



# ST. JOHN'S RICHMOND

DECEMBER 7, 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(Holy Communion, based on 1662 Book of Common Prayer)

## WELCOME!

The Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent is an anchor. While we anticipate Christ's inevitable and glorious return, we are battered by storms internal and external. This Collect reminds us that "whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4). The Collect affirms the "comfort of your Holy Word" and prays that through God's word, we will embrace and grip the hope of everlasting life, and trust that Christ will come again to make all things right. It draws upon the words of Thomas Cranmer in the preface to the 1549 Book of Common Prayer, where he expresses his desire for the people of England to "hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest" the Bible. The same God who inspired the writing of the Bible is the One who now opens our hearts and minds to "inwardly digest" it for ourselves. Warmly, Sean

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## TODAY'S SERVICE DETAILS

Lyrics and liturgy are on-screen & online.



**BIBLE READINGS:** Sheldon Yu

Romans 15:4-13

Luke 21:25-33

**CHILDREN (K-grade 6)** begin in the service. After the Children's Focus, their class will meet upstairs for approximately one hour. On Communion Sundays, they will rejoin the adult service in time to receive Holy Communion.

**YOUTH (grades 7-12)** meet each Sunday, except for the first Sunday of the month, when they remain for the whole Holy Communion service.

**PRAYERS:** Tracey Larter

**HOLY COMMUNION:** All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion; if you would like to receive a prayer of blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed.

## NOTICES

**SJR First Noel:** This coming Saturday, December 13, from 1pm-4pm. Please be praying for this important outreach program, and thinking of who you can invite. A detailed email has been sent out, which includes an image you can use for invites.

**Christmas Tree for First Noel:** We are looking for an artificial Christmas Tree for us to borrow for First Noel. We would need it Friday night to decorate it, and can return it on Sunday or leave it up for the season, depending on when you need it back! If you can help with this, please contact Penny Love.

**Advent and Christmas Events and Services:** Our 'parish schedule' for December is now listed on our website. Times and locations are conveniently located on one page so you can invite friends. Click on the "Advent and Christmas" ad on the home page to find out more.

**SJR Community Groups:** Mid-week small group Bible Studies continue - interested in joining one? Fill out the card on the Welcome Table.

**Wednesday Morning Prayer - full service:** Wednesday 8am-9am on Zoom. Have a prayer request? Reach out to Chris at [contact@stjohnsrichmond.com](mailto:contact@stjohnsrichmond.com) and this will be included in our prayers.

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## OFFERING

We are very grateful for the financial support we receive from our church family! Please use the offering plate or give online, using the code. If you are visiting SJR, please simply be our guest.



## NEW TO ANGLICANISM?

Find out more by picking up a brochure on the welcome table or by using the code.



## WELCOME

## OPENING VERSES

## OPENING HYMN

*(All lyrics will be screen-shared)*

## CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 DECALOGUE

God spoke these words and said:

I am the LORD your God; you shall have no other gods but me.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol, nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them, or serve them.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold guiltless those who take his Name in vain.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not murder.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not steal.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour's.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these your laws in our hearts, we beseech you.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray.

**COLLECT OF THE DAY & ADDITIONAL COLLECTS** *(a focused request to God from the Book of Common Prayer, for this day in the church year; found on Page 1 of our service sheet).*

**FIRST BIBLE READING** (listed on the front page)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER WITH THE CHILDREN**

**SONGS**

**SECOND BIBLE READING** (listed on the front page)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## NICENE CREED

I believe in one God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten 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,  
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## SERMON

### OFFERING SONG

*And they came, everyone whose heart was stirred up, and everyone whose spirit was made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering. Exodus 35:21*

### OFFERING PRAYER:

Blessed are you, O Lord, for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.**

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

### HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

#### INVITATION

All you who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and seek to live in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to live the New Life, following the commandments of God and walking in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

#### CONFESSION

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Maker of all things and Judge of all people:**

**We acknowledge and confess all our sins and wickedness,  
which we have committed by thought, word, and deed, against your divine majesty, provoking  
most justly your righteous anger against us.**

**We sincerely repent with heartfelt sorrow for these our transgressions.**

**The memory of them grieves us; the burden of them is more than we can bear.**

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake  
forgive us all that is past; and grant that from now on we may serve and please you in newness of  
life, to the honour and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him: Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### COMFORTABLE WORDS

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ says to all that truly turn to him.  
Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

Hear also what Saint Paul says: This is a trustworthy saying, deserving of full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15.*

And hear also what Saint John says: If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins. *1 John 2:1-2*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you; **And with your spirit.**  
Lift up your hearts; **We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God; **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and joy, that we should always and everywhere give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the saints in heaven,  
we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you, and singing:

[sung]

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

### PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

**We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies.  
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table;  
but you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy:  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Blessing and glory and thanksgiving belong to you, Almighty God our heavenly Father, because in your tender mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself, once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, offering, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and instituted and in his Holy Gospel commanded us to continue a perpetual memory of his most precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, and grant that we, receiving this bread and wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who in the same night he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins: Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

### WORDS OF ADMINISTRATION

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul unto everlasting life: Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul unto everlasting life: Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER *please kneel*

**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 them that trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for graciously feeding us in these holy mysteries with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ; for assuring us through this Sacrament of your favour and goodness towards us; that we are living members of the mystical body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful people, and are also heirs, through hope, of your everlasting kingdom.

**And here we offer and present to you O Lord, ourselves - our souls and bodies - to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice. And although we are unworthy, yet we ask you to accept this duty and service we owe, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, world without end, Amen.**

### NOTICES

### CLOSING HYMN

**BLESSING / BENEDICTION** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you, always.

**Amen.**

The Third Advent

25-26: Heaven and Earth Will Be Shaken

27-28 The Son of Man Will Come Again

33 His Words Will Remain