

Welcome to
St. John the Divine Episcopal Church
17740 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037



December 13, 2020
The Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist – Rite II

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church in Morgan Hill is a welcoming, inclusive community, sharing the Love of God with one another through prayer, worship, fellowship, and pastoral care, and through our outreach ministries in the South Valley communities and the Diocese of El Camino Real.

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Eucharist: Prayer B

Opening Hymn:

Latin, 6th century
tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

H # 59

MERTON
William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

1. Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing: "Christ is nigh,! it seems to say;
2. Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;

"Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye chil - dren of the day,
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.

Advent Candle Lighting

Leader: The light shines in the darkness

All: **And the darkness has not overcome it**

Reader: On this Third Sunday of Advent we light these three candles to remind us of the Light that shines in the world; the Light that we wait for; the Light that is coming: Jesus our Redeemer.

Leader: Let us pray,

All: **Let these candles, O Lord, light the Holy Way that leads to you, your kingdom, and the crude manger in which he was laid; that when our Lord Jesus comes he might find his light burning in us, in our homes, in our community, and in our church. In the Name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

Opening Acclamation

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

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

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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

First Reading

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.

All: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary Magnificat

Luke 1: 46-55

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

Second Reading

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.

The Word of the Lord.

All:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Gradual:

In the Winter's Early Darkness

Michael Hudson, 2004

Songs for the Cycle, p. 65

RESTORATION
The Southern Harmony, 1835

1. In the win-ter's ear-ly dark-ness, through the days of fail-ing light,
2. Turn-ing on a stead-y ax-is, cold and burn-ing, black and bright,
3. As we re-cog-nize the pat-terns, and we turn a cer-tain way,

trav-ers may de-lay a jour-ney or may learn to read the night.
heav-en tells a faith-ful sto-ry of the com-ing of the Light.
ev-en when the path is dark-est we are faced to greet the day.

The image shows a musical score for a three-part setting. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with three verses of text. The first verse is 'In the win-ter's ear-ly dark-ness, through the days of fail-ing light,'. The second verse is 'Turn-ing on a stead-y ax-is, cold and burn-ing, black and bright,'. The third verse is 'As we re-cog-nize the pat-terns, and we turn a cer-tain way,'. Below these, there are two more lines of text: 'trav-ers may de-lay a jour-ney or may learn to read the night.' and 'heav-en tells a faith-ful sto-ry of the com-ing of the Light.' followed by 'ev-en when the path is dark-est we are faced to greet the day.'

Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8,19-28

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

All: **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.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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:

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

Presider: In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake; that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray.

Leader: O God in days to come, the mountain of your house will be established and your joy shall reign. We pray for the Church, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your path. In the diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for all who work for social justice; Our Daily Bread/Sunnyvale; Loaves and Fishes/Paso Robles; The Thomas Karman Food Pantry; The Food Closet/Palo Alto; Tending Our Flock/Santa Clara; Santa Maria Urban Ministry/San Jose; Peninsula Interfaith Action; I-HELP/Monterey County; COPA/Pacific Grove; Christian Social Concerns/Pacific Grove; PACT/San Jose. Come Lord Jesus,

People: **and hear our prayer.**

Leader: Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth. Come Lord Jesus,

People: **and hear our prayer.**

Leader: In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind, that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs. Please add your own petitions either silently or aloud.

(Silence)

Come Lord Jesus,

People: **and hear our prayer.**

Leader: In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week; that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away. With grateful hearts, we give thanks. Please add your thanksgivings either silently or aloud.

(Silence)

Come Lord Jesus,

People: **and hear our prayer.**

Leader: In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer. Come Lord Jesus,

People: **and hear our prayer.**

Presider: Come among us O God, and hear our prayers; so that when your Son Jesus comes among us with great might, and in manger mild, we might recognize his face and his voice, and come to adore him.

People: **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

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

(There will be a moment of silence)

Presider 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

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.**

Exchange peace with a bow. Physical distance of 6ft must be maintained.

Offertory:

When Out of Poverty is Born

Kathryn Galloway (1952 -)

Hymns of Glory, Songs of Praise #291

KINGSFOLD

from *English Country Songs*, 1893

1. When out of pov - er - ty is born a dream that will not die, and land-less, wear - y
2. When peo - ple wan - der far from God, for - get to share their bread, they find their wealth an
3. When God took flesh and came to earth, the world turned up - side down, and in the strenght of

folk find strength to stand with heads held high, it's then we learn from whose who wait to
emp - ty thing, their spi - rits are not fed. For on - ly just and ten - der love the
wo-man's faith the Word of Life was born. She knew that God would raise the low, it

greet the pro-mised day, 'The Lord is com ing; don't lose heart. Be_ blest; pre pare the way!
hun - gry soul will stay. And so God's pro phets ech - o still 'Be_ blest; pre pare the way!
pleased her to o - bey. Re - joice with Ma - ry in the call, 'Be_ blest; pre pare the way!

Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

Presider

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:

Presider and People

**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.

The Presider continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Presider continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all

things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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. **AMEN.**

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

People and Presider

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.

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

People and Presider

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.

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Presider

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim

your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Communion Hymn:

Anonymous **The Tree of Life My Soul Hath Seen** THE EIGHTH TUNE
from a collection of Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784 Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585)

1. The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and al - ways green:
 2. His beau - ty doth all things ex - cel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell
 3. For hap - pi - ness I long have sought, and plea - sure dear - ly I have bought:
 4. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dy - ing faith a - live;

the trees of na - ture fruit - less be com - pared with Christ the ap - ple tree.
 the glo - ry which I now can see in Je - sus Christ the ap - ple tree.
 I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the ap - ple tree.
 which makes my soul in haste to see to be with Christ the ap - ple tree.

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

**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.**

The Blessing

Mission Song:

All the Music Sung and Played Here

Caolyn Winfrey Gillette, (c) 2000

Songs of Grace #37

NETTLETON
melody from *A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813

1. All the mu - sic sung and played here is a gift, O God, from you.
3. You give hymns and songs for sing - ing, toes for tap - ping your good news,
4. Bless the ta - lents we are bring - ing, for we of - fer you our best.

For as long as we have prayed here, we've been blessed by mu - sic, too.
Or - gan sound - ing, hand-bells ring - ing, faith - ful hear - ers in the pews.
If our gifts are not in sing - ing, may our joy - ful noise be blest.

By your Spi - rit, each mu - si - cian finds new depths of faith to share.
With the_ trum - pet and the cym - bal, with gui - tar and vi - o - lin,
If our_ world is ev - er si - lent, may we_ sign to you a - bove.

Mu - sic is a gift you've giv - en and be - comes our thank - ful prayer.
faith is found here and re - kin - dled; hearts are lift - ed, once a - gain.
Touched by grace, may each one pre - sent of - fer back your song of love.

The Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.