

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021

8:00 AM Service

Holy Communion: Rite One



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Services: Sunday at 8 and 10 AM • Wednesday at 10 AM • Saturday at 5 PM

**Our Sunday services are livestreamed**

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## WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD

**CDC Guidelines:** In accordance with new CDC guidelines, masks are again required on the church campus, including in-person attendance for church services, regardless of vaccination status.

**Restrooms:** Handicap-accessible restrooms are located to the right as you go up the ramp through the archway across from the doors of the sanctuary.

**We have gluten-free wafers available:** Please tell us when you come to the altar rail.

**Standing, sitting, and kneeling:** Throughout the bulletin, there are invitations to stand, sit or kneel, as you choose. You are free to be seated at any time when that is best for you.

**A gentle Reminder:** Please enter the Nave Quietly and reverently and silence your phones.

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## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please remain seated.*

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*[Please stand when the chimes sound and face the Baptistry in the rear of the sanctuary.]*

### PRAYER FOR THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT: JOY

*Lector* Today we light three candles. The first candle calls us to behold the wonder of the season in a fresh way. In a world where too often the familiar becomes commonplace, Advent is a time to ponder the mystery of God's amazing love. The second candle invites us to hear again the ancient prophecies that, like flames in the darkness, illuminate our world, inspire our faith, and guide our journey. As we light the third candle, we affirm that Advent is a time to hear again the still small voice calling us to behold God's promise, and embrace the gift of a Savior who is Christ our Lord.

## ACCLAMATION

*Please stand.*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

*All* **Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*All* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy upon us.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy Spirit.**

*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.

*All* **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

*Please be seated.*

### THE FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

*Lector* *The First Reading is taken from Zephaniah chapter 3...*

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.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## CANTICLE 9

*Lector* *We will read responsively Canticle 9...*

*Lector* Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.

*People* **For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.**

*Lector* Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.

*People* **And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**

*Lector* Make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

*People* **Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world.**

*Lector* Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

*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.**

## THE SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

*Lector* *The Second Reading is taken from Philippians chapter 4...*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

*Please stand.*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

*Deacon* 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.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Whitney Burton

*Please be seated.*

## **NICENE CREED** *Please stand.*

*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.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Please sit, stand, or kneel, as you prefer.*

*Deacon* Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

*Lector* Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all humanity receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal

Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. God of Light and Life,

*People*

**We pray to you.**

*Lector*

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops, especially to Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Dabney, our Bishop; Barry and Michael, our Assisting Bishops; Whitney, our Rector; Cindy, our Deacon; to our companion diocese of the Dominican Republic; to these Episcopal Churches in our Diocese; St. Michael and All Angels, Sanibel; St. Monica's, Naples; St. Nathaniel's, North Port; St. Paul's, Naples; St. Paul's Wesley Chapel, St. Peter's Cathedral, St. Petersburg; St. Peter's, Plant City, Clearwater Deanery Collaboration Partners; and to all priests, deacons, and the laity in their ministry; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. God of Light and Life,

*People*

**We pray to you.**

*Lector*

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. God of Light and Life,

*People*

**We pray to you.**

*Lector*

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially our elected leaders, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. We pray that all God's children, especially those in the Middle East, might live in the hope of the world peace for which we are created. God of Light and Life,

*People*

**We pray to you.**

*Lector*

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor [*Add handwritten names from notebook*] and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those listed in the weekly news who have asked for our prayers. I now invite you to pray for others by name, aloud or in your hearts. [*Leave time...*] God of Light and Life,

*People*

**We pray to you.**

*Lector*

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. We give thanks for the flowers given to the Glory of God, and for all the blessings of this life, especially the birthdays this coming week of for Noel Powell, Judy Ratliff, Elena Goletz, Christine McLaughlin, Liz Hopwood, and Llorra Wonder and the anniversaries of Wayne & Jane Morris, Marc & Cathy Jacobson, God of Light and Life,

*People*

**We pray to you.**

*Lector*

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, [*especially... add names from notebook*]. Please add names of those on your heart, silently or aloud. [*Leave time...*] We beseech thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples

of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. God of Light and Life,

*People* **We pray to you.**

*Lector* Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

*People* **AMEN.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*Please kneel or stand.*

*Deacon* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God. [*Silence is kept.*] Most merciful God,

*People* **We confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

## **THE GREETING OF PEACE**

*Please stand.*

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

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

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*Please be seated.*

### **PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS**

*Deacon* As we receive these gifts, we acknowledge

*People* **All things come from thee, O Lord and of thine own have we given thee.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer II**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Celebrant* It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, Creator of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

*People* **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please kneel or stand, as you choose.*

*Celebrant* All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

*Celebrant and People* **And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;**

*Celebrant* By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

*People* **AMEN.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

