Stop, Rest, Pray
A Time for Advent Meditation
Tuesday, December 5, six p.m.

As you are seated, please disconnect your electronic devices so you may connect with that which is sacred.

Piano Prelude

Welcome

Gathering Prayers

For Guidance
O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly:
Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the
Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in
your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Good Use of Leisure
O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so
use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness
of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the Evening
O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy
world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe
lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

Song
The song will be repeated, allowing it to bring you to God in prayer. Please join in singing at any time.

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Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taizé Community, 1984
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Scripture Reading and Reflection: Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A Time of Silence

Song

Prayers

To your people gathered in this place,

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

As we face our self-indulgence, our self-satisfaction, and our self-deception,

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

To those who have a place in our hearts, and those for whom we have promised to pray,

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

To the sick, the wounded and the destitute, the sorrowful and the oppressed,

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

To those who have lost their faith and those hardened by sin or indifference,

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

To those who are dying, those who fear death, and those who are mourning,

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

To all who long for peace and long for God,

Come, Lord Jesus, come.
The Lord’s Prayer

All say together

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 Blessing of Peace

Following this service, you are welcome to stay in silence as long as you wish.

The next Advent meditation service will be held at St. John’s
    on Tuesday, December 12, at six p.m.

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SUNDAY SERVICES: 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. JOHN’S

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th

CANDLELIGHT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS - 3 p.m.
This beautiful service of Scripture and song begins in a darkened church. The Bible lessons recount the stories of Creation and our fall, the promise of a Messiah, and Jesus’s birth. Each lesson is followed by music and prayer.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - 10:30 a.m.
The young people of the parish will tell the Christmas story in reading, pageant, and song. Angels and shepherds, friendly beasts and kings will gather, a star will shine — and there will be camels wearing sneakers. Come and sing the familiar carols, light a candle, and hear the old old story of God’s love for this world.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

The fourth Sunday of Advent will be observed at the regular 10:30 a.m. service on December 24. There will be no 8 a.m. service on this day.

CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY EUCHARIST - 4 p.m.
This festal celebration of Holy Eucharist will include a sermon suitable for younger children and music by our Youth Choir. A musical prelude will begin at 3:45 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY EUCHARIST - 11 p.m.
The music of Christmas will be played and sung by our Adult Choir and instrumentalists as the people of God gather in this place. A choral prelude will begin at 10:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25th

HOLY EUCHARIST - 10 a.m.
This quiet and reverent worship will include a sermon and carols.