

# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

DECEMBER 13, 2020 AT 10:00AM



First Free Church of Pennsylvania  
Est. 1853

During this time when we aren't able to be together physically, we invite you to join us in other ways. Please check our [Website](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#) pages regularly for new information and video messages. If you are in need of groceries, medicine, or any other essentials please let us know by calling (717) 299-1188 or emailing [equilla@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:equilla@stjohns-lancaster.org). We have a number of volunteers and staff members willing and able to run errands as needed.

## THE WORD OF GOD

**INTROIT**     *Entrance Antiphons for the Advent Season*     arr. James J. Chepponis

### **ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING LITURGY: JOY**

*Reader 1* Joy is the space between your breath and your laughter. Joy is a hand wrapped around yours. Joy is your heart beating in sync with someone else's heart. Joy is that first day of a new season, and the intoxicating hope it brings. Joy is dancing in the kitchen and singing in your car.

*Reader 2* Joy is the first cry of a newborn baby. Joy is contagious. Joy is a song. Joy is the daughter of gratitude. Joy is the heart of praise. Today, we plant our feet in joy. For much of Advent we assume the position of leaning forward, longing for the moment where God will break into this world once more. However, today we stop leaning to remember with gratitude all that God has already done for us, through us, and around us.

*(The third candle is lit.)*

*Reader 1* Thus, today we light the candle of joy as a thank you for laughter and for hands that hold our own. We light the candle of joy for the change in seasons, for kitchen dance parties, and for newborns. And most importantly, we light the candle of joy as a sign of gratitude for a God who makes water in the desert, heals the sick, offers sight to the blind, and who knows us by name. If joy is the song of praise, then joy is where we should stand.

*Readers* Thanks be to God.

**OPENING HYMN**     *Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding*     **PAGE 11**

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**     **BCP 77**

*Celebrant*     Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;  
*People*     *His mercy endures for ever.*

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**     **BCP 355**

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 KYRIE****BCP 356**

Lord, have mercy.  
*Christ, have mercy.*  
Lord, have mercy.

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY****BCP 230**

*Celebrant* The Lord 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.*

**FIRST LESSON: 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.

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

## PSALM 126

- <sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.  
<sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
<sup>3</sup> Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The LORD has done great things for them."  
<sup>4</sup> The LORD has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.  
<sup>5</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.  
<sup>6</sup> Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.  
<sup>7</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## SECOND LESSON: 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.

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

**THE SEQUENCE HYMN**     *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord*     **PAGE 12 (vs. 1)**

## GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 1:6-8,19-28

*Celebrant*   The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People*     *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.

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

## THE SERMON

THE REV. MATT MACDOUGALL

## THE NICENE CREED

**BCP 358**

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. *(pause)*  
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: ADVENT III**

As witnesses to your light and truth, we come to you in prayer, O Lord. Infuse the heart of your church with your Spirit and focus it on your mission. Renew your people and their leaders as they serve your purpose. Remind us continually whose we are.

*Silence*

Turn the hearts and actions of all the world's leaders to justice and peace. We pray for Donald our President; Joe our President Elect; Tom our Governor, the Congress and courts of this land.

*Silence*

Open our eyes to what is going on around us. Open our hearts to our brothers and sisters through the world. Move us to open our hands in love when they are in need and to stand up for them when they are oppressed. We pray for those suffering from natural disasters, from unjust economies, from hunger and want.

*Silence*

We know people around us who are suffering from anxiety, scarcity, illness, and loneliness. Some of them we know, and most are unknown to us. We ask that you assure them of your presence and sustain them with your grace. We pray for those we know by name: Emily Lavender, Marita Houston, Christiane Zust, Regis Heilman, and Mary.

*Silence*

Our hearts break when someone whom we love dies. Today we mourn for Benson Oswang and Todd Plummer, recently departed. May we be a comfort as we walk with his grieving loved ones.

*Celebrant*      Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

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

**THE OFFERTORY**

*During this unprecedented time, giving is crucial to our health and viability. Please consider this a time of reflection and an opportunity to contribute to the ongoing ministries of St. John's. Contributions can be mailed to the church office or given online. Thank you!*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B**

*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 God.  
*People*          *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

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 say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant 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.*

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,

*Celebrant and People*

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

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. John's 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.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BCP 336**

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

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**

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People*     *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

### **THE INVITATION**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance  
    that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith,  
    with thanksgiving.

### **A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to  
    express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which  
    circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

*Officiant and People*

Beloved Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I  
love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at  
this moment receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually  
into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be  
separated from you in this life or in the life to come. Amen.

### **THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BCP 339**

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us,  
and make us continually to be given to all good works;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **ADVENT BLESSING**

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. Amen.

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

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

**THE CLOSING HYMN**    *O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling*

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## **GOOD NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **DISMISSAL**

**BCP 102**

*Officiant*    Let us bless the Lord.

*People*        *Thanks be to God.*

## **POSTLUDE**

## UPCOMING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:

### TODAY

9:00 a.m. Children's Church (Zoom)  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II  
11:00 a.m. Vestry Meeting  
11:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

11:00 a.m. Grocery Card Pick-Up

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
2:00 p.m. Martha's Ministry (Zoom)  
2:30 p.m. Food Pantry

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

10:00 a.m. The Village  
12:00 p.m. Noon Day Prayer (Facebook)  
7:00 p.m. Worship @ the Community Christmas Tree

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

2:30 p.m. Food Pantry

### Weekly Support Ministries

AA: Tuesday - 6:00-7:00 p.m. (All Purpose Room)

NA: Monday and Wednesday - 12:00 Noon (All Purpose Room)

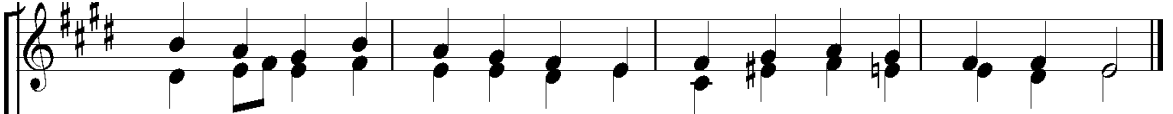
**FOOD PANTRY**— Thank you for your continual support of our food pantry ministry. Your donations allow us to feed so many neighbors struggling to make ends meet during this difficult time. Thank you for being good news to those in need. We are currently in need of toiletries, cereal, pasta, and canned goods. (Please leave items on the back porch of Becker House).

**GROCERY CARDS**— Sue Tobie will be available at the church for all of your grocery card needs on Monday, December 14 from 11AM-12:30PM. If you would like to purchase some cards Monday, the 14th is the time. After Monday, we will take a pause in grocery card sales until we are back together again, so come by Becker House and stock up!

**ANGEL TREE MINISTRY**— Please join us as we spread some Christmas Cheer through our Angel Tree. Check out the sign up sheet links here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C48A9A72BA02-2020> and/or <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C48A9A72BA02-20201>. Thank you for helping us ensure our neighbors are provided for during these difficult days!



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;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,



1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for-given;  
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.



*TELL OUT, MY SOUL, THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD*

*HYMN 437 (vs. 1)*

1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!  
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!  
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!  
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of his word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;  
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;  
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.  
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.  
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

*O ZION, HASTE, THY MISSION HIGH FULFILLING*

*HYMN 539*



O Zi - on, haste, thy mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,  
Pro - claim to ev - ery peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion  
Send her - alds forth to bear the mes - sage glo - rious;  
He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere thou meet him,



to tell to all the world that God is Light;  
that God, in whom they live and move, is Love:  
give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;  
make known to ev - ery heart his sav - ing grace;



that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing  
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion,  
pour out thy soul for them in prayer vic - to - rious  
let none whom he hath ran - somed fail to greet him,



one soul should fail to know his love and might.  
and died on earth that all might live a - bove.  
till God shall bring his king - dom's joy - ful day.  
through thy ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.





## *A Community Affair: The St. John's Christmas Tree*

COVID-19 has interrupted many of our traditions, but it can't take away the gift of expectation as we prepare our hearts for Christmas! Our Christmas tree will be placed in the courtyard and we need your help with decorating it! Throughout the month of December, you are invited to bring an ornament to hang on our tree. Together we will wait with hope and anticipation for the birth of our Savior. Together we will journey to Bethlehem and celebrate the night God tiptoed down the backstairs of history and deposited the light of the world into a manger.

Every Wednesday at 7:00PM in December, we will gather around the tree for prayer and community.

## **OUR MINISTERS**

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector  
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Matt MacDougall, Associate Rector  
matt@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Stacey Catigano, Deacon  
stacey@stjohns-lancaster.org

## **VESTRY**

Debbie Carter (Senior Warden), Webb Cook (Junior Warden), Sue Heilman,  
Tim Huber, Molly Moyer, Nicole Pham, Heather Trenary,  
John Gouveia, Joe Way, Annie Lattanzio Hale

## **STAFF**

Equilla Curry, Parish Administrator  
Gina Keiser, Financial Secretary  
Richard Kuhn, Sexton

Maria Weaver-Hollowniczky, Nursery and Security

## **PRIESTS AND CANONS ASSOCIATED WITH ST. JOHN'S**

Canon William F. Honaman, DHL  
The Rev. William Archer  
The Rev. Faith D'Urbano  
The Rev. Elizabeth Mollard

## **SERVING AT THE LITURGY**

<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>The Rev. Amanda R. Knouse</i>
<i>Preacher</i>	<i>The Rev. Matt MacDougall</i>
<i>Lector</i>	<i>Mary Huber</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Team 2</i>
<i>Web Streaming</i>	<i>Joe Way</i>