



# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2020 · 9:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

*Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square.*

**PRELUDE:** Symphonie from *Noëls en Trio* Michel-Richard de Lalande  
(1657–1726)  
Margaret Owens & Sarah Weiner, recorders

## RECTOR'S WELCOME

### HYMN 68

*Rejoice, rejoice, believers*

*Please stand as the procession enters.*

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!  
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;  
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;  
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

The Reverend Robert W. Fisher  
*Rector*

The Reverend Savannah Ponder  
*Associate Rector*

The Reverend William Morris  
*Assisting Priest for Engaging  
Faith and the Workplace*

Kaye Edwards  
*Assistant for  
Church Growth*

Brent Erstad  
*Director of Music and Organist*

Samantha Scheff  
*Associate Organist*

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.  
Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865  
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## THE WORD OF GOD

*Please continue to stand.*

**Priest:** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Priest:** 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.

**People:** **Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*As the first three candles of the Advent Wreath is lit, the following prayer is said by all.*

**Priest and People:**

**Holy and Gracious God, we pray that as we light this candle so, too, will a fire of Hope be kindled in our hearts. May we hold this Hope gently, as we are urged to stay awake and be ready for a most amazing event! As we prepare to receive the Christ Child, may we be ever-mindful of our love for you, and yours for us. This will keep the flames of Hope burning in this Advent season. We pray all this in the name of Emmanuel. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

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

**Priest:** Let us pray.

**Priest:** 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.

**People:** **Amen.**

## THE READING

*Please be seated.*

*Read by Andrew Clarke.*

**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.**

## PSALM 126

*Read by Laurie Adams.*

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Tone VI*

Alleluia.  
Stir up thy strength, O Lord:  
and come and help us.  
Alleluia.

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

**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.

**Gospeller:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**THE SERMON**

**The Rev. Robert W. Fisher**

*Please be seated.*

**Preacher and People:**

**God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.**

*Please stand.*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM IV)**

*Led by Anthony Pegues.*

**Leader:** Let us pray for the Church and for the world, responding with the words "Hear our prayer."

**Leader:** Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy.

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** For the communities of St. John's and our companion relationships with the *Anglican Church of Southern Africa\** and *the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem*, and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for *St. John's Church, Georgetown*. For *Michael*, our Presiding Bishop, for our Bishops, *Mariann* and *Chilton*, and for all bishops and other ministers. Lord, in your mercy.

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. For *Donald*, our President, *Joseph*, President-elect, the leaders of *Congress*, the *Supreme Court*, and for all who serve our country. Lord, in your mercy.

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy.

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. For those celebrating a birthday this week, especially *Charles Bader, Bob Beizer, Linda Gaines, Debby Hailey, Geraldine Hayhurst, Joanne Hutton, Paul Kallaur, Alan Kirk, Emmanuel Lagera, Grant Lucio, Kelly Mufarrige, Jason Munro, Randall Roe, Marie Sadqi, Sandy Sierck*, and *Lucie Vogel*; for those celebrating an anniversary this week, especially *Lisa and James Kirchenbauer* and *Nayla and Michael Mengel*. Lord, in your mercy.

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially *Jimmy Lowe* who is in hospice care; and those who are sick and who are shut-ins. For the people of the *Middle East, Latin America, and all affected by the coronavirus*. Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy.

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy.

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Priest:** Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

\* In particular, the Kwasa Centre in the Diocese of the Highveld.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Priest:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Priest and People:*

**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.**

## ABSOLUTION

*Priest:* 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.

*People:* Amen.

## THE PEACE

*Priest:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* And also with you.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Rejoice in the Lord always*

Henry Purcell  
(1659–1695)

Lisa Koehler, cantor

Rejoice in the Lord always,  
and again I say rejoice.  
Let your moderation be known unto all men.  
The Lord is at hand.

### A PRAYER FOR STEWARDSHIP

*Priest and People:*

**Gracious and everlasting God, the giver of all good gifts, you have blessed us and our parish abundantly. Grant us the hope to dream and the courage to live into our possibilities. Make us faithful stewards, both for the provision of our necessities and for the relief of those who are in need. Bless the efforts of our Annual Giving this year to extend the work of spiritual renewal in our church and community of faith. Through Jesus Christ, who gave all of himself, we offer this prayer. Amen.**

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Please remain standing.*

**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.**

**Priest:** 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:

## SANCTUS (S-125)

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

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*Please stand or kneel.*

**Priest:** 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Priest and People:**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**Priest:** 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.

**People:** Amen.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Priest:** And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Priest and People:**

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

**Priest:** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People:** **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**Priest:** 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.

All persons, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. During this time, our practice will be to offer the bread and the wine following health guidelines. An usher will provide communicants with hand sanitizer before the priest (who has washed his or her hands immediately prior) places a blessed wafer into your hands. Take a few steps, remove your mask, and consume the wafer. Blessed wine in small paper cups on a tray will be offered by a lay server.

After drinking the wine, place the cup in the basket at the end of the line.

Receiving the bread only is a valid way to share in Holy Communion. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. Children may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.

## MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION

**Anthem** *Never weather-beaten sail*

Thomas Campion  
(1567–1620)

Lisa Koehler, cantor

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,  
never tired pilgrim limbs affected slumber more,  
Than my weary spirit now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:  
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest!

Ever blooming are the joys of heav'n's high Paradise,  
Old age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes:  
Glory there the sun outshines; whose beams the Blessèd only see:  
O come quickly, come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my soul to Thee!

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Please stand.*

**Priest:** Let us pray.

**Priest and People:**

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

**Priest:** Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**People:** Amen.

## THE DISMISSAL

**Priest:** Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** *Nun Komm der heiden heiland*, BWV 659  
Savior of the nations, come

J.S. Bach

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**ASSISTING AT THE 9:00 A.M. SERVICE TODAY:** Matt Bode, *Crucifer*; Debby Hailey, *Lay Minister*; The Raab Family (Katherine, Scott, Molly, and Lauren), *Advent Wreath Lighters*; Jamie Finch and Joanne Hutton, *Flower Guild*; Anthony Pegues and Rick Young, *Ushers*.

**THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH** are given to the glory of God.





## *Welcome!*

AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, we believe Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus' call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God's work in the world.

ST JOHN'S WAS ORGANIZED IN 1815 to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John's is often referred to as the "Church of the Presidents." Pew 54 is the President's Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John's were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

BROCHURES DESCRIBING PARISH LIFE, the history of St. John's, and the Episcopal denomination can be found in the church entrance. If you are visiting, please fill out the visitor information card found at the end of each pew to enable us to welcome you personally into the life of our parish.

ST JOHN'S WEBSITE [WWW.STJOHNS-DC.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNS-DC.ORG) has up-to-date information about the Church including the weekly calendar, the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, the music calendar and newsworthy events.

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### *Vestry*

Paul Barkett, *Senior Warden*

Jeff Hantson, *Junior Warden*

Laurie Adams, Andrew Clarke,  
Carolyn Crouch, Lauren Edwards,  
Martha Ellison, Peter Odom, Anthony  
Pegues, Scott Raab, Nora Rigby,  
Jessica Sanchez, Desirée Stolar,  
and Carl Ward.

Casey Evans, *Treasurer*

Sara McGanity, *Assistant Treasurer*

Andrew Tomlinson, *Secretary*

Christopher R. Wall, *Parish Counsel*

### *Head Usher*

James H. Czerwonky

### *Staff*

Kim Carlson  
*Director for Operations*

Preston Cherouny  
*Financial Secretary*

Sharlyne Griffin  
*Receptionist*

R. J. Gravina  
*Program Coordinator*

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant and David Gamboa,  
*Assistant Sextons*

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### **Parish House**

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