

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2020, 10:00am



Purple was the traditional color of Advent, a color that represents penitence and fasting as well as royalty.

Purple will continue to be the traditional color of Lent. But for Advent, we shall use deep blue, as other churches have come to do, because deep blue represents the Advent themes of expectation, hope and anticipation of the dawn of Christ. It is the color in the sky before the sun rises, encouraging us to keep watch for the promised light of Christ to break over the horizon, changing night into day. The use of blue has deep historical roots.

The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. Traditionally, the wreath is made of four blue or purple candles in a circle of evergreens, with a central white candle lit on Christmas Eve and Day. The meaning assigned to each candle varies by tradition.

The Word of God

Prelude: "Veni Domine" ((Hymn for Peace)

Pietro Yon

The Processional Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Hymn #265, v. 1, 3, 4

Basque Carol

The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came, his
Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, - "To
Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born - in
wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes - as flame; - "All
me be as it pleas - eth God," - she said, - "my
Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, - and
hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry, - most
soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name." -
Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say
high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - - - ri - a! - - -

The Opening Acclamation

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

All 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.

Deacon/Preacher: The Rev. Jude Lyons
Celebrant: The Very Rev. Paula Vukmanic

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A family steps forward:

Leader Today we light the first, second and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY.

The candles are lit.

Leader "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."
(Isaiah 55:12)

People Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit.

Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world.

Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

Hymn—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, that
mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re -
joice, re - rejoice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Traditional carol from the 9th century

The First Lesson Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1st Reader A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring
up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The Response Psalm 126 *In convertendo*

Reader Let us pray together the Psalm response.

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Holy Gospel—John 1:6-8,19-28

† Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

† The Sermon

The Rev. Jude Lyons

There will be a moment of silence for reflection following the sermon.

An Affirmation of Faith for Advent

Liturgy For The Whole Church, Susan K. Bock

We believe in God, who bends and kneels toward our world, drenching it with love, making it new with every breath. We believe in Jesus, God become human, who brought every person a spark of the divine. We believe in the Spirit, hovering God, present among us, abiding, upholding, awaking all things to her grace. We believe we are called to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God and each other, ready for God's reign, awake and alert, as we work to bring it near. We believe we are called, as Christmas comes close, to lift up our hearts in hope and in love, seeking God's advent in each moment and person, each challenge and heartache, each blessing and joy. This we promise to do. Keep us faithful, Lord Jesus, and come soon.

Come soon! Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The People join in reading the words in bold.

Our Advent prayers call upon God with our ancestors, the significant people of the Bible that led the way to the birth of Jesus.

God of the prophets, give your church courage to speak truth, and to tell of your love.

God of the prophets, hear us and help us!

God of the angels, give your church voice to sing your presence in the world. Give the world a freedom song, and help us to speak peace especially in all places of conflict in our world.

God of the angels, hear us and help us!

God of Mary and Elizabeth, give your church grace to bring forth new life into a world desperate for love, hope and opportunity for all.

God of our mothers, hear us and help us!

God of Zechariah and Joseph, give your church dreams and visions, and the courage to follow them.

God of our fathers, hear us and help us!

God of the shepherds, give your church humility, and to all who sit in darkness and anxiety, alone and afraid, light and peace.

God of the shepherds, hear us and help us!

God of the Magi, give your church gifts, and the will to find you among the poor and the marginalized.

God of the Magi, hear us and help us.

God of John the Baptist, give your church the grace to be a messenger of change and hope, to preach a message of love and peace in wilderness moments.

God of messengers, hear us and help us!

God of the Holy Innocents, give your church power to stand against violence and to protect the powerless.

For all first responders and members of the armed and foreign services and their families, especially Drew Deley, Michael Herredia, Mark Kappelmann, Maia and Tom Lainis, Will Piepenbring, Scott Ruston, Michael Strong, Jonathan Zimmerman and Steve, and their families.

God of Peace, hear us and help us!

God of Healing, give hope in your promised coming, especially for those suffering in body, mind or spirit:

Andrea, Barbara, Bob and Jane Africano, Claudia, Ceri Falk, Ann Godfrey, Frances Hailwood, Ashley Hawn, Sally Hill, Gale Lovrich, the Miles family, Molly, Marjorie Morris, Karla Nicole, Lisa Rieger, Bruce Schaefer, Anne Sharp, Steve Smith, and all those we name to you now (*please add your own prayers, silently or aloud.*)

We pray: **God of Healing, hear us and help us!**

God of Peace and Strength, we pray for those killed or injured in acts of terrorism, injustice, gun violence, abuse or prejudice of any kind, and from the consequences of diseases and natural disasters, fires and floods. We pray for the healing of those suffering from the coronavirus and those ministering to them.

We pray: **God of Peace and Strength, hear us and help us.**

God of New Life, we pray for all who have died, especially those we name to you now (*please add your prayers, silently or aloud*)... that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

God of New Life, hear us and help us!

Let us pray together:

All In you we find our true joy, O God. Let this Advent season be a time to become mindful and alert in service to your people. Open our minds, hearts and hands to receive your transforming grace.

We pray through Jesus Christ who is always coming among us. Amen.

The Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Deacon Emmanuel, we want to believe you are with us dwelling in this and every moment,

People Yet we catch ourselves longing for the past and rushing toward the future.

Deacon We want to be found wide awake, alert with love, as you appear in this and every moment,

People Yet we often slumber through, and laze away the miracle of ordinary days.

Deacon We want to wait for you alone, and seek your will in all we do, with desire and hope,

People Yet sometimes our trust fails, our longing grows cold, and our hope dims.

Deacon We want to make room in our hearts, for you to be born again,

People Yet we say or do things that hardens our hearts to you and your people.

Deacon We confess our failure at missing the mark, of not loving from our highest self.

People We are sorry and we ask your forgiveness as we journey together in this Advent season recognizing our need for you.

The Absolution

✠ Celebrant May our Gracious God, 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 May the transforming peace of Jesus Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

Hymn #19 (Presbyterian Hymnal)

Narrator: To a maid engaged to Joseph, The angel Gabriel came.

Angel: "Fear not,"

Narrator: the angel told her.

Angel: "I come to bring good news. Good news I come to tell you, Good news, I say, good news. For you are highly favored by God, the Lord of all, Who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest, You are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest!"

Narrator: But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word. What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear. To hear the angel's message, it troubled her to hear.

Angel: "Fear not, for God is with you and you shall bear a child. His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high. And He shall reign forever, forever reign on high."

Mary: "How shall this be?"

Narrator: said Mary,

Mary: "I am not yet a wife."

Narrator: The angel answered quickly,

Angel: 'The power of the Most High will come upon you shortly; Your child will be God's child.'

Narrator: As Mary heard the angel, She wondered at his words.

Mary: "Behold, I am your handmaid,"

Narrator: She said unto her God.

Mary: " So be it, I am ready according to your Word."

Singers: Mary: Jill Lynch, Narrator: Susan Tsuji, Angel: Mark Bennett

The Offertory Prayers

Celebrant Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which the earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation.

People **Blessed be God forever.**

Celebrant Receive, O Lord, these gifts presented by your holy people for the work of your holy Church.

People **Blessed be God forever.**

The Great Thanksgiving *(Eucharistic Prayer 2 from Enriching Our Worship 1, supplement to The Book of Common Prayer)*

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.**

The Celebrant continues. The People read the parts in bold.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; And yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Glory be to you, O Lord most high.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The People join in reading the text in bold.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: this is my Body, which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it,

do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with St Francis and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

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

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Invitation To Pray Together The Spiritual Communion Prayer From The National Cathedral

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Celebrant Let us pray together

All My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

The Communion of the People

Post Communion Prayer for Advent

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Holy and eternal God, you have graciously fed us with the Body and Blood of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Blessing for the Advent Season

Celebrant May the dawn of Christ's coming be the joy of your strength. May the sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; And may the blessings of God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Spirit our Sustainer, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.



The Sending Forth

Deacon Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. Measure numbers 3 and 6 are indicated at the start of the second and third staves respectively.

On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose
3
noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
6
ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther
for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Postlude: "Rorate Coeli"

Pietro Yon