

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 a.m.

December 13, 2020



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

Welcome to the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth.
Wherever you are on your faith journey, we are delighted you are here and we welcome you into fellowship with all who seek the presence of Christ in their lives.

Through the Season of Advent, please join us in beginning our worship services with prayer and contemplation, observing the incense that thickens the air, reminding us the Holy Spirit is with us. Observe the lit candle on the Advent wreath, helping us mark time as we anticipate Christ's birth anew in our hearts and lives. Join in the singing of the Taize refrain that calls our attention to the ongoing need for justice and peace for all God's children.

The Third Advent Candle

The third Advent candle is a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another. For God rejoices over us with gladness and renews us in divine love. God exults over us with singing and turns our shame to praise.

Opening Meditation

The Kingdom of God

The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and
 joy in the Ho - ly Spir - it. Come, Lord, and
 o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom.

Text: Taizé Community
Tune: Taizé Community
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The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God 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 forever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

The People sit for

The First Lesson: 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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15 (*Spoken in unison*)
The Song of Mary Magnificat

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.**

The Second Lesson: 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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Procession

O come, O come Emmanuel (vss. 1, 7)

HYMN 56

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!

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*

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (1:6-8, 19-28)
People **Glory to you, O 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.

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

The Homily

The Rev. Canon Linda Taylor

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;
who with the Father and the Son 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.**

The Prayers of the People

Presider With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray, saying "Christ, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; Scott, our bishop; and for all bishops, ministers and lay leaders, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For Donald, our President; Joe, our President-elect; Greg, our Governor; and Betsy, our Mayor; for those who serve in the military and all first responders, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For healthcare providers and support staff worldwide and the patients in their care; for the aged and infirm, for refugees and victims; for the sick and the suffering; and for those we now name, _____, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray.
Christ, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray.
Christ, have mercy.

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to God. **To thee, Almighty God.**

Celebrant: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**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 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 Lord's Prayer

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

Celebrant The Peace of the Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Blessing

May the God of hope, fill you.

May the God of joy, overflow you.

May the God of peace, pour you into the world.*

May God Almighty: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer bless and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace seeking justice for all God's children.

People **Thanks be to God**

Postlude

**Race and Prayer: Collected Voices, Many Dreams.* Malcolm Boyd and Chester Talton, editors. 2003.

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