



The Season of Advent Third Sunday of Advent St. George's Church

Glenn Dale Parish
The Episcopal Diocese of Washington

December 12, 2021

Welcome to St. George's! We are glad to see you this morning, whether in person or virtually. Zoom participants are encouraged to leave your video camera on or turn it off; at certain points during the service participants in the sanctuary will see the gallery view of those taking part in the service via Zoom.

Prelude: *On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand*, arr. Ken Medema (b. 1943)

Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #76 *On Jordan's Bank*

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749) tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690
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On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - noun - ces that the Lord is nigh;
Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make straight the way for God with - in,
For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our re - fuge and our great re - ward;
To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fall - en sin - ner stand;
All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free;



a - wake and heark-en, for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
and let each heart pre-pare a home where such a might-y guest may come.
with - out thy grace we waste a - way like flowers that wi-ther and de - cay.
shine forth, and let thy light re - store earth's own true love-li - ness once more.
whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

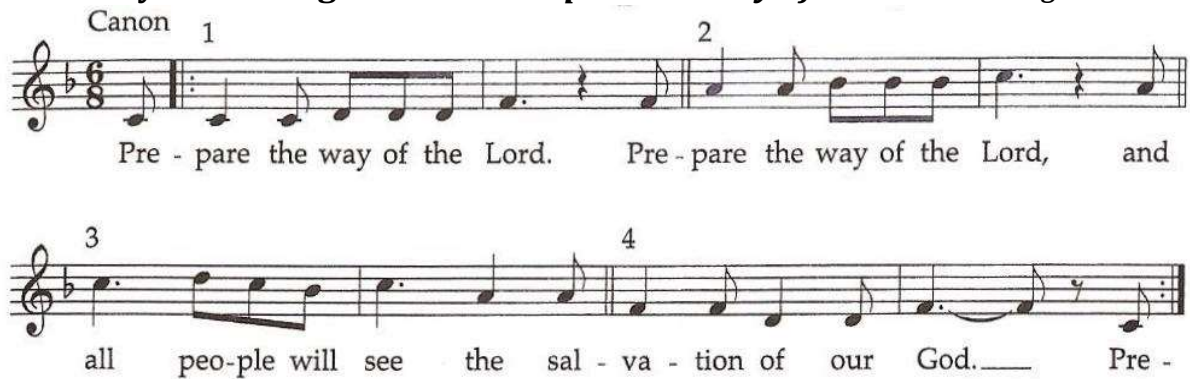
Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: You come to your people and set them free.

All pray together

**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.**

Song of Praise: My Heart Sings Out # 61 *Prepare the way of the Lord* – Sung three times



Text: Taizé Community. Music: Jaques Berthier (1923 – 1994) © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together 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.**

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.


The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God**

Canticle 9: First Song of Isaiah

Surely, it is you, God, who saves me;
I will trust in you and not be afraid.
For you are my stronghold and my sure defense,
and you 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 God
and call upon the divine Name;
Make God's deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that the divine Name is exalted."
We sing your praises God, for you have 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.

Gospel Hymn: Hymnal #66 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Stuttgart* from *Psalmody Sacra, oder Andachtige und Schone Gesange*, 1715
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Come, thou long ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, born a child, and yet a King,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Luke 3: 7-18

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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

The Sermon The Rev. Sarah Motley

The 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.

The Prayers of the People

That this world may be transformed by divine power, and everyone know the glorious liberty of God's children, let us call upon the Redeemer in our distress, as we say:
God of freedom, hear us.

Holy One, may your Church, at all times and in all places proclaim your presence and show forth your mercy. We pray for Christians everywhere and in particular for our diocese and parish.
God of freedom, hear us.

Give wisdom and courage to public servants at every level of government and in every land. May this nation become a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing among the nations of the earth.
God of freedom, hear us.

We pray for persons, families, communities, and countries afflicted by illness, disaster, or burdened by any form of oppression. Help us to keep hope alive.
God of freedom, hear us.

We pray for the earth you have entrusted to our care. Heal the air, the water, and the land wherever it has been harmed through human folly.
God of freedom, hear us.

We remember before you everyone on our prayer list and all who face serious challenges. Some we pray for by name (*offer names*). **God of freedom, hear us.**

Rejoicing with those who rejoice, we intercede now for those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and other joyous occasions. Bless and guide them wherever they may be. **God of freedom, hear us.**

We pray for people departed from us, some of them by name (*offer names*).
May they be numbered among your saints in glory.
God of freedom, hear us.

Celebrant O God our disturber, whose speech is pregnant with power and whose word will be fulfilled: may we know ourselves unsatisfied with all that distorts your truth, and make our hearts attentive to your liberating voice, in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God. *Silence is kept*

God of all mercy, we know that we have fallen short: We turn our backs when we could embrace; we remain silent when we could speak; we speak when we could listen. When we could fling the door open, instead we close it; when we could be openhearted, instead we judge. Forgive us O God, and strengthen us to grow into the people you created us to be, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, the will for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

Announcements and Blessings for Birthdays & Anniversaries

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) and anyone celebrating their birthday or anniversary this week 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Offertory

Do good works and share what you have, for these are the sacrifices pleasing to God.

Many thanks for your financial support of St. George's. We encourage you to give electronically wherever possible. You can use your phone to text stgeodragon to 72356. Or just use your web browser to go to www.onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/Give. If your bank offers Zelle, you can use your banking app to send a donation via Zelle to donations@stgeo.comcastbiz.net. There are also baskets at the entrance and exit doors of the Sanctuary for donations of checks or cash.

Offertory Hymn New Century Hymnal #114 *Return, My People*

Words: Joel and Isaiah paraphrased by James Martin. Music: *Repton* C. Hubert Parry (1888) Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Re - turn, my peo - ple, Is - ra - el with pen - i - ten - tial tear; just
Fear not, be - lov - ed, hear - ken now our God has done great things! Your
Then to the faith - ful of the earth the call of God rings clear: "Re-



as the proph - et did fore - tell the ad - vent of Em - man - u - el, God's
vin - di - ca - ton shall pour down like rain up - on the bar - ren ground, glad
- turn, my peo - ple, claim your worth, pre - par - ing for your Sav - ior's birth; my



reign on earth is near! God's reign on earth is near!
tid - ings to you bring, glad tid - ings to you bring.
reign on earth is near. My reign on earth is near."

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 God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues:

We give thanks to you, Holy One, that the days are surely coming when all the world will see the fulfillment of your promise of salvation. You alone are our righteousness, our only hope for justice and peace.

We rejoice and sing to you with gladness, for you have renewed us by your love, restoring the fortunes of the lost, gathering up the broken and outcast, and giving them a home in you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sanctus: Gather # 144 Holy, holy, holy

Music: Mass of Creation, Marty Haugen (b. 1950) © 1964 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues:

We give you thanks O God for sending Jesus to be our way in the wilderness: at his word, every valley is lifted and every mountain made low; in his body, all flesh shall see your saving power.

Born of Mary, Jesus Christ is our salvation and strength, the fulfillment of your word and the hope of generations. For he lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things.

And so we remember that on the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: "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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Gracious God, we ask you to pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts that they may be the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world.

Guard our hearts and minds by the power of Christ Jesus. Speak to our anxieties with the peace that passes understanding, and let our gentleness and joy be a sign of his gracious presence.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now let us pray with confidence the words our Savior has taught us:

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 Breaking of the Bread

The bread is broken and silence is kept, the fraction anthem is Sung twice: first by the choir alone, and then with the congregation joining.

Fraction Anthem: Wonder, Love, and Praise # 878 Whoever Comes to Me

Setting: Carl Haywood (b. 1949) from *Fraction Anthems, Canticles and Chants* © 1997 Carl Haywood. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Who-ev-er comes to me shall not hun-ger and who-ev-er be-lieves in me shall nev-er thirst.

Celebrant: Mindful that not all are present physically to receive the sacrament, we pray with those who receive spiritual Holy Communion this day:

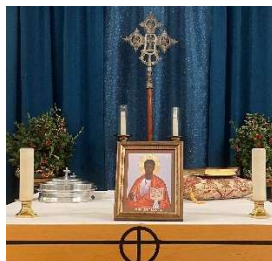
Lord Jesus, in union with your faithful people, we offer to you our praise and thanks. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we pray that you come spiritually into our hearts. Strengthen us with your grace, O Lord, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Communion

If you would like to receive the Eucharist, you may choose to receive both the bread and wine or only one of them. If you receive the wine, please drop your empty cup into the recycling bin at the door. Note that hand sanitizer is available as you exit. Please follow the arrows to go through the narthex (hallway) and back into the Sanctuary and on to your seat.

Wherever you are on your journey, whatever you believe or don't believe, know that you are welcome at this table. For this is Christ's table, and all are welcome.



Communion Hymn 1: Gather #585 *Let Us Be Bread*

Words and Music: Thomas J. Porter b. 1958 © 1990 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and shared, life for the world.



Let us be wine, love free-ly poured. Let us be one in the Lord.



1. I am the bread of life, bro-ken for all Eat now and hun-ger no more.



2. You are my friends if you keep my com-mands, no long-er ser-vants but friends.



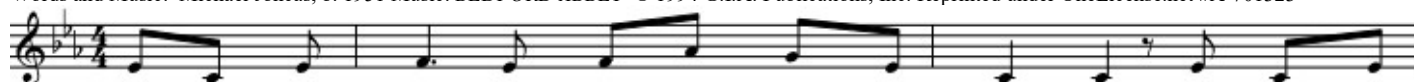
3 See how my peo-ple have no-thing to eat. Give them the bread that is you.



4 As God has loved me so I have loved you. Go and live on in my love.

Communion Hymn 2: Gather # 253 *Within Our Hearts Be Born*

Words and Music: Michael Joncas, b. 1951 Music: BEDFORD ABBEY © 1994 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



O an - cient	love, pro - cess - ing	through the	a - ges:	O hid - den
O home - less	love, that dwells	a - mong the	stran - ger:	O ho - ly
O gen - tle	love, car - ess - ing	those in	sor - row:	O ten - der
O suf - f'ring	love, that bears	our hu - man	weak - ness:	O bound - less



love, re - vealed in hu - man form: O prom - ised love, the dawn of seers and sa - ges: O liv - ing
 love, that knows the might - y's scorn: O hun - gry love that lay with in a man - ger:
 love, that com - forts those for - lorn: O hope - ful love, that prom - is - es to - mor - row:
 love, that reis - es with the morn: O might - y love, con - cealed in in - fant meek - ness:



Love, with-in our hearts be born, O liv - ing Love, with-in our hearts be borne.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Post Communion Prayer)

Let us pray: **God of new beginnings, we thank you for drawing near to us in word and sacrament to strengthen us with your love and to renew us for your service. Kindle in us the fire of your Spirit, that your light would so shine through us that all may welcome your Son at his coming. This we ask in the name of Jesus Emmanuel, who was and is and is to come. Amen.**

The Blessing

May the God who brings heaven close to earth give truth to our judgment and flame to our longing, that our hearts might be ready to be born again in love; and may the blessing of God Almighty, God who created us, Christ Jesus who gives us new life, and the Holy Spirit who guides and sustains us, be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn: Gather #257 *Come to Set Us Free*

Words and Music: Bernadette Ferrell, b. 1957 © 1982 Bernadette Ferrell, published by OCP Publications Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Come to set us free, come to make us your own. Come to show the way to your



peo - ple, your cho - sen. O - pen ur lives to the light of your prom - ise.



Come to our hearts with heal - ing, come to our minds with pow - er,



come to us and bring us your life.



You are light which shines in dark - ness, Morn - ing Star which nev - er sets.
You are hope which brings us cour - age, you are strength which nev - er fails.
You are prom - ise of sal - va - tion, you are God in hu - man form.



O - pen our eyes which on - ly dim - ly see the truth which sets us free.
O - pen our minds to ways we do not know, but where your Spir - it grows.
Bring to our world of emp - ti - ness and fear the Word we long to hear.

The Dismissal

With love and compassion,

Come, Lord Jesus.

With judgement and mercy,

Come, Lord Jesus.

In power and glory,

Come, Lord Jesus.

In wisdom and truth,

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Postlude: *Gaudete*, arr. Dafydd Bullock (b. 1953)

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