	Kathy Gammon	Bill Weatherford	Kathy Gammon, Bill Weatherford	Bill Weatherford, Larry Kidd
12-Jan	Jack Martin	Kathy Gammon	Jack Martin, Kathy Gammon	Richard Walker, Larry Kidd
19-Jan	Larry Kidd	MJ Weatherford	Susan Kidd, MJ Weatherford	Paul and Ann James, Larry Kidd
26-Jan	Bill Weatherford	Missy Rand	Bill Weatherford, Ann James	John and Libby Clark, Larry Kidd
2-Feb	Richard Walker	Kathy Gammon	Richard Walker, Kathy Gammon	Bill Weatherford, Larry Kidd

# ~Announcements~

## Upcoming Important Dates:

Sunday, December 8	Communion Service followed by Pot Luck Lunch	St. Francis	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 11	Vestry Meeting	St. Francis	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 15	Communion Service	St. Francis	10:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 22	Communion Service	St. Francis	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Service	St. Francis	5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 29	Communion Service	St. Francis	10:00 a.m.

**Financial Update** - If you have any questions about any of this data, please don't hesitate to ask your treasurer, Susan Kidd.

	Operating Funds		Net Gain
	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>or (Loss)</u>
2013			
1st Quarter	\$24,463.00	\$20,486.48	\$3,976.52
2nd Quarter	\$21,422.00	\$21,276.96	\$145.04
3rd Quarter	\$20,693.00	\$22,431.50	(\$1,738.50)
October	\$5,883.00	\$8,044.51	(\$2,161.51)
November	\$6,867.00	\$7,483.71	(\$616.71)
December	<u>\$820.00</u>	<u>\$719.10</u>	<u>\$100.90</u>
4th Quarter	<u>\$13,570.00</u>	<u>\$16,172.32</u>	<u>(\$2,677.32)</u>
2013 Year-To-Date	\$80,148.00	\$80,367.26	(\$294.26)
Checking Account Balance	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Ending</u>	
YTD 2013	\$32,627.98	\$32,408.72	(\$294.26)

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