

# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Offering Companionship along the Way*

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023



**Prelude** Organ improvisation on tune *Winchester New*

**Opening Hymn 76** On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

*Winchester New*

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

*Veni, veni Emmanuel*

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

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

*Pastor* 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.**

**Holy God: Hymnal S 102** Trisagion

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 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.

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

**The Song of Mary: Hymnal S 242 *Magnificat***

Bruce E. Ford

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

**A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the 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.

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

**Gradual Hymn 69** What is the crying at the Jordan?

*St. Mark's*

*Pastor* The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to John 1:6-8, 19-28  
*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.

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Heidi Truax

**Moment of silence for 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

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Diocesan Bishops Jeffrey and Laura; for this gathering and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and we continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia, and the people of Israel and Gaza. We lift up prayers for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. (*We read from the book and leave time for names to be added.*) Pray for those in any need or trouble.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of the Holy. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

I ask your prayers for the departed (*we read from the book and leave time for names to be added.*) Pray for those who have died.

On our parish cycle of prayer, I ask your prayers for Stephanie Barrett, Patricia and Steve Barton, for Stuyvie Bearn and for their families.

I ask you to lift up in prayer all those things for which you are thankful today...(*we leave time for thanksgivings to be added.*)

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. **Amen.**

## 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.**

## The Absolution

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.**

*Pastor*        The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

## Announcements

**Offertory Hymn 65** Prepare the way, O Zion

*Bereden väg för Herran*

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

*Old 100th*

## THE 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.**

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:

**Holy, holy, holy: Hymnal S 124 Sanctus**

David Hurd, b. 1950

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**

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.**

**Lamb of God: Hymnal S 161** Agnus Dei

David Hurd, b. 1950

*Here at Trinity we welcome you to take communion with us if you seek a relationship with Jesus. You may drink from the chalice, or you may intinct your wafer. Or, if you prefer, you may receive communion in one kind only, the wafer. We offer wheat and gluten free wafers, wine and grape juice. If you do not care to take communion but would like a blessing, please also come forward and ask Pastor Heidi for a blessing.*

**Communion Hymn 313** Let thy Blood in mercy poured

*Jesus, meine Zuversicht*

### **Postcommunion Prayer**

**Grant, we beseech you, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day, may through your grace, be grafted inwardly in our hearts. May the sacrament that we have received today, through your grace, be our sustenance. And may we be filled with patient expectation for the celebration of the Incarnation of our Lord. Through God who is our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

Rejoice in the Lord; pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances. Do not quench the Spirit. Hold fast to what is good and abstain from all evil. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn 59** Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

*Merton*

### **The Dismissal**

*Pastor* Let us bless the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Organ improvisation on tune *Merton*

*The Advent greens this morning are given to the glory of God.*

## Serving Today

*Rector:* The Rev. Heidi Truax  
*Music Director:* Christine Gevert  
*Minister of Communion:* Mary Anne Carley  
*Lector:* TBD  
*Epistoler:* TBD  
*Intercessor:* Roy Bickley  
*Altar Guild:* Theresa Kenny  
*Altar Greens:* Heather Chapman  
*Counter:* Martha Nesbitt  
*Greeter/Usher:* Roy Bickley  
*Verger:* Geoff Brown

## Announcements

- Today** 12 Noon Vestry Meeting  
4:00 PM Crescendo Concert “Carols for the Earth”
- Sunday, Dec. 24** 8:00 AM Advent 4 and Christmas Eve Eucharist (no music)  
3:00 PM Choral Prelude  
3:30 PM Christmas Eve principle service
- Monday, Dec. 25** 10:00 AM Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols
- Dec. 26-Jan 2** Pastor Heidi is on vacation. Please contact Linda Lloyd, Sr. Warden in case of Pastoral emergency.
- Sunday, Dec. 31** 8:00 AM Morning Prayer  
10:30 AM Carol Sing (you choose carols from a list of available) & Readings

## Weekly Schedule

- Mondays** 6:30 PM Crescendo rehearsal in Walker Hall
- Tuesdays** 9:00 AM to 12 Noon Taichi Chuan with Christopher Kiely in Walker Hall  
Chris has established classes, and if you are experienced, you may join.  
If you are looking for an introduction to Taichi,  
Christopher will begin those classes in a while.
- 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 Book Study on Zoom *The Church Cracked Open* by Stephanie Spellers
- Saturdays** 9:00 AM till Noon—Bookkeeper, Nancy Hiller is in the office every other Sat.



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