

ST JOSEPH'S

EPISCOPAL • CHURCH

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020 – 9:30 A.M.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Processional - Hymnal #67

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

1. Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

2. Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.

3. Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain:
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken.

Candle Lighting

Celebrant

"Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. The first candle represents HOPE, the second candle represents PEACE, and the third candle represents JOY." *The candles are lit.*

Celebrant and People

Scripture: "Isaiah 55:12 – 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."

Celebrant

Prayer: "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."

Opening Acclamation

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

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

Collect for Purity

Celebrant and People

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.

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!*

6. O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
bid thou our sad divisions cease
and be thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant

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.*

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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.

After the reading

Reader The word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 126

In convertendo

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.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

After the reading

Reader The word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn - Hymnal #66

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

4. By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

The Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

Before the Gospel reading

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

After the Gospel reading

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Nicene Creed

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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

Prayers of the People - Form III

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Silence

Concluding Collect

Celebrant

Confession

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

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.

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.

The Peace

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant

Doxology (*After the elements are prepared.*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B

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 him 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:

Sanctus – S125

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant

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,

Celebrant and People

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

Celebrant

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 [_____ 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.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Celebrant and People

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.

A period of silence is kept.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

Dear Jesus, in Advent we long for you to come into our hearts and lives. This Advent we also long for the gift of your presence in the Eucharist. Since we cannot now receive the Sacrament, we pray that you will come spiritually into our hearts and fill us with your love. Keep us close to you always. Amen.

The Celebrant invites the people to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

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.

Blessing

Recessional - *Hymnal #68*

Rejoice! Rejoice Believers

1. Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh;
up, watch in expectation! at the midnight comes the cry.
2. See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
The marriage-feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand;
rise up, ye heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!
3. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

Dismissal *The congregation responds:* Thanks be to
God.

Postlude

Announcements

Christmas Services

Please join us for one of our Christmas services.

Christmas Eve: Thurs, Dec 4, 6:30 pm
Outside or Facebook

Christmas Day: Friday, Dec 5, 10:00 am
Facebook only

Service Request

Recording for the service continues until after the postlude is finished. If you are gathering your belongings during this time, please stay quiet until Friedemann is finished playing so that voices do not record.

Christmas Poinsettias

As is our tradition, we will be using poinsettias at our Christmas services. If you would like to sign up, email the church with your loved ones name, and if it is in thanksgiving of, or in memory of. Each poinsettia is \$10.00. Deadline to submit: Tuesday, Dec 15.

Food Pantry Donations

It has come to our attention that there is a need for cereal for children and soup for seniors. If you can purchase and drop off these items, please bring them to the church and place them in the bin labeled Food Pantry.

Regathering

Be sure to register for our services online. You can do it on the website or Facebook or from the email you received earlier this week. If you cannot work the technology, call a member of our regathering team to register (Marcie Hale, 404-314-5120; Elizabeth Hayes, 404-509-4831; Sheryl Parsons, 770-957-3204; Art Richard, 706-372-6782). There is no restriction on how often you can come.

December Alms

Our Angel Tree is ready! Our angels are developmentally disabled adults who live in group homes in Henry County. Let's share the joy and love of Christmas with them!

This year, you may select an angel in person or electronically! To get the angel in person, see Marcie Hale or Kristy Coughlin after the service today. To get an angel electronically, click the Angel Tree link in the eblast. Purchase the gift(s) and return them unwrapped or in a gift bag by Dec 17. You may drop them off on Sunday after service, or Tuesdays or Thursdays. We will have a basket for drop off on those days. Monetary donations may be made as well to purchase Christmas dinner for our angels.

Visitation

Rev. Ann is available for outside visits at home or at church. If you would like to make an appointment, please call her at 703-622-2373. If she doesn't answer, leave a message and she will call you back.

Prayers of the People

We would like to offer up your petitions to God during our worship service. If you have a prayer request, please submit it on the website (stjosephsmcdonough.org/prayer). We will pull a list on Thursday at 10am, and the reader will read them on Sunday during the Prayers of the People. If you want someone mentioned for longer than one Sunday, please submit another request the following week.

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