



# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Offering Companionship along the Way*

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2022

**Prelude** Organ Improvisation on *Psalm 42*

**Opening Hymn 67** Comfort, comfort ye my people

*Psalm 42*

**Candle Lighting Hymn 56 vss. 5, 6** O come, O come, Emmanuel

*Veni, veni Emmanuel*

### THE WORD OF GOD

*Pastor* Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**Holy God: Trisagion Hymnal S 102**

Alexander Archangelsky

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

*Pastor* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Pastor* Let us pray together our collect.

**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.**

**A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools,  
shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

**Psalm 146:4-9**

*Plainsong, Mode 1.7*

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!

**A Reading from the Letter of James 5:7-10**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

**Gradual Hymn 75** There's a voice in the wilderness crying

*Ascension*

*Priest*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 11:2-11  
*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. Heidi Truax

**A time of Silent Reflection**

**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**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Jeffrey and Laura our Bishops, for all the lay and ordained ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness we may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those on our parish cycle of prayer, Richard Stone, Alan Swide, Helen Symons and Rachel Greenwood and for their families, and for all who live and work in our communities, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, all who suffer and those who have asked for our prayers (*we read from the list and leave time for people to add names;*) for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church (*we read from the list and leave time for people to add names,*) and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all the blessings of our lives especially all we lift up in prayer at this time (*we leave time to lift up our thanksgivings.*) Give us grateful hearts, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**To you, O Lord our God.**

## **The Confession**

**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.**

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.**

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

### Announcements

**Offertory Hymn 272, vss. 1, 2, 4** The great forerunner of the morn *The Truth From Above*

**Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3** Praise God from whom all blessings flow *Old 100th*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Priest* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Priest* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout for joy:

### Holy, holy, holy Lord *Sanctus*

Christine Gevert  
November 2016

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you call a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

Fraction Anthem *Christ our Passover*

Christine Gevert  
November 2016

Christ our Pass - ov - er is sa - cri -  
ficed for us, there - fore let us keep the feast.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: "Christ our Pass - ov - er is sa - cri - ficed for us, there - fore let us keep the feast."

## Distribution of Holy Communion at floor level

*We offer wine and grape juice, blessed*

Communion Hymn 320 Zion, praise thy Savior, singing

*Lauda Sion Salvatorem*

## Postcommunion Prayer

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Blessing

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us, so be quick to love and make haste to be kind. And may the blessing of the One who made us, the One who loves us, and the One who travels with us, be with you and those you love this day and always. **Amen**

*Henri-Frederic Amiel (1821-1881)*

Final Hymn 493 O for a thousand tongues to sing

*Azmon*

## The Dismissal

Postlude Improvisation on tune *Azmon*

*The greens on the altar this season are given by Fran Colombo, Fred and Sally Harris, and by Eleanore Boyse, who gives them in the memory of her sister, Jacqueline Kuhn.*

## Serving Today

*Rector:* The Rev. Heidi Truax

*Music Director:* Christine Gevert

*Minister of Communion:* Mary Anne Carley

*Lector:* Emma Sisk

*Epistoler:* Michelle Sisk

*Intercessor:* Jim Conzo

*Altar Guild:* Bev Becker

*Advent Greens:* Tom Schindler

*Counter:* Martha Nesbitt

*Usher:* Brennan Sisk and Mike Cuoco

*Verger:* Geoff Brown

## Announcements

- Today** 12 Noon Vestry meeting  
4:00 PM Crescendo Holiday Concert *Resonet in Laudibus*
- Sunday, Dec. 18** Trinity Christmas Pageant *The Worried Wiseman*
- Saturday, Dec. 24** 4:00 PM Christmas eve service  
6:30 PM Misa de Nochebuena
- Sunday, Dec. 25** no 8 AM service  
10:30 AM Christmas Day service
- Dec. 26—Jan. 3** Pastor Heidi takes time with family
- Thurs., Dec. 29** 5:30 PM Crescendo Concert *Story of Hope in the voice of the New World*
- Sunday, Jan. 1** No 8 AM Service  
10:30 AM Service of Lessons and Carols



- Mondays** 7:00 PM Crescendo Rehearsal
- Tuesdays** 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous in Walker Hall
- Wednesdays** Services at Noble Horizons, Geer Nursing, Geer Lodge  
6:00 PM on first and last Wednesday of the month, Women's AA in Walker Hall
- Thursdays** 1:00 PM Bible Study on Zoom. **Dec. 15th is the last session until January 8.**
- Saturdays** 9:00 AM till Noon—Bookkeeper, Nancy Hiller is in the office

*Please remember that we are filming this service  
and wait to have private conversations until after you have left the nave.*

### **Music Credits for Live Stream**

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