



# The First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

**WELCOME**

to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

a member of the Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant

## **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**

Big Rapids, MI

Seeking every day to love God  
with our whole heart, mind, and soul, and  
to love our neighbors as ourselves.

## **St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

Cadillac, MI

We strive to live out the Great  
Commandment: To love the Lord with all  
our heart, soul, and mind and to love our  
neighbors as ourselves.

If you have a faith or are seeking one, you are always welcome here.

If you are visiting or looking for a spiritual home,  
we'd love to get to know you.

## MORNING PRAYER: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP

Opening Hymn

Hymnal #58, v1-3

Opening Sentence

Officiant In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

Lighting the Advent Wreath

*Lighting the Way Advent Devotional*

*As the first candle is lit, all say*

**All A candle is a lovely thing to light for Him today.  
A brave new candle straight and tall to make the darkness light.**

Leader To accept the great gift of Christmas, your son Jesus;

**People Prepare our hearts, O God**

Leader To listen quietly that we might hear the message of the angels,  
Peace on earth, Good will to men;

**People Prepare our hearts, O God**

Leader That we might follow the example of the shepherds  
and seek the Christ Child, wherever he may be;

**People Prepare our hearts, O God**

Leader That we, like Christ, may grow in stature, wisdom and in your favor;

**People Prepare our hearts, O God**

Confession and Absolution

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God. *All kneel as able. Silence may be kept.*

**All** God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

**The Invitatory and Psalter**

*All stand as able.*

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

**People** And your glory all the day long.

**All** Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

**Invitatory Psalm: Psalm 67:1-5**

**All** Our God and Savior now draws near: O come let us worship.

O God, be merciful to us and bless us,

show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth,

your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

for you judge the peoples with equity

and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

**The Psalm: 25:1-9**

**Bulletin Insert**

*After the Psalm:*

**All Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

**The Lessons**

**Bulletin Insert**

**First Reading**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

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

**Canticle 15: The Song of Mary**

*Said in unison*

**All       My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
          my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior,  
          for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
          From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
          you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,  
          and holy is your name.  
          You have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation.  
          You have shown strength with your arm  
          and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
          Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.  
          You have filled the hungry with good things  
          and sent the rich away empty.  
          You have come to the help of your servant Israel,  
          for you have remembered your promise of mercy,  
          The promise made to our forebears,  
          to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**Second Reading**

**1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

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

**Canticle R: A Song of God's Love, 1 John 4:7-11**

*Said in unison*

**All           Beloved, let us love one another, \***  
**for love is of God.**  
**Whoever does not love does not know God, \***  
**for God is Love.**  
**In this the love of God was revealed among us, \***  
**that God sent his only Son into the world,**  
**so that we might live through Jesus Christ.**  
**In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us \***  
**and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.**  
**Beloved, since God loved us so much, \***  
**we ought also to love one another.**  
**For if we love one another, God abides in us, \***  
**and God's love will be perfected in us.**

**Third Reading**

**Luke 21:25-36**

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

**Reflection**   *The reflection may be a time of silence, a homily, or reading of a text.*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*Said by all, standing as able.*

**All**            **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Prayers**

*The people stand or kneel as able.*

**Officiant**    **Hear our cry, O God.**

**People**        **And listen to our prayer.**

**Officiant**    **Let us pray.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Said in unison*

**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.**

## Suffrages A

Officiant Help us, O God our Savior;

**People Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Officiant Look upon your congregation;

**People Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Officiant Declare your glory among the nations;

**People And your wonders among all peoples.**

Officiant Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

**People Never forget the lives of your poor.**

Officiant Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

**People And your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Officiant Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

**People So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

## The Collect of the Day

**Bulletin Insert**

## Hymn at the Prayers

*Come Now Prince of Peace, Bulletin Insert*

## The Prayers of the People

*Hear Our Prayer*

Intercessor Faithful God, we offer our prayers in hopeful anticipation of your response as we say, "Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"

Your church waits in anticipation for the fulfillment of your promises, grant us perseverance and urgency to continue Christ's mission as we await His return. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Skip, our Assisting Bishop; Nurya, our canon; Radha, our Rector; our Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant. St. Paul's, Flint - Tom, Rector; Trinity Church, Grand Ledge - Clifford, Sr. Warden;

Church of the Good Shepherd, Allegan – Corwin, Priest Associate. We pray for all those in our diocese discerning calls to ministry, both lay and ordained. In particular, we pray for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Priests, including Abraham, John, Laurie, Jonathan, Kathryn, Stephanie, Thon, Jess, Julianne, Matt, Cathy, Kris, Theresa, Janet. We pray also for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Deacons, including: Jennifer, Chris, Laura, Deb, Paige. We remember with gratitude the retired clergy of the diocese. *Silence*  
Lord in your mercy,

**People**      **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor    Sow the seeds of your love throughout this nation, that our people and leaders might work towards building a society where all people have an equitable place and the opportunity to thrive. *Silence*  
Lord in your mercy,

**People**      **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor    We pray for those in positions of authority in our country and in the world, especially Joe, our president; Gretchen our governor; Fred, our mayor. *Silence*    Lord in your mercy,

**People**      **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor    As we enter into this season of anticipation, grant this congregation a discerning spirit that we might confidently follow where you are leading us, be beacons of hope, and a place of refuge for our neighbors. *Silence*    Lord in your mercy,

**People**      **Hear our prayer.**



Intercessor Your creation cries out from the devastation wrought by our unsustainable use of its resources, show us how we might change and advocate for a holy stewardship of the natural world. *Silence*  
Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Open our hearts to know the suffering of those who are sick, afraid, alone, or oppressed; grant them relief, healing, and wholeness and show us how to be present with them. Especially we ask for those who have sought our prayers. We pray for those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer: J.P., Jerry, Janet, Erin, Jimmy, Keith, Ken, Jerry & Karlene, Kelsay, Heather, Joey; For those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer: Nan, Eileen, Brand Family, Betty, Kilmartin Family, Donna, Marty, Rachel, Gordon, Katsi, Kris, Bob, Bill, Janie, Bill, Scott & Laura, Harry & Melissa, Chris, Jerry, Helen & Raymond Jr., Raymond Sr.; For our family and friends in the armed forces and who are first responders: Richard, Corey, Matt, Teylor, Tony, Kim, Drew, Jon, Sabastian, Noah, Eli, Jess; And for all those we name at this time. *Silence*  
Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Grant to the dying peace and rest in your loving care; and grant to us and them and entrance into the resurrected life of Christ. *Silence*  
Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Officiant Hear the hopes and needs of your people and respond; keep your people in your grace just as you always have. Through, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives reigns. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

### The Celebration of Special Days and Announcements

For a Birthday	BCP, 830, #50
For an Anniversary	BCP, 431, first prayer
Travelers	BCP 831, #53

### Closing Hymn

Hymnal #59 v1-3

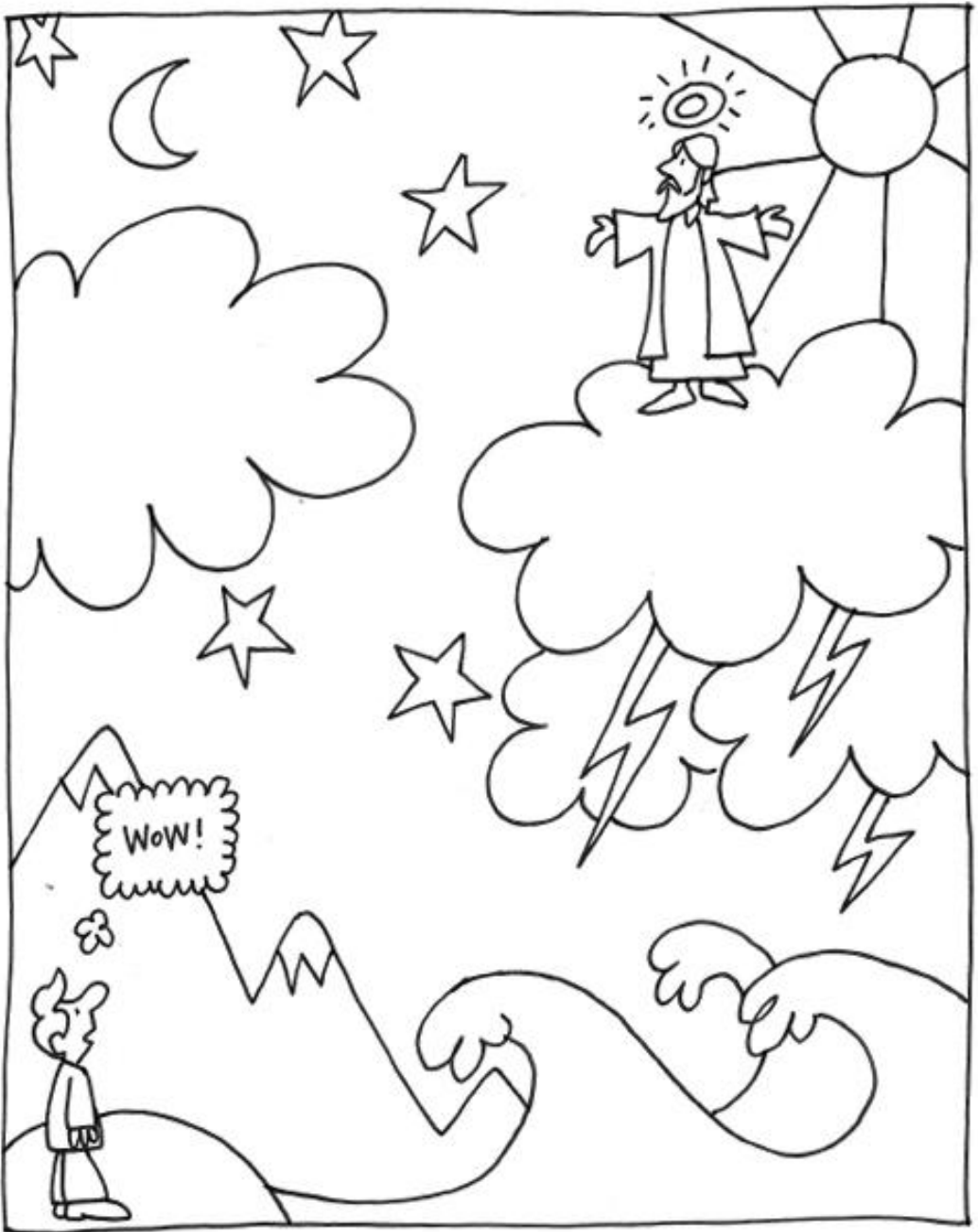
### Dismissal and Concluding Sentence

Officiant    Let us bless the Lord.

People        **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant    Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Ephesians 3:20,21*



**The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes**  
1815 Hall St SE #200, Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
(616) 319-2006 | [www.edwm.org](http://www.edwm.org)

**The Rt. Rev. Skip Adams**  
Assisting Bishop  
[sadams@edwm.org](mailto:sadams@edwm.org)

**The Rev. Nurya Parish**  
Canon for the Northern Collaborative  
[nparish@edwm.org](mailto:nparish@edwm.org)

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**Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant**  
[www.cmecovenant.org](http://www.cmecovenant.org)

**The Rev. Radhajyoti (Radha) Kaminski,**  
Rector  
[rector.cmec@gmail.com](mailto:rector.cmec@gmail.com)  
(352) 727-8927

**Tara Lee,** Covenant Administrator

**Covenant Council**  
Jim Pals, 2027  
Isabel Kempton, 2027  
Eileen Patterson, 2026  
Karen Peters, 2026  
Dawn Paulin - *Treasurer*, 2025  
Mary Frew, 2025

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**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
323 S. State St., Big Rapids, MI 49307  
[standrewsbr@gmail.com](mailto:standrewsbr@gmail.com)  
(231) 598-9032  
[www.standrewsbr.com](http://www.standrewsbr.com)

**The Rev. Robert Garrels**  
Director of Music  
[boogiebob40@hotmail.com](mailto:boogiebob40@hotmail.com)

**St. Andrew's Vestry**  
Eileen Patterson, 2027  
Michelle Kelenske – *Senior Warden*, 2027  
Paul Martin – *Junior Warden*, 2026  
Jodi Gabert – *Clerk*, 2026  
Mark Lauzon, 2025  
Diane Wesp, 2025  
Bob Stanton – *Treasurer*

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**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
815 Lincoln St., Cadillac, MI 49601  
[stmaryscadillac@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryscadillac@gmail.com)  
(231) 775-9641  
[www.stmaryscadillac.org](http://www.stmaryscadillac.org)

**St. Mary's Vestry**  
Jim Williams – *Senior Warden*, 2027  
Diane Wilson - *Clerk*, 2027  
Jerry Hoekwater, 2026  
Jim Pals, *Junior Warden*, 2025  
Pat Foster, 2025  
Dawn Paulin – *Treasurer*

In case of an emergency need for pastoral care call: Mtr. Radha Kaminski 352-727-8927