



**Ante-Communion
The Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 13, 2020**

THE WORD OF GOD

Officiant: Our King and Savior draws night.

People: O come let us adore him.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Officiant: 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.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES OF ADVENT

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy.

Our joy is in God and in his son Jesus Christ. Like peace, joy is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done and what he has promised to do. We light this candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming, so that all people might have a rich and abundant life. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, and for the joy he pours into our hearts.

Light the First, Second and Third Candles.

Let us pray:

O God of Joy, Emmanuel, send your light into hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing. Fix our hearts and our minds upon those things you have done and those you have promised to do, that we may have the joy you have promised. As we worship you, strengthen us so that we may always do your will and so bless you and the world you have made. *Amen.*

Choir Response: Advent is a time of joy, of waiting for the light.
To lead us to the promised One to break the dark of night.
Light a candle, our Messiah will come.
Light a candle, for the promised One.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Officiant: 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

The First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Reader: 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: Psalm 126

Reader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *

People: then were we like those who dream.

Reader: Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *

People: and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Reader: Then they said among the nations, *

People: "The LORD has done great things for them."

Reader: The LORD has done great things for us, *

People: and we are glad indeed.

Reader: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *

People: like the watercourses of the Negev.

Reader: Those who sowed with tears *

People: will reap with songs of joy.

Reader: Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *

People: will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Reader: 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: "Come, thou long-expected Jesus" Hymn 66

Susan Hollinger

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Officiant: 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.

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Laurence K. "Larry" Packard

NICENE CREED

Officiant and People: 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.*

THE PRAYERS

Prayers of the People, Form III

Reader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Reader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Reader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Reader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

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

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

Reader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Reader: Give to the departed eternal rest;

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

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

(Moment of Silence)

Prayers for those on Our Prayer List

Prayer for the Church Universal

Officiant and People: Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Church Of Our Redeemer

Officiant and People: Lord Jesus, we pray that you will give us ears to hear, hearts to love, and wills devoted to serve; that in the days to come this congregation may be known, not for our glory, but for yours alone – a congregation of people who know the Lord; that this place may be an oasis, a place where people come to find out about you, where lives are straightened out and made whole, where people find the peace that passes understanding. Give us, we pray, a heart to desire these things above all else. We pray through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

CONFESSiON OF SiN

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

Officiant 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.*

Officiant: 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 LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant and People: 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.*

THE BLESSING

Officiant: Remember that life is short and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind....and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

People: *Amen.*

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

LET US PRAY

If you have a Prayer Request, please email your request to our Prayer Chair, Bonnie Flippo at msflip925@aol.com. You may also contact the office by email redeemeraldie@gmail.com or phone (703) 327-4060. Prayer Requests will be given to the Prayer Team so that they may pray for those in need. If you would like to include their name on our public prayer list, please let us know – only the name will appear on the public prayer list. If your request requires a more private nature, please contact Rev. Larry Packard by email l.packard@verizon.net or phone (703) 425-8315.

“For those whose concerns are known only to God”

All Those Afflicted by the Virus and
Those Who Care for Them
Tom, Resha & Bennett
Tom's Co-Workers
Don & Chris
Bob Stewart
Alan White
Fred & Ginny Warren
Mary Murray
TJ Hill
Russell & Lula
Bishop Susan Goff
Kathy

Candi & Taylor
The Fairweather Family
Tyler Gore
Gwenivere Black
Barbara Pavone
Nettie Stevens
Evan Hansen
The Rollins Family
Liam Ferguson
The Pisciotta Family
Church of Our Redeemer
Church of Our Redeemer Vestry Members

Serving Our Country
Amity Hess
All First Responders
All Front Line Workers
All Hospitals and Emergency Rooms Workers

Our Children, Our Schools, Our Neighbors, The Unemployed
O Lord, we come to you on behalf of those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work.
Help us use our public and private wealth that they may find employment
and receive just payment for their labor; this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*