

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

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14, 2025, 10:30am Holy Eucharist

Prelude: Sheep May Safely Graze

J. S. Bach

Welcome & Announcements

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

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

Processional Hymn: #88 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

PLEASE STAND

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a King;
Born to reign in us forever: now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Welcome & Greeting

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

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

The Story of Advent: The Shepherds and the Angels

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A child will light one candle on the Advent Wreath during the following hymn. The children will then proceed to children's programming.

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 Linda Javorski

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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-
joice, 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
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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; 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.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Read by Noel Semple

A Reading from the Letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Gospel Acclamation

PLEASE STAND

Cantor: *People:*

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

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

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

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

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

Sermon: Fr Andrew

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

The Apostles' Creed

PLEASE STAND

Presider: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Presider: Having reaffirmed our faith, let us offer our prayers to God.

The Prayers of the People

Led by Linda Javorski

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

PLEASE STAND

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: #363 My Soul Proclaims Your Glory, Lord

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

- 1 My soul proclaims your glory, Lord, my spirit sings with thankful voice,
For you my lowly prayer have heard: in you, my Saviour, I rejoice.
- 2 Nations unborn will bless your name, giver of boundless grace to me,
In every age you are the same: you make the humble whole and free.
- 3 You have made bare your mighty arm to break the yoke of selfish power,
And lift your broken ones from harm, bursting the gates of greed's proud tower.
- 4 You fill the hungry mouths with food, and show the poverty of wealth.
Your ancient vow you have made good, and raised your children to new health.
- 5 Glory to God, all being's Spring, to God the Word, salvation's voice,
To God the Spirit, praise we sing: with all the ages we rejoice.

Prayer over the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

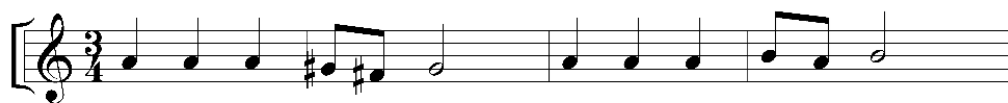
Presider: Lift up your hearts.

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:



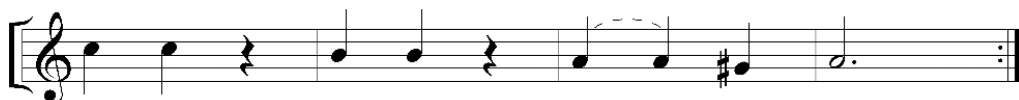
1. Lord God of pow'r and might, Lord God of pow'r and might,
2. Bless - ed is he who comes, comes in the name of God,
3&4. (below)



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.**

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Song for the Breaking of Bread



Music: D. Cowling © 1995

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

People: **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb; alleluia!**

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

People: **Happy are those . . .**

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

People: **Happy are those . . .**

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: Creator of the Stars of Night

M. Archer

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.**

Polychronia ("Many Years")

(Tune: Tallis' Canon)

Presider: Let us call down God's blessing:

All: **God give you many, many years to thank him for his blessings here.
And many, many, many more to pray God still his grace to pour.**

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: CP #91 People, Look East! The Time Is Near

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

- 1 People, look east! The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.
- 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled;
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

- 4 Stars, keep the watch: when night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.
- 5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace to serve the world God loves.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Fantasia 'In dulci jubilo'

J. S. Bach

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