

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2019
8:00 & 10:15 AM



THE MISSION OF CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
IS TO BE A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY;
ACCEPTING AND INVITING ALL PERSONS TO SHARE IN WORSHIP,
WITNESS AND SERVICE; AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
IN THE WORLD.

Welcome!

What a joy it is that we are worshipping together today. If Episcopal worship is unfamiliar, do not be nervous about what to do during the liturgy – relax – and let the service unfold for you. Together in song and prayer we celebrate our life together in Christ.

You are invited to sign the guest book located on the hutch at the entrance to the building. Please fill out a Visitors & Newcomers card and hand it to the priest or an usher. There are other informational pamphlets located in that area. Please feel free to take whatever is of interest to you.

If you are interested in the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation, or being Received into the Episcopal Church please see Rev. Lu-Anne Conner.

Before you leave, please pray for us as we carry out the ministry of the love of God and service in our communities.

This congregation is committed to being an open, affirming and welcoming church to all who come here.

**The Church of the Transfiguration is a two-rule church
Love God, Love Each Other!**

Worship at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Biblical Texts are from The New Revised Standard Version

Liturgical texts are from The Book of Common Prayer

Hymn selections are from The Hymnal 1982 and other approved sources.

Hymns/songs are printed in the bulletin under One License #A-720467 and Rite Song Online and with permission from Capital CMG, Inc.

Prelude

The Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

Gathering Hymn “O come, O come Emmanuel” (verses 1-3, 7) Hymnal, # 56

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

BCP, pg. 355

People *And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen*

The Celebrant then says the Collect for Purity

BCP, pg. 355

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.

People *Amen.*

8:00 a.m.

The Trisagion

BCP, pg. 356

*Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.*

10:15 a.m. Holy God

“Trisagion”

Hymnal, #S-102

Repeat 3 times

The Collect of the Day

BCP, pg. 212

Celebrant The Lord 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.*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the

young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

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

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

BCP, p. 702-3

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans

1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and

apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

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

People ***Thanks be to God.***

The people stand.

Gospel Hymn "Comfort, comfort, ye my people" Hymnal, # 67

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 1:18-25

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

After the Gospel the Celebrant says

People The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner

The Nicene Creed BCP, pg. 358

***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 for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

Leader: From the depths of our interior mansions, and in heightened expectancy of the coming of the Messiah, let us offer our prayers, responding, “O come, O come, Emmanuel.”

O come, Emmanuel and purify our conscience, that we may be an empty vessel prepared for the coming of your Word; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

O Wisdom, open our eyes to the signs of your grace in the world about us, and bind us to your will, that we may bear witness to your abundant life; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

O Lord of Might, strengthen us by your humility, that as we drink from the tears of the poor, and eat from their outstretched hands, we may be filled with the riches of enduring faith; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

O Branch of Jesse, stretch out your limbs of hope, that all the peoples of the world may come under the shade of your tree, where war shall cease and the fruits of love flourish; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

O Key of David, unlock our fear of those who differ from us, and remind us that the essence of our being is one, united across nations and races, cultures and time; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

O Dayspring from on high, fill us with thanksgiving at the beginning of the day, and when night falls place within us a heart of gratitude; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

O Desire of Nations, grant our leaders moral and ethical wholesomeness, that together with them we may form a just and righteous society; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

O come, Emmanuel, do not tarry; to the dead bring life, to the living hope, and to all creation the renewal of your first gifts; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, let us continue our prayers.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the people and ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove, St. Louis, and Amy, their Priest-in-charge; we pray for Wayne, our bishop, and Deon, our bishop-elect; in the Diocese of Lui in South Sudan we pray for Emmanuel Parish, Lui, and Archdeacon Sylvester. We pray for those on our prayer list: ***Mike, Rich, Karen, Dan, Karen, Auggie, Jaime, Scott, Sarah, Diane, Judy, Mark, Joey, Sally, Jack, Don, Warren, Anthony, Gary, Ron, Jim, Toni, Colin, Rita, Diane, Kermit, Julie, Ashley, Linda, David, Diane, Daniel, the Reed family, the Scaggs family, Isaac Anthony, Carl, Kristen, and Suzanne.*** We give thanks for birthdays: George Kirby, Peggy Sloan, and Matt Schuster.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Intercessions Year A: Keyed to the Themes of the Revised Common Lectionary © 2011 by GERALYN WOLF.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

BCP, pg. 360

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and people

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word and deed,

by what we have done,

and by 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

The Celebrant says

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.***

Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord

First greet visitors, then new friends, then old friends!

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

The Celebrant says an offertory sentence.

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offering of bread and wine to the altar.

Offertory Anthem

Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly

Skinner Chávez-Melo

The people stand while money offerings are presented and placed on the altar. The following is

said or sung when offerings are presented.

8:00 *Celebrant* All things come of thee, O Lord
People ***And of thine own have we given thee.***

10:15 **The Doxology** *(Please stand, as able)*

Tune: Old 100th

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heav'nly host!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.***

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP, pg. 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says

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 God thanks and praise.***

The Celebrant proceeds

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:

Celebrant and People

8:00 a.m.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

***We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

BCP, pg. 364

Celebrant and People

*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

BCP, pg. 364

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.
Then the following is said*

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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 are welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Eucharist.

Communion Hymn: “Creator of the stars of night”

Hymnal, # 60

Post Communion Prayer

BCP, pg. 365

*After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.*

*Celebrant and People
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 Sending of Eucharistic Visitors

The Eucharistic Visitors are invited to the altar to receive their kits.

The Blessing

Sending Hymn

“Soon and Very Soon”

LEVAS, # 14

The Dismissal

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Sunday, December 22, 2019
 Today's Ministers of Worship**

Celebrant & Preacher		The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner
Music Director		Dr. Thomas C. Lee
Lay Minister of the Day	8:00 a.m.	Nicole Jones
	10:15 a.m.	Jim Furgason
Greeters		John Purcell, Sarah Ruth
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Bill Moyer
	10:15 a.m.	Ron Howden, Peggy Sloan
Lectors	8:00 a.m.	Rick MacIvor
	10:15 a.m.	Anne Wright
Server/Acolyte	8:00 a.m.	Dawn Henry
	10:15 a.m.	John Notgrass
Chalice Bearers	8:00 a.m.	Dawn Henry
	10:15 a.m.	Carole Connors, Jon Sanders
Altar Guild		Rosemary Bagin, Margaret Chopra, Roxane Jablonksi
Coffee Hour	8:00 a.m.	Henry Wasmer
	10:15 a.m.	Louise Howden, Ron Howden
Counters		Bill Henry, Kerry Quinlisk
Eucharistic Visitor		Carole Connors
Children's Chapel Leader		Alice Foster
Children's Chapel Assistant		Janice Trendley
Nursery Worker		Laurie Mercurio
Nursery Assistant		Roxanne Jablonski

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, December 22

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9:00 a.m. Adult Forum

9:45 a.m. Choir Practice

10:15 a.m. Children's Chapel

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Nursery available today 10:00 a.m., infant to age 3

Monday, December 23

6:30 p.m. Al-Anon Newcomers Meeting

7:30 p.m. Al-Anon Family Group Meeting

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

5:00 p.m. Laundry Love—O'Fallon

8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day (Office Closed)

Thursday, December 26

Office Closed

Saturday, December 28

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Sunday, December 29

The First Sunday after Christmas

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9:45 a.m. Choir Practice

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Nursery available today 10:00 a.m., infant to age 3

Announcements

Christmas dinner plans still up in the air? New parishioner Mary Hall invites anyone who does not have other plans to join her for Christmas dinner at her house. If interested, please call or email Mary at 314-346-1858 or 2aisde2@gmail.com.

Come to our final Adult Forum on the Four Sundays of Advent! Each Sunday we'll take a look at the Collect of the Day, one of the appointed readings for the day, and a hymn that will be sung at the 10:15 service. We'll enter into the spiritual richness of Advent together, exploring its themes of darkness and light; repentance and renewal; and the mystery of the Word made flesh, Jesus of Nazareth. All Adult Forums are held at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Allen Room.

Today's Adult Forum will focus on the Fourth Sunday of Advent ("Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation ...")

Christmas Eve Services will be held at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm on Tuesday December 24, 2019. There will be no service on Christmas Day.

Pledge envelopes are available in the Narthex.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

- December 24—George Kirby
- December 24—Peggy Sloan
- December 28—Matt Schuster

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

We are selecting one item each month that is sent to the deployed men and women of our military. For the month of **December**, we ask for **travel size (0.5 oz) deodorant**. Please leave the item(s) in the container marked "Support Our Troops" on the shelving in the narthex. *(As a reminder we are always looking for hotel size shampoo, conditioner, lotion, and soap/body wash)*

For the month of **December**, we are collecting **laundry detergent** for our neighbors at LINC in Wentzville. Remember the children at Love Inc. Please bring in your donations and drop them in the designated box in the entry area.

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Bulletin announcements: Must be sent to the church office by **2:00 p.m. on Wednesday** in order to be included in the Sunday bulletin.

Church Prayer List: Mike Parker, Rich Robison, Karen Proctor, Dan Loewe, Karen Owen, Auggie Powers, Jaime Lauck, Scott Leriche, Sarah Pryor, Diane Willard, Judy Kirby, Mark

Ebert, Joey Huber, Sally Klaskin, Jack Klaskin, Don Strom, Warren Opfer, Anthony Scorsone, Gary Jeffery, Ron Price, Jim Ebert, Toni Pelton, Colin McAdam, Rita McAdam, Diane Chappuis, Kermit Forbes, Julie Forbes, Ashley Kintz, Linda Wasmer, David Wasem, Daniel Smith, the Reed family, the Scaggs family, Isaac Anthony Mach Perez, Carl Keehn, Kristen Garrett, and Suzanne Sanders.

Prayer List Policy: Names are published in the weekly bulletin for 4 weeks, after which time please call the church office, to keep the name on the bulletin prayer list.

Pray for those who are in the service of our country:

Michael Wehmeyer, son of Bob and Fay Wehmeyer, serving in the United States Air Force.

Michael Ducar, son of Steve and Judy Ducar, serving in the Marine Corps.

Mary Putnam, granddaughter of Mike Millfelt, serving as an interpreter in the Marine Corps.

Seamus Garrett, nephew of Alice Foster, serving in The United States Army.

David Wright, son of Richard and Anne Wright and grandson of Bob and Fay Wehmeyer, serving in the U.S. Air Force.

Shelby Aleksick, granddaughter of Roxane Jablonski, serving in the U.S. Army, attached to the 531st Field Hospital and the 101st Airborne Division.

Adam Smith, son of Daniel Smith, serving in the Missouri National Guard.

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

1860 Lake Saint Louis Boulevard
Lake Saint Louis, Missouri 63367

Office Phone (636) 561-8951
Office E-mail: office@transfigurationchurch.org
Office Hours : Tues, Wed, Thurs 9:30-3:30
www.transfigurationchurch.org

Rector : The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner
Email: rector@transfigurationchurch.org

Music Director : Dr. Thomas C. Lee
Email: music@transfigurationchurch.org

Parish Administrator : Sr. Donna Ruth Hawk-Reinhard, n/AF
Email: parishoffice@transfigurationchurch.org

Senior Warden : Mari Moody
Email: seniorwarden@transfigurationchurch.org

Treasurer : Judy Ducar
Email: treasurer@transfigurationchurch.org