



Welcome to St. Francis Church

We are happy to welcome you! For your health and safety, we strongly recommend all persons be vaccinated against COVID and influenza. Masks are not required, but encouraged, particularly for unvaccinated and immunocompromised persons. Please take advantage of our online worship to stay home if you are feeling unwell in any way.

Please see the enclosed sheet to donate for our celebratory Christmas decorations and music. Your generous music donations also help to maintain our regular year-round program.

*Thank you!*

Celebrant/Preacher: ..... The Rev. Jerry Sather

Deacon: ..... The Rev. Celeste Stump

Prelude: *Veni Domine*.....(arr. Pietro Yon)

Processional Hymn— **On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry** ..... **Hymn #76, vv. 1-5**

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).  
 Music: "Winchester New," melody from "Musicalishes Hand-Buch," 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

The Opening Acclamation..... Book of Common Prayer, p. 323

*(this and all similar page refs. refer to Book of Common Prayer—the red book in the pew rack in front of you)*

The Kyrie ..... p. 324

The Collect of the Day ..... p. 159

The First Lesson ..... Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of  
the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the  
earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his  
mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall  
kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the  
lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the  
asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on  
the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of  
the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a sig-  
nal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of  
him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Response: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, *Deus, iudicium* ..... p. 685

The Second Lesson..... Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Gospel .....Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Sermon ..... The Rev. Jerry Sather

The Nicene Creed..... p. 327

The Prayers of the People ..... p. 328

The Confession of Sin..... p. 331

The Peace..... p. 332

Welcome and Announcements

The Great Thanksgiving ..... p. 340

The Lord's Prayer..... p. 336

The Breaking of the Bread ..... p. 337

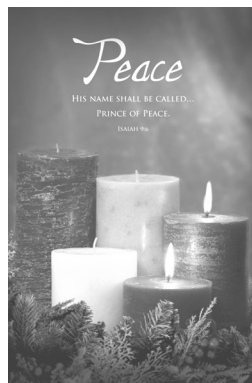
*The clergy will carry the Sacrament to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward for Holy Communion. Please inform one of the ushers if you would like to be served at your seat.*

*Gluten-free Communion wafers are now carried alongside regular wafers at Holy Communion.*

*If you require one of these, simply ask at the Altar rail.*

Post Communion Prayer ..... p. 339

Blessing and Sending Forth ..... p. 339



Closing Hymn: O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines ..... Hymn #597, vv. 1- 2

O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our  
 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the  
 hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and  
 fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly  
 love, de - liv-ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of  
 graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -  
 hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re-lease, till by God's  
 mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac-cord; the hope of  
 grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.  
 peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944), Copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Company.  
 Music: "Jerusalem," Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918) arr. Jane Wyatt (b. 1934)

Postlude: Variations on "Stuttgart" ..... Robert Lind

## Welcome!

We warmly welcome you if you are here with us for the first time today. We joyfully welcome *all* people into our community – without exception. Whoever you are, and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here.

### Prayers this Week

We pray for all those who serve in the armed and foreign services, and for their families, especially Drew Deley, Michael Heredia, Mark Kappelmann, TJ Malzahn, Will Piepenbring, Scott Ruston, Michael Strong, Jonathan Zimmerman and Steve.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Andrea, Amy Clute, Daniel Drayling, Pauline Duley, Ceri Falk, Colette Furbush, Frances Hailwood, Sally Hill, Mick Mohuchy, Marjorie Morris, Anne Marie Morris, Greg Morris, Mike Morris, Bruce Schaefer, Patricia Stewart, and Stephen.

Don't miss out!—scan the code to join our electronic mailing list.