

December 12, 2021
10:00 AM

**The Third Sunday
of Advent**

Holy Eucharist



St. Stephen's in-the-Field Episcopal Church

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard
San Jose, CA 95139
(408) 629-1836
www.ssitf.org

*We the people of Saint Stephen's in-the-Field
seek to know Christ, to share Christ, and to serve Christ,
recognizing his presence in all people,
and reaching out in love to each other and to the world around us.*

**“Whoever and wherever you are on your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here!”**

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn:

Alan J. Hommerding

♩ = 100

Sing, My Soul

Renew! #129

PLEADING SAVIOR

The Christian Lyre, 1830

1. Sing, my soul, sing out your prais - es; sing for God ex - alt ed me.
2. Hearts of pride our God will scat - ter, haugh - ty ones will be cast down.
3. Glo - ry to the God al - migh - ty, guid - ing us in per - fect love.

Look - ing on this low - ly ser - vant, all shall bless me ten - der - ly.
rais - ing those who once were low - ly, feed - ing all who are God's own.
Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Sa - vior, God's own Word from heav'n a - bove.

Might - y God has shown great fa - vor, Ho - ly is that won - drous name.
Is - ra - el, up - held in mer - cy, knows the heav'n - ly pro - mised grace.
Glo - ry be to God the Spi - rit, migh - ty wind and burn - ing fire.

Mer - ci - ful to all earth's child - ren, age to age, God loves the same.
giv'n to A - bra - ham and Sa - rah, par - ents of our cho - sen race.
Saints and sin - ners, join in sing - ing with the blest, ce - les - tial choir.

Tune is in the Public Domain
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal (<http://www.cyberhymnal.org>)

Advent Candle Lighting

Celebrant: Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY.

The candle is lit.

Leader: You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12)

All: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

Collect for Purity

All

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

Gloria



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Gradual:

Do What You Know To Do

Michael Hudson, 2004

Songs for the Cycle, p. 123

FRANCONIA

Johann Balthasar Konig (1691-1758)

1. Do you know what to do to - day and ev - ery day, and
2. Share glad - ly what you have with those who live with less, and
3. Let jus - tice be the star that steers you through the night, and
4. Sus - tain your heart's deep fire through dull and light - less days, for

know that One is com - ing soon to cla - ri - fy the way.
know that One is com - ing soon who bless - es gra - cious - ness.
know that One is com - ing soon who pri - zes what is right.
One works ev - en now through you to set the world a - blaze.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:7-18

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: **Glory to you, Lord 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 ax 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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Savior.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Karen Cuffie

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Leader: Today in the hope which Advent brings for the creation of new visions, expectations and possibilities for us and our world.

People: Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.

Leader: In our wildest, most daring dreams of peace in the world, we pray for the welfare and safety of all your people, nations and religions, living with tolerance, respect and equality of freedom for all.

People: **Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.**

Leader: For those whose efforts sustain this church, our clergy, Bishop, and all churches of God throughout the world, we pray for your guidance and blessings.

People: **Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.**

Leader: In our daily life, we thank you for nourishing our soul, energizing our mind and feeding our body, so that we may do your work and serve others in your name. We thank you for giving us each unique talent to use with loving purpose, as taught by your son Jesus Christ.

People: **Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.**

Leader: We pray for healing as you know is needed, for those in unbearable circumstances, the homeless, the prisoners, the fearful, those who are threatened or captive.

People: **Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.**

Please add your own petitions.

Leader: We pray for those who have died, those we hold in our hearts, and those who have gone before us to your heavenly joy.

People: **Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.**

Please add your own petitions.

Leader: We thank you Lord for your constant presence in our lives and hearts. Help us make time for receiving your abundant guidance and blessings as we go along our day. Keep us, not on our agenda, but on yours, as that is the joy we seek.

People: **Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence.**

Presider: Today our hearts open to this new advent, this new beginning, this new opportunity to give in to your will, Lord, and feel as a new child, the purity, the peace and the presence of your unconditional love. We thank you in the name of our savior, Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

(There will be a moment of silence)

People: **God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Absolution

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Exchange peace.

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Birthday Blessing: Watch over your birthday *children*, O Lord; as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Blessing: O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory:

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

LLANGLOFFEN

Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722)
tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907)

H #68

fr. *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth
yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865



1. Re - joice! re - joice, be - lie - vers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2. See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple - nish them with oil;
The eve - ning is ad - van - cing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
The Bridegroom is a - ri - sing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing, the gates wide op - en stand;
up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bridegroom is at hand!

Doxology (Old 100th)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey. 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. And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord *Sanctus*

S130

Setting from *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert, arr. Richard Proulx

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus over to our humanity, through which he enters our life to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and gives himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Celebrant continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with the Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed St. Stephen and St. John, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymn:

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961)

H #75

ASCENSION

Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988)



Post Communion Prayer

Please stand

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Mission Song:

Soon and Very Soon

Renew! # 276

Words and Music by Andre Crouch

$\text{♩} = 112$

1. Soon and ve - ry soon, we are going to see the King; soon and ve - ry soon,
2. No more dy - ing there, we are going to see the King; no more dy - ing there,
3. Soon and ve - ry soon, we are going to see the King; soon and ve - ry soon,
Soon and ve - ry soon, we are going to see the King; Soon and ve - ry soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and ve - ry soon, we are going to see the King; Soon and ve - ry soon, we are going to see the King;
hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!
1.2. 3.
lu - jah! We're going to see the King!

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia**

Reminder: Next week's service is at 9:30am at **St. John's**.
(There is plenty of room for parishioners from both churches to attend the in-person services.)

All are welcome!