

TRINITY CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

9:30 a.m.



WELCOME TO OUR TRINITY CHURCH FAMILY!

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We are a vibrant Episcopal family united in following Christ.

*Seeking * Growing * Serving * Embracing*

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Sarah C. Ginolfi

9:30a.m. Third Sunday of Advent – Holy Eucharist

The Word of the Lord

Prelude

Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659)

J. S. Bach

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Third Candle - the Candle of Joy

Advent wreath with 3 candles lit represents Mary the Mother of Jesus.

Celebrant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: *Thanks be to God*

Celebrant: Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

(A person lights the Candles of Hope, and Peace)

Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her, she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour." Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope, peace, and love grows joy. We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us, we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth. Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

(A person lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Joy)

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

All: *Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.*

* Opening Hymn #66

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Opening Sentences

Celebrant: Our King and Savior now draws near:

People: *Come, let us adore him.*

Trisagion S 102 - 3x sung

(service music, marked with S, is found in the front of the blue hymnal)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

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

Reader:

A reading from the book of 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People:

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

(Sung by the Choir)

Canticle 3: The Song of Mary

My soul doth magnify the Lord, *
 and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
 For he hath regarded *
 the lowliness of his handmaiden.
 For behold from henceforth *
 all generations shall call me blessed.
 For he that is mighty hath magnified me, *
 and holy is his Name.
 And his mercy is on them that fear him *
 throughout all generations.
 He hath showed strength with his arm; *
 he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 He hath put down the mighty from their seat, *
 and hath exalted the humble and meek.
 He hath filled the hungry with good things, *
 and the rich he hath sent empty away.
 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, *
 as he promised to our forefathers,
 Abraham and his seed for ever.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Reader:

A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians.

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn #73

The King shall come when morning dawns

Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People: *Glory to you, O Christ.*

Celebrant: 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.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

Sermon

The Rev. Sarah Ginolfi

The Nicene Creed (Congregation)

Officiant: Please join me in saying the ancient words Nicene Creed.

People: *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.

Intercession Prayers

Reader: God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to you in faith with thanksgiving.

We pray for one another, for our families and friends, through whom we learn to love and to be loved. **For those in our congregation celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, we pray for joyful blessings upon Ruth Lampi & Jessica van Oort, Charlene Clark, Don Raymond, Alden Franzoni, Xzavier Chipp-Blair.** Thank you for all who care for us. Give us grace to serve Christ by serving our neighbors and our community, loving others as he loves us.

Silence

Reader: We thank you for the unfailing love you hold out to everyone in Jesus Christ. Comfort and heal those in sorrow, need, sickness or any other trouble. **We pray especially for Jamie, John, Scott, The Most Reverend Michael Curry, John, Barbara, Joe, Dick, Ryah, The Right Reverend Thomas Ely, Patty, Iris, Ben, and Pat.** Give them courage and hope in their distress, and bless those who minister to them.

Silence

Reader: We remember with gratitude your many gifts to us in creation and the rich heritage of these lands. Help us and people everywhere to share with justice and peace the resources of the earth. **We pray that the children under the protection of Orphan Care Volunteers Association in Uganda receive those blessing's necessary to sustain their physical and spiritual well-being.** Give wisdom to those in authority among us and to all leaders of the nations.

Silence

Reader: We pray for your Church throughout the world, thanking you for all who serve Christ and his kingdom. We pray especially for **The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea; Ministry of Green Mountain Online Abbey, the Rev. adwoa Wilson, Vicar for Discipleship and Formation, Clergy in Charge of the Abbey.** And we pray for our priest, the Rev. Sarah Ginolfi and all our lay leaders. By your Spirit strengthen your people for their work and witness in the world. Unite us in your truth and love, that we who confess your name may also reflect your glory.

Silence

Reader: We remember with thanksgiving all who have died in Christ, **especially Janet & Neil O'Brien for whom the altar flowers have been given,** and we rejoice at the faithful witness of your saints in every age, praying that we may enter with them into the unending joy of your heavenly kingdom.

Silence

Reader: Merciful God, you look with compassion on all who turn to you. Hear the prayers of your people.

People: Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: God of all mercy, 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 the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace

Officiant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Announcements

Thank you for your financial commitment to the life of Trinity Church. Your gift helps our church family spread God's gift of love and joy with the world! Offering plates are located at the top of the center aisle and next to the side exit door. To give electronically, see the QR code in the announcements.

Offertory Anthem

Pervasive, never-absent One
Daisy Chew, clarinet

Joel Martinson

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

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 God thanks and praise.*

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: *Glory to you for ever and ever.*

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: *By your will they were created and have their being.*

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: *Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.*

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: *By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.*

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus S 124

All: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.*

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Holy Communion

- Celebrant: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."
- Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
- People: *We remember his death and celebrate his resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.*
- Celebrant: God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of our Mothers: God of Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.
- People: *Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.*
- Celebrant: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

- Celebrant: And now, as our 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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Fraction S 152

- Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
- People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

The Invitation

- Celebrant: 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.

You are welcome at God's table! To join in this sacred meal, proceed up the center aisle and either stand or kneel along the railing. The inside rows go first up the center aisle and then the outside rows dismiss to the back of the church and then up the center aisle. If that's too far a walk, please come to the railing in whatever way you are most able or alert an usher if you wish to receive communion in your seat. There are two options to receive the wine: by sharing from the common chalice (cup) or by intinction (dipping the wafer) into the Communion Bowl. Please do not use the common cup for dipping. Gluten free wafers and/or grape juice are available upon request. Finally, those wishing to receive a blessing instead of Communion are invited to cross their arms as a signal to the priest.

Communion Anthem

Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland

16th cent. German
organ variations by Hugo Distler

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.*

Blessing

Celebrant: Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may the blessing of the Holy Trinity, One God, be with you always. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn #640

Watchman, tell us of the night

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: *Thanks Be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Postlude

Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland (BWV 661)

J. S. Bach

*Exiting: Your presence is a blessing! Thank you for this gift.
There are waste bins at each exit for communion container disposal.*

** We save paper by using the blue hymnal book rather than printing hymns in the bulletin. The Hymnal 1982 uses masculine pronouns for God since that was customary at the time of its printing. Those worshipping, however, are welcome to substitute gender neutral pronouns for God when singing or speaking if that better honors your practice.*