

Joy

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT





ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1676 SOUTH BELCHER ROAD
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33764-6517
WWW.STJOHNSCLEARWATER.ORG
727-531-6020

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024
9:00 am

Announcements

Prelude: "Lo! He comes, with clouds descending" John Francis Wade

Processional Hymn: 70 "Herald, sound the note of judgment"
Herald, Sound

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath - Third Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: "Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY."

The candles are lit.

Celebrant: Scripture: "Isaiah 55:12 – You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

People: "Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen."

The Rev. Matthew Kozlowski

THE WORD OF GOD

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: 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.**

Trisagion: S102

Alexander Archangelsky

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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 First Lesson: 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.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he 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 the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has 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.

Glorify 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 Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

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.

The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: 69 "What is the crying at Jordan"

St. Mark's, Berkeley

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 3:7-18

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Denise Guinta

Nicene Creed (Stand)

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 worshipped 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 Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; for the Diocese of Southwest Florida, especially Diocesan House, DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center and St. Thomas Chapel; St. Anselm's Chapel, University of South Florida Chapel Center; Florida Gulf Coast University, Ft. Myers; Episcopal College Chaplaincies: College of Florida Chaplaincy, Bradenton, and Clergy spouses and widows of the Diocese of Southwest Florida; for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and their pastor Anne, and for the dioceses and provinces of the Anglican Communion, especially The Anglican Church of Tanzania;

That we all may be one.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; We pray for Joe, our president, Donald our President elect and Ron, our governor, and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Douglas our Bishop; for Denise, Hugh and Jim, our priests and Kevin our Deacon and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Especially those listed in our bulletin.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

in your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit

that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of your Name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: 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 Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory: (The people may sit)

Offertory Hymn: WLP 724 "People, look East"

Besançon Carol



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
 2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
 3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
 4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
 5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). Music: *Besançon Carol*, harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944).

Presentation of Gifts (*Please stand as the gifts are brought forward*)

Doxology: 380 (vs. 3 with “Amen”)

Old 100th

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B (Stand)

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 our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: 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 sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

S124 “Holy, holy, holy”

David Hurd

Celebrant: 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;

The Celebrant continues

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 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**

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Celebrant 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 Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia ! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia !**

S161- Lamb of God

David Hurd

The Communion

All Baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion.

Please stand or kneel at the rail.

The priest will place the Sacrament in your outstretched hands.

Communion Hymn: 437 "Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!"

Birmingham

Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors *(as needed)*

Following the communion of the people, the Lay Eucharistic Ministers come forward and are commended for this ministry with the following words:

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

Celebrant: We who are many are one body,

People: **Because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty and everliving God,

we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food

of the most precious Body and Blood

of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;

and for assuring us in these holy mysteries

that we are living members of the Body of your Son,

and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out

to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn: 640 “Watchman, tell us of the night” Aberystwyth

The Dismissal: Response: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude: “ The song of Mary” Walter Greatorex

*Music: Copyright ©1985 by The Church Pension Fund
Copyright © St. James Music Press 2020
Copyright ©2021 Streaming License 20843396 CCLI #3196202, Copyright ©2021 One
License, LLC #A-702119 Copyright ©2022 RiteSong ASWA 50-99, *Public Domain*

Welcome Visitors!

Please sign the guest book at the welcoming stand where information is available.

Visit our Website: <https://stjohnsclearwater.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St.JohnsClearwater/>

Join us for coffee and fellowship in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.

Announcements

Pray for the sick: James Bernard, Gerry Boone, Michelle Boone, Barbara Bowdoin, Sally Brown, Bruce Cates, The Most. Rev. Michael B. Curry, Ann D'Alessandro, Kristy Foltz, Nan Lanham, Kimberly McMillan, John Piatak, The Rev. George Razez, Eric Rummeler, Nancy Sawyer, Deborah Smith, Kitty Smith, Chrissy Stroup, and Sandy Walton.

Pray for the homebound: Elin Buchanan, Shirley Dunaway, Thelma Lipp, and Margarita Lopez.

Temple B'Nai Israel Inter-Faith Light Labyrinth at the Winter Solstice: **Sunday, Dec. 22, 5pm – 6:30pm.** The Belcher Road Inter-Faith Community invites you to an evening of spiritual reflection and fellowship as we walk the light labyrinth, join in a drum circle and share fellowship with hot chocolate around the fire pit and other fun activities.

St. Paul's Wednesday Contemplative Services: The Contemplative Worship Service during Advent will be held on Dec. 18 – Holden Evening Prayers in St. John's church sanctuary at 7:15pm.

Prayer Chapel: The Chapel is open for anyone wishing individual prayer. Everyone is welcome to go to the Chapel after communion to receive prayer with a member of The Daughters of the King. Prayer requests are held in strict confidence.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – 10 am in the Parish Hall: See Bob Courday if you have any questions.

Dates for your calendar

Sunday, December 22 – “Poinsettia Sunday” – If you have a poinsettia plant and would like to donate it for the altar, please bring it to the service.

December 24, 4:00 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Family service with music.

Weekly Schedule

Thrift Shop Hours - Tue., Thu Sat., 9:30 – 3:30

Hand Bell Choir – Tuesdays - Church Sanctuary – 6pm

Voice Choir - Tuesdays - Choir Room – 7pm

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – Parish Hall - **10am**

Men's Cursillo Grouping - Parish Hall - Thursday 7:30 am

Rug Hookers – Parish Hall - Thursdays 10 am



**Diocese of Southwest Florida
The Rt. Rev. Douglas Scharf, Bishop**

St. John's Mission Statement:

To love, to serve, to grow in Christ

Church Staff

Interim Priest In Charge
Deacon
Office Administrator
Music Director
Sexton
Children's Ministry

The Rev. Denise Guinta
The Rev. Kevin Mort
Jan Davis
Jim May
Bob Cates
Mary Anders

Vestry

Marlene Eichelberger
Marti Moore
Bob Courdway
Gina Flanigan
Jessi Griffin
Sallie Devine
Bonnie Lovell

Sr. Warden
Jr. Warden
Treasurer
Stewardship
Clerk & Communications
Outreach
Parish Life