



10:30

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

WELCOME to all visitors and guests this morning. We are happy you are here to worship with us. If you want to know more about the Church of Reconciliation, please email info@cor-satx.org to receive our weekly e-mail.

- Assisted listening devices and large-print bulletins are available in the church narthexes.
- All are welcome at the table of the Lord for Holy Communion.
- If you would prefer to receive Communion at your seat instead of at the rail, please let an usher know.
- Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available upon request.

Advent Dinners

Wed., Dec. 6, 13, 20, 6pm-8pm in Brown Hall

Hi, Family! Christmas is just around the corner and so are our Advent Dinners! Advent starts on Dec. 3 so we will only have three dinners: Dec. 6, 13, and 20. As special treat, we will conduct a Posada around the Rec grounds. Come join us each night as we celebrate Christ's birthday together. Sign up here:

<https://cor-satx.org/signup-for-events/> . **We also need volunteers.** Please sign up using the Wed. email.

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00am – Holy Eucharist (*no music*)

10:30am – Holy Eucharist (*livestreamed, with music*)

Upcoming Events

December 3, 10: Alternative Gift Market

December 6, 13, 20 - Advent Dinners 6pm-8pm

December 9: Hike Day in Fredericksburg

Save the Date: Posada at Rec During Advent Dinner!

Wednesday, December 13th, 6pm-8pm

Please make plans to join us! We will have a posada on our Rec grounds, followed by a dinner of tamales, beans, rice, pan dulce, hot chocolate, and more!

What is a posada?

It is a traditional Latino celebration where people walk in procession with candles and reenact the struggle of Joseph and Mary in finding lodging by knocking on different doors. Songs are sung to 'reject' the participants of the procession just as Joseph and Mary were turned away. We will walk around our Rec campus looking for shelter, and end up in Brown Hall for dinner. Our courtyard will be lit with luminarias (candles lit in bags), which help to guide the way. Sign up here:

<https://cor-satx.org/signup-for-events/>

Children, Youth, and Families

Youth Fundraiser! The Youth Group will be hosting hot breakfast on Dec 10 and requesting donations to support camp scholarships and a summer local mission trip. Please join us in supporting this important ministry.

Toys for Tots Drive: We are collecting toys for the Toys for Tots organization. A drop box will be in Brown Hall from 19 Nov-3 Dec. For more information please contact Jude at jude@cor-satx.org or visit the Toys for Tots website: <https://www.toysfortots.org/>

Magdalena House: We will once again be supporting Magdalena House this

Christmas. Please use the Wed. email link to purchase much needed items. Please have items sent to your address and then bring them in.

DEADLINE for purchases is December 5.

SAVE THE DATE: Children's Christmas Liturgy is at 4 pm on Dec 24th.

Please RSVP to Jude at jude@cor-satx.org your interest and availability
Contact: Jude Castillo at jude@cor-satx.org

Parks and Rec Hike Club – Sat., Dec. 9th at 8:30am

For those interested, we will hike around Enchanted Rock and then all meet at a restaurant in Fredericksburg before hitting the Christmas market.

Please go online to reserve a hiking spot (for the 8:30am-10:00am time slot) and let Jude know so we can be on the lookout for you. Admission to the park is **FREE.**

For those joining the hike, please meet at the entrance to the Interpretive Loop at 8:30am.

Join us for breakfast at 10:30am at Campo Azul, 413 S. Washington Street, Fredericksburg before we start **SHOPPING!** Please RSVP to Jude jude@cor-satx.org to ensure we have enough seats.

If anyone is interested in carpooling, please let Jude know by **December 7** and indicate if you would like to drive or if you would like to ride.

Generosity 2023 Estimate of Giving Cards

Thank you to all who submitted their Estimate of Giving Cards. We appreciate it so much! If you have not been able to fill one out, and still wish to do so, there will be extra cards in the church narthexes, or in the church office.

Today's altar flowers are given in thanksgiving for another blessed Advent season.

Little Pantry Donations

And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."

Luke 3:11

The Little Pantry is being well used by the community and others who are experiencing food insecurity. During this time of Thanksgiving, and beyond, we are asking Reconciler's to consider helping the monthly pantry team by bringing a food item or two to church on Sunday to donate to the Pantry. Please consider when you're shopping, adding a few extra canned goods, or items on sale to your cart and bringing them on Sunday and putting those items in the Pantry Donation Basket located in Brown Hall. These items will help the team supplement the Little Pantry when it is empty. Items that would be useful are: canned and dry goods, powdered milk, cereal, ramen, peanut butter, pasta and personal care items. Anything you contribute would help us in our mission to "serve one another and our neighbors" (Rec mission statement)

Thank you for being an extension of the Little Pantry team Ministry.

Alternative Gift Market

Sunday, December 3, 10 During Coffee Hour

Honor your loved ones with donations to one of 5 non-profit organizations affiliated or associated with Reconciliation.

THE OPENING MEDITATION

Fr. Phil Mason

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Dru Dunn and Jane Neuenschwander

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.” *Isaiah 9:2*

As we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, which represents hope, we give thanks for the great light of the world, your Son, Jesus, who is our light in the world so that we no longer walk in darkness. May our lives be a light to others.

(Our first Advent candle will be lit, which represents hope.)

THE PROCESSION AND THE OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. **Refrain**

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who
to your tribes on
Sinai's height in ancient times did give the
law in cloud
and majesty and awe. **Refrain**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

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.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Lector: A Reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 64:1-9

Read by Margaret Lewis

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80

***Refrain:* Lord make us turn to you, show us your face, and we shall be saved.**

Shepherd of Israel, hearken for you throne and shine forth,
Rouse your power, and come to save us. *Refrain*

We are your chosen vine, only by your care do we live,
Reach out your hand, O Lord unto your people. *Refrain*

If you will dwell with us, we shall live anew in your love,
O shine upon us, great Lord of life. *Refrain*

THE EPISTLE

Lector: A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Read by Mike Moneer

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN

Jesus, Come! For We Invite You

Jesus come! For we invite you, guest and master, friend and Lord;
Now, as once at Cana's wedding, speak and let us hear your word:
Lead us through our need or doubting, hope be born and joy restored

THE GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

BRIEF MEDITATION (*sung*)

SERMON

The Rev. Phil Mason

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The New Zealand Prayer Book, p. 481

Celebrant: Let us affirm our faith together.

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

You are our God. We worship you.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Read by Bryna Nation

Intercessor: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work, especially military, medical workers, and first responders;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world, especially our president, Joe, our governor, Greg, our mayor, Ron, and all other leaders;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation.

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble, especially those we name either silently or aloud (silence); and from our parish family: Kimberly, Garnet, Kes, John, Carolyn, Kevin, Tiffany, Jeffrey, Marilyn, Suzanne, Mary, Bob, Hall, Pat, Michael, Jonathan, Art, Kathy, Hilary, Dean, Margo, and Ben;

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

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, David, our Bishop, Phil, our priest, Jennifer, our seminarian, and all other ministers of the church;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially wisdom and discernment for our rector search committee. Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially those we name either silently or aloud: (silence); that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant reads the concluding Collect.

O Great God, thank you for living and loving in us and through us. May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you and all beings. Help us become a community that vulnerably shares each other's burdens and the weight of glory. Listen to our heart's longings for the healing of our world. Knowing you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Minister and People

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful God:
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 service you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

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

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

(The people exchange greetings)

THE GATHERING HYMN

Awake, Awake

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.

Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heavenly door,
and lives now inside us forever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy birthday to:

Kitty Flores	12/2
Stella Judson	12/2
Stewart Swann	12/2
Ellen Thomas	12/3
Jessie Hardy	12/3
Bette Boyd	12/5

*If you would like your birthday, anniversary, or other milestone mentioned here,
please email info@cor-satx.org.*

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Yearning by Craig Courtney

DOXOLOGY

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part.

Yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic 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 our thanks and praise.**

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

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear, rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

Celebrant and People (sung)

S130 (Schubert)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, 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.**

Then the Celebrant continues

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." *(Bells)*

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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." *(Bells)*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People
Christ has died.

**Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues

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.** *(Bells)*

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

G7

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

The people respond: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE INVITATION

This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love and for those who want to love more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little; you who have been here often and you who have not been here long; you who have tried to follow and you who have fallen short. Come, for it is the Risen Christ who invites you. It is the Risen Christ who wants to meet you here.

HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the table of the Lord for Holy Communion.

COMMUNION MUSIC

**My Lord, What a Morning
With One Voice #627**

**We The Lord's People
Hymnal #51**

THE GREETING AT THE RAIL

Greeting: Christ is coming.

Response: Let us receive him.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: And now, 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 BLESSING

THE CLOSING HYMN

**Rejoice, Rejoice Believers
Hymnal #68**

BENEDICTION *(To the tune of Edelweiss)*

May the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you forever;
grant you peace, perfect peace,
courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see God's face,
full of grace forever;
may the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you forever.

THE DISMISSAL

The Priest dismisses the people saying:
Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

The People Respond:
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Elementary Ministry:

Ages: 4 years old through 4th Grade

- **Sunday School from 9-10:20 a.m.**
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Rec Middle School Ministry:

Ages: 5th Grade thru 8th Grade

Middle School Faith Formation/Sunday School:

- **Sunday School from 9-10:20 a.m.**
Middle School Youth Group: Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Rec Room.
-

Rec High School Ministry:

Ages: 9th-12th Grade

High School Faith Formation/Sunday School:

Sundays from 9:00-10:20 a.m. in the Rec Room

- **Sunday school from 9-10:20 a.m.**
High School Youth Group: Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Rec Room

Contact: Jude Castillo, Director of Children, Youth, and Families at jude@cor-satx.org

**Serving and Ministering This Sunday
December 3, 2023**

8:00

Verger: Bill Miller
Lector: Annis Marshall
Prayers of the People: Annis Marshall
Chalice: Roxie Montesano
Intincter: Erica Valle
Altar Guild: Team II (Sally Scurlock Team)
Usher: Roxie Montesano
Prayer Team: Bruce Groenke, Rodney Gray

10:30

Verger: Bill Miller
Livestream: Erica Valle, Michele Bondy
Lectors: Margaret Lewis, Mike Moneer
Prayers of the People: Bryna Nation
Intincter: Timothy Webber
Chalice: Benjamin PowerGriffin
Acolytes: Kathryn Daniels, Lincoln Gwin, Forest Gwin, Stewart Swann
Altar Guild: Team II (Sally Scurlock Team)
Ushers: Eddie Cox (Lead), Mark Gwin, Leslie Allison
Greeters: Violi Roller (Lead), Bryna Nation
Prayer Team: Betty Graham, Martha Sam
Breakfast: Continental
Coffee Hour: Judy Timmons, Mark Thomas

Use this QR code to make a donation to Rec via PayPal.



The Episcopal Church of Reconciliation

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Church Office Hours:

Tuesday – Friday, 9:00am – 3:00pm

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Social Media

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