

ST. JAMES' ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday December 15th, 2024

Holy Eucharist & Anointing - 10am

Celebrant: Ven. John Anderson

Director of Music: Jeff Campbell

Music for hymns not in hymn book available at the back of the church.

Prelude: "A Festive Medley"

The Yuletide Brass Quintet

Processional Hymn: "Hark the Glad Sound"

Richmond

V1

Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song!

V2

You come the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held; the
gates of brass before you burst, the iron fetters yield.

V3

You come the broken heart to bind, the wounded soul to cure, to
bring the treasures of God's grace, good tidings for the poor.

V4

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's eternal arches ring with your most honoured name.

Welcome

Gathering of the Community

We come from a world of darkness
Into Christ's world of light.

We come from a world of weariness
Into God's strength and hope, peace, and joy.

We come from the slumbering world
Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ.

Almighty God, **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of 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.**

Trisagion# 707 (CP) Sung 3x

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy on us.

Gathering Prayer

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004)*

Advent Candle Lighting

The Candle of Joy

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Last week, we lit the first two candles in our Advent wreath; the candles represent hope and peace (*the first two candles are lit*). This morning we light the third candle, the candle that represents joy. We live in a world longing for joy: a joy that releases silence that erupts into laughter and singing, a joy that opens a spirit blocked by disappointment, and joy that dreams beyond all constraints.

(The third candle is lit.)

Knowing the need for God in our own lives and in this despairing world, we light this candle as a symbol of the joy promised in the coming of Jesus.

Hymn "Hope is a Star"

Wren/Fogg

V3

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Saviour is born. When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

Proclamation of the Word

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH 3.14-20

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS 4.4-7

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation Hymn 107 (CP) "Prepare the Way of the Lord"
Prepare The Way

The Gospel Luke 3.7-18

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gospel Acclamation Hymn 107 "Prepare the Way of the Lord"
prepare the Way

Sermon Archdeacon John Anderson

Musical Selection

The Yuletide Brass Quintet

Prayers of the People

Mae Cox, Lay-Reader

Offertory Hymn #91 (CP) "People Look East!"

Busancon

Prayer over the Gifts

God our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer #2 (BAS pg. 196)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

**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.**

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread No. 5

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.
Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

The Communion

The gifts of God the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Agnus Dei #(745 CP)

B. Senchur

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace.

Music During Communion:

"Longing for Light"

Christ Be Our Light

V1

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today!

V2

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us, make us your living voice.

Refrain

V3

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Refrain

V4

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Refrain

V5

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

Refrain

Hymn #425 (CP) "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" *Hymn To Joy*

Prayer after Communion

God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of Man. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

Glory to God

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn #88 (CP) "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"
Stuttgart

Blessing

Announcements

Dismissal

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves! And go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Benediction "May the Blessing of God Be Upon You"

W. Wright

May the blessing of God be upon you. May God's love light all your way. May the grace of Christ enfold you and peace around you stay. May the Spirit of God dwell within you. May you live in JOY each day!

Postlude "A Seasonal Selection"

The Yuletide Brass Quintet

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