

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

8:00 am and 10:30 am



The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest, Rector

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WELCOME!

We are so glad you are here, and I hope you find worship at St. Philip's Episcopal Church to be inspiring, spirit-filled, and nurturing for your faith journey. Here are two ways to take a next step:

- 1) Simply fill out the visitor card in the pew. Completed cards may be placed in the offering plate or given to an usher. Your responses are confidential, and we will contact you only if you make that request.
- 2) A calendar of events can be found on our website at stphilipsrva.org or in our e-News (subscribe on the website) as an invitation to you! All of our classes, services, and programs are open to all. If you are interested in learning more about St. Philip's or the Episcopal Church, please let me know!

As you prepare your heart, soul, mind, and body for worship, may the love of God and the mercy of Christ fill your heart with peace.

The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest
Rector of St. Philip's

About Today's Worship:

- ♦ We welcome all people to meet Christ in the sharing of our sacred meal. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of the sacraments of bread and wine, please come forward during communion and place your arms across your chest.
- ♦ **A gluten-free alternative** is available. Please communicate this preference to our priest.

Holy Baptism is our rite of initiation into the Christian faith and primary to membership in our parish. If you would like to learn more about this sacred rite and membership in our church, please speak with Rev. Marlene or contact our office at 804-321-1266.

In this third service in our Be Born in Us Today series for Advent, we remember that we have a clear path to the promised land of heaven through him who is the Way. Jesus is the Way. And he is born in us today.

HOLY EUCHARIST - Rite II

PROCESSIONAL HYMN*

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Hymn 556

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

Rejoice, rejoice,
rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

With all the angel choirs,
with all the saints of earth,
pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
true rapture, noblest mirth.

Your clear hosannas raise,
and alleluias loud;
while answering echoes upward float,
like wreaths of incense cloud.

Yes, on through life's long path,
still chanting as ye go,
from youth to age, by night and day,
in gladness and in woe.

Still lift your standard high,
still march in firm array,
as warriors through the darkness toil,
till dawns the golden day.

At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their Father's house,
Jerusalem the blest.

Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high
the cross of Christ your King.

Hosanna, hosanna!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

INVOCATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

(The first and second blue or purple candles and the pink or rose candle are lit.)

We light the third candle on the Advent wreath as a bright light that reminds us of the guidance we have in God's Word and in our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh. The prophet Isaiah spoke of a highway prepared by God, the Way of holiness: "The redeemed shall walk there." (Isaiah 35: 8-9)

Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. You were born to redeem us. Through faith in your name we walk the Way of holiness.

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14: 6)

Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. You alone are the way of salvation. In the power of the Spirit, guide us according to the truth of your Word.

Come to Jesus, you who are thirsty.

Alleluia!

Drink deeply of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia!

Let your heart overflow with the living water that renews the face of the earth.

Hallelujah; thanks be to God.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

TRISAGION *(sung three times)*

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35: 1-10

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 3

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: *

THE SECOND LESSON

James 5: 7-10

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN*

I Will Trust in the Lord

AA Hymn 391

I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,

I will trust in the Lord till I die.

I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,

I will trust in the Lord till I die.

I'm gonna treat ev'rybody right, I'm gonna treat ev'rybody right,

I'm gonna treat ev'rybody right till I die.

I'm gonna treat ev'rybody right, I'm gonna treat ev'rybody right,

I'm gonna treat ev'rybody right till I die.

I'm gonna stay on the battlefield, I'm gonna stay on the battlefield,

I'm gonna stay on the battlefield till I die.

I'm gonna stay on the battlefield, I'm gonna stay on the battlefield,

I'm gonna stay on the battlefield till I die.

I'm gonna stay on bended knee, I'm gonna stay on bended knee,

I'm gonna stay on bended knee till I die.

I'm gonna stay on bended knee, I'm gonna stay on bended knee,

I'm gonna stay on bended knee till I die.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 3: 1-12

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

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.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest

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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

(A brief silence.)

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Triangle of Hope. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants Bryan Guthrie, Kemonte Guthrie-Coles, Marvis Hazel, Roger Lee, Sarah Lee, Nathaniel Lewis, Aleeza Rachel, Alan Savage, and Andre Savage as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died, especially Harris Greene Sr. and Catherine Robertson and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord and Savior, hear our prayers on behalf of those who are suffering from illness and loss, especially Norma Agnew, Marc Albertson, Trey Bankhead, Mary Carter, Alexander Corbett, Anaya Gavins, Kevin Giggetts, Marvis Hazel, Eva Hicks, Francine L. Johnson, Alaina LaVonne, Mary Little, Steven Little, Barbara Lowe, Christian Miller, Robinette Miller, Edmund Moore, Romaine Morgan, Lela Morris, Tara Plummer, Hortense Powell, Inez Tuck, Clementine Washington, Ed West, Louise White, Cynthia Smith Williams, and John Williams, and for those who are struggling in their relationship with you and with others. Lead them to search the Scriptures for the comfort and guidance that you alone can give. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

Be born in us today. Strengthen us through the study of your Word so that we, in turn, may give strength and hope to others.

Lord and Savior, in the Scriptures we read the words of the prophet Isaiah, who foretold that God would establish a Way of holiness, a place for the redeemed to walk. Through faith in your name, we walk that holy Way with joy! Holy Child of Bethlehem,

Be born in us today. Guide our feet in the way of peace!

Lord and Savior, you announced that you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. You are the Way of holiness proclaimed by the prophet. You alone are the Way to the Father. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

Be born in us today. Grant us grace to follow you each day. In you alone we have forgiveness, life, and salvation. Lead us by the power of the Holy Spirit as we seek the guidance of your holy Word.

Holy Savior, Lord of all nations, hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

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.

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The peace of God be al - ways with you, And may God's

6 grace be al - ways in your heart. And may His love keep

11 you in per - fect peace, The love of God, the love of God,

17 *rit.* the love of God keep you in per - fect peace.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, AND TRAVEL BLESSINGS

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY*

LEVAS 56

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures, here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

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 him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**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.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob, Leah, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

Our Father, which 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.

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

FRACTION ANTHEM*

Lamb of God

**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.**

COMMUNION HYMN*

Let Us Break Bread Together

Hymn 325

Let us break bread together on our knees;

**when I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Let us drink wine together on our knees;

**when I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Let us praise God together on our knees;

**when I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. Amen.

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore!
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore.

Lift up your heart! lift up your voice!
Rejoice! again I say, rejoice!

The Lord the Savior reigns,
the God of truth and love:
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above.

His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
to Christ the Lord are given.

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home.

DISMISSAL

Our worship has ended, but our service to the world begins. Let us depart in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Music referenced is for the 10:30 am service.*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Lay Eucharistic Ministers:

Moses Wright (8 am)

Monte Carroll and Henry Davis (10:30 am)

Lectors:

Moses Wright (8 am)

Walter Hammond (10:30 am)

Organist/Minister of Music: Dr. Willis L. Barnett

Vergers: Nathaniel Lewis

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