



Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15, 2024 ❖ 10:00 am

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby

Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump

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. Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.

Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

Coming Events

Sunday, Dec. 15 – Advent 3

- 9:10 am Spiritual Formation Class: “Who is Jesus?”
- 11:15 am St. Anne’s Christmas Cookie Hour
- 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal

Monday, Dec. 16

- 6:30 pm Concert Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Sunday Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, Dec. 17

- 7:00 pm Taizé Service and Reception

Wednesday, Dec. 18

- 10:00 am Healing & Reconciliation Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 am Blue Bin Sorting
- 5:00 pm Good Grief Support Group

Thursday, Dec. 19 – 1:00 pm Quilters and Knitters Group

Friday, Dec. 20 – 4:00 pm St. Luke’s lunch prep

Sunday, Dec. 22 – Advent 4

- 9:10 am Spiritual Formation Class: “Who is Jesus?”
- 11:30 am Christmas Choir Rehearsal

Monday, Dec. 23

- 9:00 am to noon Altar Guild Decoration of the Church
- 7:00 pm Concert Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

- 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal: final dress rehearsal
- 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Choir Concert
- 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, Dec. 25 – 9:00 am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

For more events, dates and times, visit our church calendar:

<https://bit.ly/stfranciscalendar>

The Word of God

Please stand as able and join in singing.

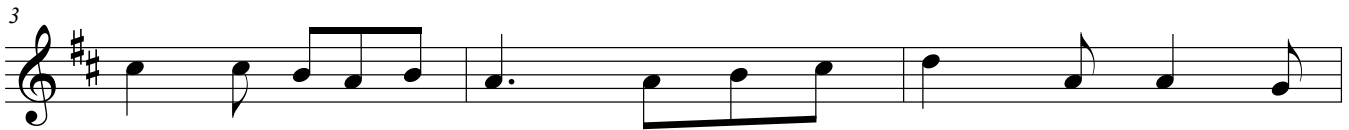
The Processional Hymn

People, Look East

Hymnal #724



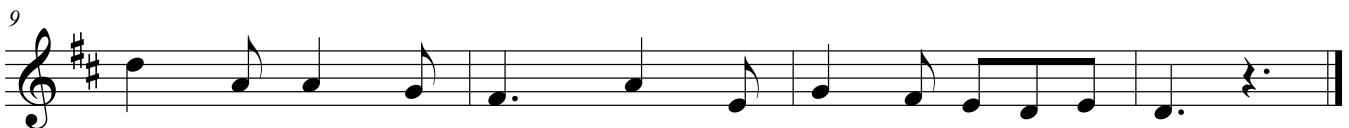
Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more
 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who



3
 crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there: give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when winds are
 light the bowl shall brim, Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley



6
 a - ble, Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple, look
 weath - er, Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



9
 East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
 East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
 East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
 East and sing to - day: Love, the star, is on the way.
 East and sing to - day: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) © 1957 Eleanor Farjeon; Reprinted by permission of Harold Ober Associates, Inc.
 Music: "Besançon Carol," harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944); harm. © 1997 John L. Hooker.

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

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

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God,
People 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.

Please remain standing as able and join in singing.

The Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Hymnal #96 (Refrain)

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol, tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.
Music: French carol, arr. Edward Shippen Branes (1887-1958).

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.*

Please be seated.

The 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.**

The First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Reader A Reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

Reader Let us read from The First Song of Isaiah responsively (the People reading the text in bold).



Sure-ly it is God who saves me; trust-ing him, I shall not fear.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944); para. of "The First Song of Isaiah,"
Copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.
Music: "Thomas Merton," Ray W. Urwin (b. 1950).

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *

and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Refrain

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Refrain

The Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

Reader A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Sequence Hymn
 Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

Hymnal#481



Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a -
 The Lord the Sa - vior reigns, the God of truth and
 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and
 Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall



dore! Mor - tals, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er -
 love: when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a -
 heaven; the keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are
 come, and take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal



more. Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Re-joyce! a-gain I say, re-
 bove. Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Re-joyce! a-gain I say, re-
 given. Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Re-joyce! a-gain I say, re-
 home. Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Re-joyce! a-gain I say, re-



joyce!
 joyce!
 joyce!
 joyce!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: "Gopsal," George Frideric Handel (1685-1759),
 arr. John Wilson (1905-1992); Arrangement Copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Company.
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Please remain standing as able.

The Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

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

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. ⁹Even 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."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."

¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort

money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Jason Shelby

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

Please stand as able and join in saying the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed

All **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, who with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

Please remain standing as able.

The Prayers of the People (the People read the responses in **bold**)

Deacon Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Please kneel or sit as able.

The Confession of Sin

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

All **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 Absolution

Celebrant 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.**

Please stand as able.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Ministers and People exchange signs of peace in the name of the Lord.

Please be seated.

The Welcome and Announcements

Anyone who has a birthday or anniversary in the next week is invited to come forward for a blessing:

All **Watch over your child(ren), O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Walk in love as Christ loves us, bring offerings of praise and thanksgiving to his table.

The Offertory Anthem

People, Look East (Besançon Carol)

arr. Malcolm Archer

*People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Guest is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as the sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Star is on the way.*

*Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.*

St. Francis Choir

The Offertory Hymn

Hark! the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

Hymnal #71

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music. The first system starts with a 3/2 time signature and ends with a 4/2 time signature. The second system starts with a 4/2 time signature and ends with a 5/2 time signature. The third system starts with a 3/2 time signature and ends with a 4/2 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes,
He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind,
Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace,

2
the Sa - vior prom - ised long;
the bleed - ing soul - to cure;
thy wel - come shall pro - claim;

3
let ev - ery heart pre - pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
and with the trea - sures of his grace to'en - rich the hum - ble poor.
and heaven's e - ter - nal arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751). Music: "Bristol," from "The Whole Booke of Psalmes," 1621.

Please stand as able.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

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:

The Sanctus

Hymnal #S-78

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord, God of power and might. Heav'n and earth are full of thy glo-ry, Ho-

san - na in the high-est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: "Forest Green," English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958).

Please kneel or stand as able as 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,

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

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 St. Francis and 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.*

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

All

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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

The Fraction Anthem

O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines

Hymnal #597

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. All Rights Reserved.
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The Invitation

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God, Holy gifts, for Holy people.

For our online community: an 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.

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)

If you have come with a particular prayer concern today, after receiving Communion you may come to the Nason Prayer Chapel to the right of the altar rail where you may light a candle and, if you wish, someone will be available to pray with you.

The Communion of the People

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the ushers. If you do not wish to receive, we encourage you to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply fold your hands across your chest when you come forward. The clergy will carry Communion to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward. Please notify an usher if you wish Communion to be brought to you. Gluten-free Communion wafers are available. If you require one of these, simply ask.

The Communion Song
Once He Came in Blessing

Hymnal #53



Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re -
Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would
Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to
One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se -
4
dress - ing; came in like - ness low - ly, Son of God most
win - us from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con -
claim him, but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him
cur - eth. Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re -
8
ho - ly; bore the cross to save - us,
vert - us: not in tor - ment hold - us,
cold - ly, he will then re - ceive thee,
lease - us; let us here con - fess - thee
12
hope and free - dom gave - us.
but in love en - fold - us.
heal thee, and for - give - thee.
till in heaven we bless - thee.

Words: Jan Roh (1485?-1547); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.

Music: "Gottes Sohn ist kommen," melody Michael Weisse (d. 1534); harm. Jack W. Burnam (b. 1946).

Please kneel or stand as able as able.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant

Let us pray.

All

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 Blessing

Celebrant Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

People **Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

Celebrant And, the blessing of God Almighty, ✚ The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit be with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Sending Forth

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Closing Hymn
 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

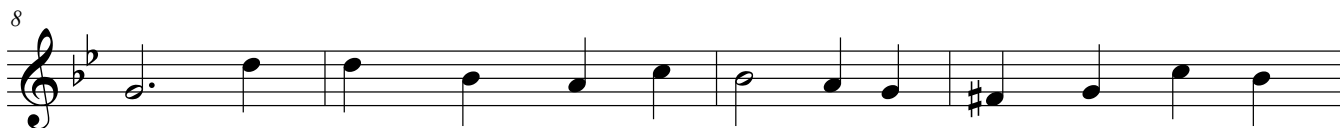
Hymnal #68



Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap -
 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - plen - ish them with
 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap -



pear! The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is
 oil; look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and
 pear; a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened



near. The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw
 toil. The mar - riage feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen
 sphere! With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to



nigh; up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the
 stand; rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at
 see the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with



cry.
 hand!
 thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.

Music: "Llangloffan," melody from "Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasaneth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru," 1865.

The Postlude

Variations on "Stuttgart"

arr. David Knight

Christmas Altar Flower Donations



Fill out this form to contribute to the Christmas decorations in our church and chapel through the giving of memorial flowers. The suggested donation is \$50.00. Please make checks payable to **St. Francis Altar Chapter** and in the memo field write **Christmas Memorial Flowers**. Place this form and your signed check in the church office or in the collection plate on Sunday. If you are giving for music and flowers, please write separate checks as directed.

Your Name: _____

Given in loving memory of: _____

Given in thanksgiving for: _____

Questions? Call the church office at 310-375-4617.

Memorials must be received by Sunday, December 17 for inclusion in the Christmas bulletins.

Christmas Music Donation



St. Francis is renowned for our outstanding music, blending centuries' old traditions of church music with newer composers right up to the present day. Our choir always welcomes new members, no audition necessary. Your generous donations help support the additional music and musicians which add to our celebratory worship as well as helping to maintain our regular year-round program. Please write separate checks for flower and music donations if giving both.

Your name: _____

Please make checks payable to **St. Francis Church** and in the memo field write **Christmas Music**. Place this form and signed check in the church office or in the collection plate on Sunday. For details, contact Dr. Mark Bennett at (617) 217-1601 or sternstag520@gmail.com.

Prayers this Week

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

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Albert, Andrea, Barbara Shelby, Billy Whelan, Bruce Schaefer, Carlos, Ceri Falk, Charlotte Baker, Chris, Chris Goldsmith, Colette Furbush, Daniel Drayling, Erica, Gail Winters, George Ginis, Hector Gutierrez, Jayne Bray, Jean Dicus, Judy Morgan, Kristen, Loren, Patt Parker, Richard Cantine, Roxanne Wall, Russell, Sally Hill, Sandy, Stephen, Tommy, Tony Lowe, for the people of the Middle East, and victims of violence everywhere.

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Our Staff

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