

ST. GEORGE'S ON-THE-HILL ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15th, 2024

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The crèche (nursery) is attended and available for babies and toddlers. It is located on the lower level.

- FULL TEXT VERSION OF LEAFLET -

Prelude: Pastoral Symphony with Angels

C. Hand

Welcome & Announcements

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather with song and prayer as the People of God.

Processional Hymn: #110 "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us

PLEASE STAND

1. "Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us;
the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
Midnight's peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken:
"The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up, and give us light;
the bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there,
that you the wedding feast may share."
2. Zion hears the watchmen singing.
Her heart with joyful hope is springing;
she wakes and hurries through the night.
Forth he comes, her bridegroom glorious
in strength of grace, in truth victorious:
her star is risen, her light grows bright.
Now come, most worthy Lord,
God's Son, incarnate Word, alleluia!
We follow all and heed your call
to come into the banquet hall.
3. Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;
let saints and angels sing before you,
as harps and cymbals swell the sound.
Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:
through them we stream to join the immortals
as we with joy your throne surround.
No eye has known the sight;
no ear heard such delight: alleluia!
Therefore we sing to greet our King;
forever let our praises ring.

Welcome & Greeting

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

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Las Posadas

PLEASE BE SEATED

"Las Posadas" is a Central American and Mexican Advent tradition in which Mary and Joseph walk through town searching for shelter. They are accompanied on their journey by local church members singing and carrying bright lanterns. Turned away again and again, they finally find householders who welcome them in.

During the season of Advent, we will join with Mary and Joseph in their search for shelter and remember that the search for shelter is a reality for many in our world and our community.

(Children & congregation knock/stomp feet three times on Mary & Joseph's cue.)

Innkeeper: It's very late! Shhhh . . . The soldiers will see we're breaking the curfew and they're nervous with all these strangers in town. Who is it?

Joseph: Shalom, friend; I'm Joseph. I'm sorry to make you take this risk, but we are desperate. We're down from Nazareth for the wretched census and we have no place at all to stay.

Children & Congregation: We're desperate. Let us in!

Innkeeper: We're full, I'm afraid. Not a room to be had.

Mary: That's all anyone says. I'm not sure I believe it anymore.

Innkeeper: Truly, we are full. I'm not trying to say that we don't want you here.

Joseph: That's a first. Look, all we need is a dry place to lie down. My wife Mary is pregnant, and I think her labour is starting.

Children & Congregation: We're desperate. Let us in!

Innkeeper: The only place with any space is the stable. Surely you don't want that.

Mary: Any place that's not the streets is what we want.

Joseph: We've wandered from door to door for days now. Everyone here is suspicious. Everyone is angry.

Children & Congregation: We're desperate. Let us in!

Innkeeper: Truly, we're not usually like this. There are too many strangers here right now. But what have I become? There's no time to waste; I'm going to prepare the stable. You two, come with me.

Children & Congregation: You're letting us in?!

Las Posadas Hymn

(TUNE: Good King Wenceslas)

Congregation: **In the name of God, we beg: Will you let us enter?
We are tired and we're cold. May we please have shelter?**

Choir: You look dirty, and you smell. Will you please keep moving?
For your kind there is no place, for our inn is decent.

Congregation: **It is not by our own choice that today we travel;
But the Emperor has said that all must be counted.**

Choir: For your reasons, we care not. Every room is taken.
Can't you see the place is full? You are bad for business.

Congregation: Will the child be born tonight out on a street corner?
Can't you find a place for him? Do you have no pity?

Choir: Oh my goodness, do come in! You can use the manger,
For the rooms that we do have are for a rich traveler.

All: Holy Jesus, you are still with the poor and homeless;
If we wish to do your will, we will bid them welcome.
Holy Jesus, do forgive, in this Christmas season,
That the way in which we live so beclouds our vision.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A child will light the candles on the Advent Wreath during the hymn. The children proceed to children's programming while the hymn is sung.

Advent Hymn: Prepare the Way

Pre- pare the way of the Lord! Pre- pare the way of the Lord!

Make a stright path for him, make a straight path, pre -

pare the way of the Lord!

The Prayer of the Day

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

We read and respond to God's message in scripture

PLEASE BE SEATED

Read by Ruth Snowden

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

A Reading from the Book of Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Psalm 126

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED & JOIN IN SINGING



In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord - I will re -
joi-
ce, come to God, do not be a-fraid. Lift up your
voi - ces, the Lord is near; lift up a voi - ces, the Lord is near

Music: J. Berthier
Taizé Community
© G.I.A. Publications

Choir: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, * then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, * and our tongue with shouts of joy.

People: **In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord, I will rejoice.**
Come to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Choir: Then they said among the nations, * "The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us, * and we are glad indeed.

People: **In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful . . .**

Choir: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, * like the watercourses of the Negev.
Those who sowed with tears * will reap with songs of joy.

People: **In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful . . .**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Read by Jonathan Chevreau

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Philippi.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Gospel Acclamation

PLEASE STAND

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff is for the Cantor, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are "1. Hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le, ha - le lu - jah!". The second staff is also for the Cantor, with lyrics "Hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!". The third staff is for the People, with lyrics "Hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah! repeat v.". The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and a repeat sign at the end of the third staff.

Cantor: 1. Hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le, ha - le lu - jah!

Cantor: Hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

People: Hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah! repeat v.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus 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.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon: Rev'd Janet Sidey

(After the sermon, please keep a period of silence for reflection)

The Prayers of the People

Led by Bob James

Please respond to the petition "We pray to the Lord," with the response, "Lord Jesus, come soon!"

All: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(We encourage you to share peace with those around you as you are comfortable.)

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

We share God's banquet of love for this community of faith

Offertory Hymn: #103 On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

1. On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within.
Prepare we in our hearts a home, where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward;
Without thy grace we waste away, like flowers that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent doth thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

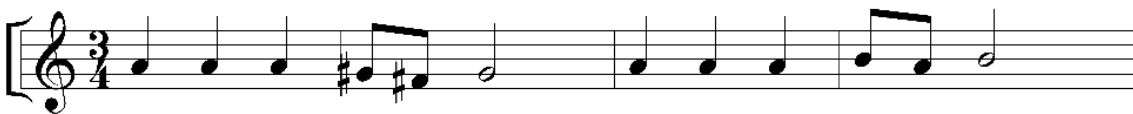
Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

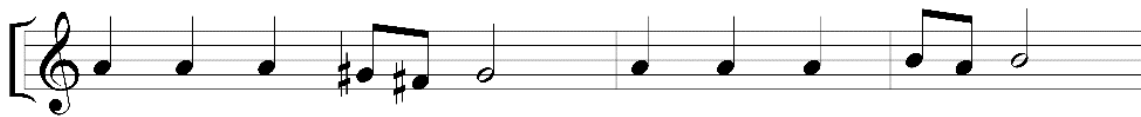
The Presiding Celebrant acclaims the life-giving power of God in the story of salvation and calls on us to join all creation in the song of the angels. We then sing verses 1-2 of the Sanctus following:



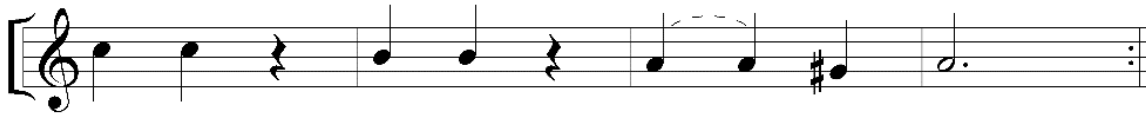
1. Lord God of pow'r and might, Lord God of pow'r and might,
2. Bless - ed is he who comes, comes in the name of God,
3&4. (below)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!



Your glo - ry fills the heav'n, your glo - ry fills the earth,
 Ho - san - na ev - er - more, ho - san - na ev - er - more,
 3. Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry for ev - er - more!
 4. Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry for ev - er - more!



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, Glo - ry to you!
 A - men, A - men, A - men.

The Presiding Celebrant recounts God's continuing love in the history of humanity and in the sending of his son, Jesus Christ. We join Jesus as he celebrates his Last Supper and acclaim his giving of himself in the gifts of bread and wine. After the words over the cup and the elevation of the chalice, we sing the following:

People: (verse 3) **Glory to you, O Lord; glory for evermore!**
Glory, glory, glory to you!

The Presiding Celebrant calls on the Holy Spirit to bless the gifts and strengthen us until we come to share the joys of eternity. We praise God's endless love and at the elevation of the bread and cup we sing the following:

People: (verse 4) **Glory to you, O Lord; glory for evermore!**
Amen, amen, amen.

The Breaking of the Bread #5

Presider: God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All: **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

Song for the Breaking of Bread

Sing 5 times:



Ha - py are those who are called to the sup - per of the Lamb;



Al - le - lu - ia! 1-4 5. ia, A - men!

*Music: D. Cowling
 • copyright 1995*

Choir: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

All: **Happy are those . . .**

Choir: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

All: **Happy are those . . .**

Choir: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: Grant us peace.

All: **Happy are those . . .**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Communion

PLEASE BE SEATED

*All who seek God in Christ are welcome to receive the sacrament of holy communion.
If you would prefer a blessing, simply fold your arms across your chest to indicate this.
Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

Music during Communion: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

J. Rutter

Prayer after Communion

PLEASE STAND

Doxology

Presider: Glory to God,

People: **whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: CP #116 You Kingdom Come – On Bended Knee

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

1. "Your kingdom come"-- on bended knee the passing ages pray;
And faithful souls have yearned to see on earth that kingdom's day.
2. But the slow watches of the night not less to God belong,
And for the everlasting right the silent stars are strong.
3. And lo, already on the hills the flags of dawn appear.
Gird up your loins, you prophet souls; proclaim the day is near:
4. The day in whose clear shining light all wrong shall stand revealed,
When justice shall be throned in might, and every hurt be healed;
5. When knowledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth abroad--
The day of perfect righteousness, the promised day of God.

Dismissal

Postlude: Laudamus Te

A. Vivaldi

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