

**Third Sunday of Advent  
Morning Prayer  
December 13, 2020  
8:00 a.m.**

**Officiant**

The Rev. Tucker Bowerfind

Grace Episcopal Church, 123 W. Washington Street, Lexington, VA

**PREPARE  
THE WAY  
OF LOVE  
THIS ADVENT**

[episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove](http://episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove)



**ADVENT CALENDAR 2020**

**13 Worship**

**Advent 3**

Pray for each person as they receive Communion. Imagine whom you would like to see at church next week. Invite that person to join you.

**14 Go**

Today, choose to take a different route to work, to school, or to play. Whom or what did you encounter differently?

**15 Learn**

Read Luke 1:64. When Zechariah could finally speak, he began by praising God. For what can you praise God? Share on social media or with a friend.

**16 Pray**

Keep a lookout for anyone who might seem lonely, stressed, or sad. Offer this simple invitation: "May I pray for you?" Then offer prayers – silently or aloud – on the person's behalf as you move through your day.

**17 Bless**

Identify a blessing you have that you could give away. Share this blessing with your church, a local ministry, or your community.

**18 Turn**

Turn away from the busyness of the week and turn toward someone who gives you life or to whom you give life. Give thanks.

**19 Rest**

In Genesis 1-2, God calls the creation "good" and rests. What can you proclaim to be "good" instead of "not enough" as a witness to God's love for the world today?

**Morning Prayer Rite One**  
**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**December 13, 2020**

*The Officiant begins the service*

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

**Confession of Sin**

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together*

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our  
own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to  
have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to  
have done.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

*Officiant*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

**The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*Officiant and People*

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.  
Alleluia.

*Officiant*

Our King and Savior draweth nigh: O come, let us adore him.

*Officiant and People*

**Venite** *Psalm 95:1-7*

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; \*  
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are all the corners of the earth, \*  
and the strength of the hills is his also.  
The sea is his, and he made it, \*  
and his hands prepared the dry land.  
O come, let us worship and fall down, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is the Lord our God, \*  
and we are the people of his pasture  
and the sheep of his hand.  
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.  
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, \*  
and with righteousness to judge the world  
and the peoples with his truth.

*Officiant*

Our King and Savior draweth nigh: O come, let us adore him.

**Canticle 15** (Diana Kenney)

**The Song of Mary** *Magnificat*

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.

*Officiant and People*

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.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (Holt Merchant)

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

*Officiant and People*

### **11 The Third Song of Isaiah**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, \*

and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

For behold, darkness covers the land; \*

deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.

But over you the Lord will rise, \*

and his glory will appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light, \*

and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

Your gates will always be open; \*

by day or night they will never be shut.

They will call you, The City of the Lord, \*

The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Violence will no more be heard in your land, \*

ruin or destruction within your borders.

You will call your walls, Salvation, \*

and all your portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day; \*  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
and your God will be your glory.

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.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (Gail Dickerson)

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

*Officiant & People*

#### **4 The Song of Zechariah**

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \*  
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \*  
in the house of his servant David,  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \*  
which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies, \*  
and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \*  
and to remember his holy covenant;  
To perform the oath which he swore to our forefather Abraham, \*  
that he would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \*  
might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him, \*  
all the days of our life.  
And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord  
to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \*  
for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, \*

whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
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.

John 1:6-8,19-28

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.

Reader       The Word of the Lord  
*People*       Thanks Be to God

**Sermon**

Fr. Tuck

**Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

*Officiant*     The Lord be with you.

*People*       ***And with thy spirit.***

*Officiant*     Let us pray.

*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.

(led by Diana Kenney, response Fr. Tuck)

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

R. And grant us thy salvation.

V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

R. And make thy chosen people joyful.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in thee can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let thy way be known upon earth;

R. Thy saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

*Officiant*

*The Collect of the Day*

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

## **Prayers of the People** (Diana Kenney)

*Please pray for the wider Church and intercessions requested by our Congregants: Pray for The Anglican Communion, The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, Standing Committee of the Diocese of Haiti as they search for their new Bishop, the Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines, the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Justin Badi Arama, the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, and our Bishop Mark Bourlakas. Pray today for the Lay Employees of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia: Kristen Kroeger, Pattie Ames, Jenni Faires, Neil Divers, Elizabeth Bishop, Anita Boyd and Volunteers .*

*Pray for Bettie Cadden, Lynda DeMaria, Bob DeMaria, Pam Holsten, Jordan (friend of David Cox), Lynne Johnson, Melissa Hays-Smith, Susan Williams, Ned Glenn (Brother of Elizabeth Harralson), Olivia Patton, Liz Moss, Jeanne Eichelberger, Rachel Pattison, Ely Turner (friend of Rob Minor), Peter Fyfe, Jack Hershbelle, The. Rev. Butch Eanes (friend of Carol and Lynn Dent), Pat Gibson, Eloise Adams, Mike Frascati, Alleane Taebel, Dot Fogo, Vivian & Isabella (Carl Pattison's granddaughter and great granddaughter), Mary Stuart Gilliam.*

*Pray for those serving in the military, especially Michael Bryant.*

*Pray for those who have died, especially Tom Baugh, husband of Jane Roth Baugh.*

*Pray for those affected by unsafe living conditions, poverty, disease, especially Covid-19, violence and oppression.*

*In thanksgiving for the birthdays for this week and next of Anne Lamont (12/13), Carol Woodcock (12/15), Jay Lewis (12/15), Tomas McBrayer (12/15), James Keane (12/16), Kay Glone (12/16), Robert Hull (12/18), Tammi Hellwig (12/18), Roger Crockett (12/19), Merce Brooke (12/19), Tara Rodi (12/23), Carol Gosse (12/23), John Murphy (12/26).*

*Officiant:* Holy God, you have spoken through your prophets and called us to make straight the way of the Lord: Visit us with your grace to cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations, as we pray: "God has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed."

*Reader:* O God of peace, you have called your people to rejoice always and to pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances: Sanctify your Church and her members that our spirit and soul and body may be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God has done great things for us;

***and we are glad indeed.***

God of Justice and Mercy, you love justice and hate wrongdoing; Guide our leaders and all in authority, that they may bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, repair the ruined cities and cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations.

God has done great things for us;

***and we are glad indeed.***

God of Compassion, look upon the needs of the world: Proclaim the year of your favor, and clothe your children with the garments of salvation and the robe of righteousness.

God has done great things for us;

***and we are glad indeed.***

God of Grace, be among us in this community that we may be a people whom you have sanctified to testify to the light and to become oaks of righteousness.

God has done great things for us;

***and we are glad indeed.***

Receive our prayers for those for whom we pray in intercession and hear our gratitude as we offer our thanksgivings. Comfort all who mourn, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantel of praise instead of a faint spirit, as we remember before you those who have died, especially Tom Baugh.

God has done great things for us;

***and we are glad indeed.***

*Officiant:* O heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The General Thanksgiving*

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful hope, and constant love. *Amen.*