



St. Francis
Episcopal Church

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

8:00AM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Opening Acclamation	BCP p356
The Collect for Purity	
Gloria	BCP p356
The Collect of the Day	
The First Reading	Isaiah 35:1-10
<i>Magnificat</i>	BCP p91
The Second Reading	James 5:7-10
The Gospel	Matthew 11:2-11
The Sermon	The Rev. Dr. Andrew Harmon
The Nicene Creed	BCP p358
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THE HOLY COMMUNION

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THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

10:30 A.M.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

The Gallagher Family

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Love.

In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

The Third Advent Candle is lit.

Leader: Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:
All: Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. Amen

THE WORD OF GOD

Please stand, sung by all.

OPENING HYMN: *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!*

Hymnal 438

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP p355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP p355

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.**

Sung by all.

TRISAGION

Hymnal S-101

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

A reading from the Letter of James:

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.**People:** Thanks be to God.*Please stand, sung by all.***GRADUAL HYMN:** *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Hymnal 56, vs. 7-8

*Please stand.***THE HOLY GOSPEL****Matthew 11:2-11**

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Harmon

Please stand.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP p358

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.

Please kneel and respond to the bidding “Let us pray to the Lord” with “Lord have mercy.”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP p360

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 PEACE

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

People: And also with you.

Please be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Nova, Nova! Ave Fit Ex Eva*

Glenn Rudolph
15th-Century

(News, news, Ave comes from Eve)

1. Gabriel of high degree, He was sent from the trinity to Nazareth in Galilee. (News, news, Ave comes from Eve)
2. He met a maiden in that place: There he knelt down before her face and said,
“Hail Mary, full of grace.” (News, news, Ave comes from Eve)
3. When the maiden heard this song she was filled with confusion strong and feared
That she had done a wrong. (News, news, Ave comes from Eve)
4. Said the angel, “Have no fear, by conception without compare the Savior
Jesus you shall bear.” (News, news, Ave comes from Eve)
5. Said the Maiden, “Verily, I am your servant right truly, the handmaid
of the Lord now see. (News, news, Ave comes from Eve)

Please stand.

OFFERTORY

Hymnal 380, v. 3

Please remain standing.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP p367

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the Celebrant and the People, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff is for the Celebrant and the People, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "It is right to give him thanks and praise."

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please kneel.

SANCTUS

Hymnal S-125

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B CONTINUES

BCP p368

Celebrant: ...Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

People: We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.

Celebrant: ...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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p364

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.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S-171

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive a blessing in lieu of communion, cross your arms over your chest and the priest will give you a blessing. If you are physically unable to approach the altar rail and desire communion, please let an usher know and s/he will tell the priest.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

*Savior of the nations, come
On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Watchman, tell us of the night*

Hymnal 54
Hymnal 76
Hymnal 640

Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP p366

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

Please stand, sung by all.

CLOSING HYMN: *Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding*

Hymnal 59

THE DISMISSAL

BCP p366

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

THE ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God; in loving memory of her husband, John Achey, and their son Jamie, by Virginia Achey and her family; and in loving memory of Kurt Van Tine by Carol Van Tine.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

MINISTERING TO THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED is an important part of the ministry of St. Francis Church. If you know of a parishioner who is sick or in need, please notify the church office. St. Francis has an intercessory prayer group which prays for those listed below and for those who choose not to be listed below but who want prayer. A purple prayer card, found in the pew, may be filled out to make a private or public request.

OUR PRAYERS are requested for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially:

Those In Need Of Prayers:

Keith, Kristen, Laura, Lois, Michael and family, Ruby, Scott, Shannon, Natalie Allen, Alan Arnold and family, Betty Barry and the family of Dennis Barry, family and friends of Frances Belmore, Jim and Peggy Clark, Claudia and Ken Clarke and the family of Florine Crutchlow, Robbie Gandy (brother of Carolyn Saunders), Kristy and Chris Girardi, Maria Griffin, the Harrill family, Danny Hall, John and Kathie Huff and the family of Randolph Huff, Jim and Beverly Isaacs, Molly O'Tuel Johnson, Volenna Jones (mother of Gina Wehe), Catherine Kresken, Brad Mack, Ryan Marion, Heather and Eric Meyler, family and friends of George Montgomery, Tim Murowski, Julianne Murray, Mariana Newton, Michael John O'Neal, family and friends of Brian Orzechowski, Deb Parker, Claudia Reich, Jo Roberson, Holly Roberts, Pamela Muñoz Roberts, Martin Robertson, The Rev. Mike Schnatterly, Laura Shinn, Sharon Shoaf and the family of Michael Guastella, Tim and Wanda Snider (parents of Felicia Cole), Cathy Sternbergh, Patrick Suits, Lorraine Taylor, Cindy Uzzell, Fred Warnecke, Philip Weathersbee, Dorinda Whitty, Doris, Gary and Marilyn Williams, Helene and Kirk Williams, and Katherine Woody.

Those Serving in the Armed Forces and First Responders:

Will, Lt. Rick Battle, Sgt. Thomas Earls, Justin Gray, Steve Lynch, Ana and Devin McMahan, Michael McNeil, Edward Savich, Dep. Allen Upson, Sgt. David Upson, Maj. Ben Watson, and their families.

Please help us keep these lists updated by contacting the clergy at St. Francis via email as soon as you can with corrections, additions, and updates on status.



CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY SERVICES

DECEMBER 22

8 a.m. Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant

12 p.m. Greening of the church

DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

6 p.m. & 11 p.m.

DECEMBER 25

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE &
BLESSING OF THE TOYS**

10 a.m.

DECEMBER 29 SERVICES

8 a.m. Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Eucharist

JANUARY 5 SERVICES

8 a.m. Eucharist

**10:30 a.m. Festival of Nine Lessons
& Carols (no Eucharist)**

**5 p.m. Epiphany service and
dinner (Parish Hall)**

FALL-WINTER-SPRING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

From the Sunday after Labor Day through the Sunday before Memorial Day Weekend (September 8-May 17), Holy Eucharist is celebrated at **8:00am and 10:30am**. The nursery is available from **9:00am–12:00pm**.

On the first Sunday of each month, the church offers a Contemporary Service held in the Parish Hall from **9:15-10:15am**.

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Please call the church office to schedule meetings on campus at (336) 288-4721.

Sunday, December 15th

8:00am Holy Eucharist, Sermon by The Rev. Dr. Andrew Harmon
9:15am Advent Book Study (Parish Hall)
10:00am Senior Choir Warm-up (Choir Loft)
10:30am Sunday School
10:30am Holy Eucharist, Sermon by The Rev. Dr. Andrew Harmon
4:30pm Junior Choir Practice
5:30pm Youth Group Family Christmas Party (St. Mike's)

Monday, December 16th

7:00pm Outreach (Red Room)

Tuesday, December 17th

7:00pm Explorations: DaVinci Code (Parish Hall)

Wednesday, December 18th

9:00am Roustabouts
Book Sorting (Book Depository)
11:00am St. Clare Women (Parish Hall)
1:00pm Piecemakers (St. Mike's)
5:30p.m. Friars (Parish Hall or St. Mike's)
6:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Gold Room)
7:00pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Thursday, December 19th

12:00pm Lectionary at Lunch (Gold Room)

Friday, December 20th

7:00am Men's Bible Study (A Special Blend)

Saturday, December 21st

9:00am Book Sorting (Book Depository)

Sunday, December 22nd

8:00am Holy Eucharist, Sermon by The Rev. Dr. Andrew Harmon
9:15am Advent Book Study (Parish Hall)
10:00am Senior Choir Warm-up (Choir Loft)
10:30am Sunday School
10:30am Holy Eucharist, Sermon by The Rev. Dr. Andrew Harmon
The greening of the church immediately follows the 10:30 a.m. service. Refreshments provided in Gold Room!



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3506 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, NC 27408 ♦ (336) 288-4721 ♦ www.stfrancisgreensboro.org

THE RT. REV. SAMUEL RODMAN
BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE RT. REV. ANNE HODGES-COPPLE
**BISHOP SUFFRAGAN
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

THE VERY REV. MILTON C. WILLIAMS, JR.
RECTOR
milton@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 101)

THE REV. DR. ANDREW HARMON
ASSISTANT RECTOR
drew@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 102)

FELICIA COLE
**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH
MINISTRY**
youth@stfrancisgreensboro.org

SAM DOYLE
CHOIR DIRECTOR
sam@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 110)

JANE WOODY
JUNIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR
jane@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 110)

BENITA MCFARLAND
ASSISTANT CHOIR DIRECTOR
benita@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 110)

KIT HARGETT
DAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR
dayschool@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 200)

LINDA ALLGOOD
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
lindaa@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 120)

MICHELLE HINES
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
office@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 121)

MARK HAMBY
**BOOK SALE MANAGER & MEMBERSHIP
COORDINATOR**
mark@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 122)

BLAIR BARNETT
BOOKKEEPER
bookkeeper@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 123)

MORGAN ADAMS
FACILITIES COORDINATOR
facility@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 129)

BO EDWARDS
SEXTON
facility@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 129)

THE VESTRY

JIM WOODY
SENIOR WARDEN

CHRIS RELOS
JUNIOR WARDEN

KATHIE HUFF
CLERK

RICK SAUNDERS
TREASURER

Laura Ambler, Betty Barry, Duana Cisney, Sonia Haslam, Robert Koehler, Dana Koval,
Melinda Madtes, David Reich, Lynn Sandlin

Vestry Person of the Day: Melinda Madtes
Stephen Minister of the Day: Chris Beaman

Vestry may be contacted at: vestry@stfrancisgreensboro.org