



CLOSE to
HOME

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Service of Holy Eucharist
5 PM | November 27
10:15 AM | November 28

10:15 am service- congregational singing with masks

Voluntary

Welcome

Processional Song

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Gather 330

*Prepare the Way of the Lord, Prepare the Way of the Lord
And all people will see the salvation of our God*

Liturgical Greeting

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who waits upon us.
People **May God's grace and love guide us home. Amen.**

Call to Worship

Can we be homesick for something we've never known?

**We are homesick for a just world,
for peace like rivers,
for the end of suffering.**

Yes, we are homesick—

**for joy that is contagious,
for nations that feel like neighbors,
and for hospitals that run empty.**

We are homesick for the world God promises.

We are homesick, but we are on our way.

God is here. God is still creating.

Let us worship Holy God.

Candle Lighting Liturgy

We hope for a world where all are fed.

We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.

We hope for a world with wide open doors.

We hope for a world with contagious laughter.

We hope for a world where trees grow tall and creeks run clean.

We hope for a world where all people feel at home—in their bodies, in the church, in their physical homes.

We hope for that world.

We long for that world.

We are homesick for that world.

So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.

May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

We are close to home. May we carry hope with us. Amen.

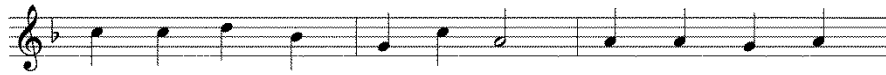
A Song

Come, O Long Expected Jesus

Gather 345, v. 1-4



1. Come, O long ex - spect - ed Je - sus,
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
3. Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er;
4. By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it



Born to set your peo - ple free; From our fears and
You, the hope of all the earth, Dear de - sire of
Born a child and yet a king! Born to reign in
Rule in all our hearts a - lone; By your all suf -



sins re - lease us; Free us from cap - tiv - i - ty.
ev - 'ry na - tion, Come, and save us by your birth.
us for ev - er, Now your grac - ious king - dom bring.
fi - cient mer - it Raise us to your glo - rious throne.

Text: Haggai 2:7; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Tune: STUTTGART, 8 7 8 7; Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716; adapt. by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

A Prayer

**God of the stars and God of our hearts—
our days will pass**

but your words will last.

The earth might fade

but your words will last.

Our memories might blur

but your words will last.

The grass will wither

but your words will last.

The sky could go dark

and your words would last.

So as we listen today,

help us to hold onto

what will last.

Help us hold onto you.

Gratefully we pray,

amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated

A Story from our Ancestors

based on Luke 21:25-36

One day, when Jesus was telling people about God, some of them asked a hard question. "Jesus," they said, "Many people are saying things that make us feel afraid."

"What are they saying to you?" Jesus asked.

"They say there are bad things happening. Many people are fighting in wars. They are killing each other."

"You will hear about many such things," said Jesus. "The people who are telling about them are called prophets."

"Can prophets tell what is going to happen in the future?"

"No," said Jesus. "But they can help us get ready. When you see the buds on the trees and the first tiny leaves poke out, you know that it's springtime. You know that summer is coming and you can get ready. That's what prophets do. They look at the things that are happening around them. They help us remember how God has helped us in so many ways. And they help us get ready for the things that are going to happen."

"So what should we do?"

"Try really hard to live in God's way. Remember the stories I told you. Talk to God in your prayers. Tell God what you are afraid of – what you are worried about. Ask God what you can do about the bad things that are happening. Then God will help you be strong and will help you know how to live – even when things are feeling scary."

A Reflection

Mary Cole-Duvall

Prayers

God of the weary and waiting,
Scripture tells us that where two or more are gathered, you are there.
So we trust that you are here—listening to these words, drawing us close, stirring hope awake in us. And for that we are grateful. We are so grateful.

Today, Holy God, we feel close to home, close to you when . . .

However, God, even with gratitude for our close-to-home moments, we also recognize that buried deep within us we have homesick hearts.

Holy God, we are homesick for...

God who never leaves us alone, we are carrying both hope and homesickness all at the same time. Hold these two sides of the same coin tenderly, and fan the flame of both. For we realize, hope is a gift and homesickness is a reminder. For each conviction, we give you thanks. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
We find ourselves with two options every day—
to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win.
Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?
Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible?
Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.
Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world.
Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Priest

Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust this good news:

There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Peace

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Offertory

Comfort, Comfort, O my People

by Winkworth

Doxology

On Jordan's Bank

Gather 344, v. 5

Together we offer our thanks as we sing
**All praise the Son eternally,
Whose advent sets his people free;
Whom with the Father we adore
And Spirit blest for evermore.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is coming soon!
His Advent is drawing near!
Therefore let us give him our thanks and praise.
And call upon his presence at our Advent table.

Blessed are you, breath of peace, giver of all life, source of love that knows no boundaries. Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began; throughout the ages, your song of liberation has filled us with your hope for a world where: those considered last and least are first and most; violence is overcome by the power of your ancient love; and all siblings work together for peace.

You bring our longings to birth, and send prophets to awaken us to your approaching Advent among us. We thank you for those who, like Mary, have the strength and courage to give birth to your love in the world; for those who, like the shepherds, dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem; for those who, like the wise ones, actively challenge violent and oppressive powers.

We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us in womb and tomb, in cradle and cross, in tenderness and compassion. We join in the Advent prayer of all your people, as we wait and watch for your coming among us, we proclaim your goodness as we sing.

***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 you, O Israel!***

At this time, we remember Jesus, who on the night before he died, took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying, "This is the new covenant; remember me."

Gracious God, Breath of peace, source of love, we pray for your Spirit. Be with us at our table, O God, in our eating and in our drinking, that the Spirit of hope is kindled in our hearts and in our lives, uniting us in him who comes, and who will come again, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Make us, while many, one. Make us, though broken, whole. Make us, despite death, alive.

And so we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come. AMEN.

Deacon

And so we join with our siblings around the world in the prayer of Jesus:

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

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Invitation to Communion

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive communion.

The usher will guide you to the communion rail.

To receive the bread, place one open hand on top of the other.

To receive the wine, you are welcome to dip the wafer into the vessel.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request – please ask the clergy.

Communion Anthem

Air for Advent

by Fettke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. We thank you in the name of Jesus Emmanuel. Amen.

Blessing

As you leave this service, your service begins: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Song

God of All People

Gather 349, v. 1-3



1. God of all plac - es: pres - ent, un - seen;
2. God of all dream - ing, near and yet far.
3. God of all peo - ple, dust and the clay.



Voice in our si - lence, song in our midst.
Vi - sion un - heard of, wake us to rest.
Breath of a new wind, fire in our hearts.



We are your peo - ple, know - ing, un - sure.
We are your pres - ence, sent forth a - fraid.
Light born of heav - en, peace on the earth.



Come, Lord Je - sus, come!
Come, Lord Je - sus, come!
Come, Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: David Haas, b.1957
Tune: KINGDOM, 9 9 9 5; David Haas, b.1957
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Dismissal

So now we go, leaving the warmth and comfort of this place, to go into the world right outside our doors. As we go, let us try always to do the work of Jesus, with our hands, with our feet, with our voices and with our minds.

We will with God's help.

Voluntary

***Contactless communion** is available from 11-11:30 am on the Sundays in Advent. Please enter the circle drive entrance closest to Ashworth.*

*Eucharistic Prayer adapted from Advent Communion Liturgy,
Written by Alydia Smith, United Church of Canada*

*Close to Home, Liturgical Resources,
Created by Sanctified Art*

*Story from our Ancestors
From Lectionary Story Bible, Ralph Milton*



Join in the amazing spirit of giving this Christmas as we celebrate and provide gifts for six families (with 18 children!) through our Angel Tree! As we did last year, we'll provide a Signup Genius site where you can choose a recipient.

The Angel Tree will be in the Parish Hall on November 28. The Signup Genius site will go live on November 29. We're asking that you choose a child recipient. We'll provide you with some information that will help you to do your shopping (clothing sizes, likes/dislikes, what is wanted, what is needed). All recipients will be given code names so as to remain anonymous. Keep in mind the old gift-giving adage: "Something to wear, something to read, something you want, something you need."

We ask that all gifts be returned to the church wrapped and tagged in time for the 10:15 service on December 19. We will place the gifts around the altar and bless them before delivering them to our recipient families.

Thank you so much for your generosity! Questions: Contact Deacon Jeanie at deacon@sttimothyiowa.org.

Sunday, December 19th



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DELIVERIES

Sign up your family to deliver poinsettias to some of our older fellow parishioners!

Plants will be available for pick up on the 19th between 11:30 am and 12:15 pm

Sign up at:
<https://bit.ly/3H30Eos>



**SAINT TIMOTHY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

WE ARE CHRIST'S HANDS • FEET • VOICE IN THE WORLD

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. TIMOTHY'S

Advent 2

Saturday, December 4, 5 PM
Sunday, December 5
9 AM Art in Advent & Adult Forum
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist

Advent 3

Saturday, December 11, 5 PM
Sunday, December 12
9 AM Art in Advent & Adult Forum
10:15 AM Agape Feast &
Holy Eucharist

Advent 4

Saturday, December 18, 5 PM
Sunday, December 19
9 AM Art in Advent & Adult Forum
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist &
Christmas Pageant

Service of Remembrance & Hope

Tuesday, December 21
7 PM

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24
5 PM Pre-Recorded Family Service
9 PM Christmas Eve Lessons &
Carols

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25
9 AM Holy Eucharist

Christmas 1

Sunday, December 26
10:15 AM Morning Prayer on Zoom

Epiphany

Sunday, January 2
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist

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