

Welcome to
St. John's Episcopal Church
Chula Vista, CA

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020
9:00 am

Livestreamed worship service

*No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here*



Prelude

Opening Hymn

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Hymnal 76, vs. 1, 4, 5

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living God.

People: **You come to your people and set them free. Amen. Alleluia.**

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

Trisagion

Hymnal S-102

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: 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 for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126 *In convertendo*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

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.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Hymnal 56

A musical score for a three-part setting of the hymn. The top part is in soprano, the middle in alto, and the bottom in bass. The music consists of three staves of five-line staff paper. The soprano part begins with a dotted half note, followed by a whole note, a half note, another half note, a whole note, and a half note. The alto part begins with a half note, followed by a whole note, a half note, another half note, a whole note, and a half note. The bass part begins with a half note, followed by a whole note, a half note, another half note, a whole note, and a half note. The lyrics are: "O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Re-joice! Re-joice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!" The music features several grace notes and slurs.

The Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A musical score for a hymn. The notation is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in soprano range, primarily on the A4 and G5 notes. The lyrics are: "Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!" The music consists of a single line of notes on a five-line staff, with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end.

Sermon

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

We pray for the holy Church of God in all places;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you with love;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, and all who minister with joy;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us the grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

We pray that those who suffer from any grief or trouble may find a sense of hope; especially those on our parish prayer list;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Together let us pray for those serving in the armed forces, first responders, medical professionals, essential workers and their families

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces, first responders, medical professionals, essential workers and their families. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and challenges; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider: Almighty and eternal God, hear the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will that we may be ready and waiting when you come to us in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Confession of Sin

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***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.***

Presider: 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.***

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

Greet one another in the Name of Christ, or name those whom you hold dear in your heart

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

Blessing of The Daughters of the King Cross

The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*You may offer your gift by mail or stop by the parish office,
Or online by using the "Give Now" button on our St. John's website: www.saint-johns.org*

Offertory Anthem

A General Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.

We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. ***Amen.***

Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior 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, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

Spiritual Communion

Spiritual Communion is an ancient practice of the church. St. Thomas Aquinas (b. 1225) once defined it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and in lovingly embracing Him as if we had actually received Him." So even though we may not receive Communion physically, we may receive Christ spiritually.

Blessed Jesus, I believe that we are fed with the spiritual food of your Body and Blood. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally today, I now desire to receive you into my soul. Unite my heart with those of my community gathered to offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and make us all one with you. May this spiritual communion strengthen my faith and grant me confidence in your loving care now and forever. Amen.

Concluding Collect

God of justice and peace,
From the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness,
that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder
before your marvelous deeds.
Raise our heads in expectation,
that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord
and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Crist,
who lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Presider: May the Son of God, who comes to us, bring you the light of his holiness and the blessing of freedom. **Amen.**

May God make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and untiring in love all the days of your life. **Amen.**

May God our redeemer, when he comes again in glory, reward you with endless life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn*Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding*

Hymnal 59, vs. 1, 4, 5

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,
1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end-ing a - ges run.

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Liturgical Ministers

Presider/Preacher	Rev. Roger Haenke
Gospeller	Rev. Cathey Dowdle
Reader	Pamela Brittain
Prayers of the People	Diane Gustafson
Spiritual Communion	Rev. Cathey Dowdle
Psalmist/Vocalist	Jane Ferguson, Jeff Bates
Organist	Cheryl Seppala
Livestream and Sound	Cliff Berkowitz

St. John's Mission Statement

St. John's is a Christian community that intentionally gathers to experience God's love through Episcopal worship, education, fellowship, and ministry to the wider community.

St. John's Prayer Lists

Today and every day include some time for prayer, for yourself, for your church family, and for those in need.

For Our Military

Matt Jensen, Drew Shorkey, Cody Crossland, Cameron Ronie, Chariti Paden, Mark Stanfield, Sean Robinson, Jonathan Martinez, TK Nguyen, Christopher Lindshield, Timothy Lindshield, Jeremy Colton, David Sanchez, Jonathan Baldera, Nick Wyatt, Jamal Warner, Matt Hernandez, Daniel Getreu, Jocelyn Hernandez, Devon Strunk, Taylor Harrold, Jorge Zuazua, Katherine Milam, Sebastian Morales, Richie Lebron and Roberto Johnson.

For Strength in Time of Need

Scott Hunter, Betty Robertson, Brian Elly, Edward Thomas, Anne Marie Mackay, Bernie Duignan, Jeff Walker, Christy Gollihir, Judith Malear, Gloria Attaway, Dyan Wyatt, Marla Wyatt, the Milam family and Steve Magill.

For the repose of the soul of Debbie Milam.
May light perpetual shine on her.

*(Names are kept on the Prayers List for 4 weeks and should be submitted by Wednesday.
If you wish to add a name, please email Maria Love at: maria@saint-johns.org.)*

We Are Available in Your Time of Need

If you have a pastoral emergency when the parish offices are closed, please call Rev. Roger at 619-301-0724 or email revroger@saint-johns.org

St. John's Clergy	St. John's Vestry
The Rev. Roger Haenke, <i>Rector</i>	David Dennehy, <i>Senior Warden</i> (619) 840-9994 masterfrog@att.net
The Rev. Cathey Dowdle	Terry Farrelly, <i>Treasurer</i> Diane Gustafson, <i>Clerk</i> Pamela Brittain Tom Brzeczek Ray Contreras Muriel Kulikowski Jim McDevitt Judy McKay Lynn Young

St. John's Episcopal Church
760 First Avenue Chula Vista, CA 91910-6012
(619) 422-4141
Email: maria@saint-johns.org
www.saint-johns.org