

December 11, 2022

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford
Third Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist Rite II

10 a.m.

Prelude: *Magnificat noni toni* BuxWV 205

D. Buxtehude
Thornbury

Opening Hymn: #444: Blest be the God of Israel

**Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
he visits and redeems us, he grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill his promise and bring his people peace.**

**He from the house of David a child of grace has given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes his herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of Day.**

**On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
He guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease.**

Opening Acclamation:

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

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

ADVENT 3

Reader 1 Today we light the third candle of the Advent wreath.

Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and this third candle is JOY.

The candle is lit.

Reader 2 We light the candle of JOY.

Reader 1 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. [Isaiah 55:12]

Reader 2 We await your coming, O Christ, with delight.

Let us pray together 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.

Hymn of Praise – “Once more the Advent candles burn” vss. 1,4

Wm. Flanders

Once more the Advent candles burn.

For new, for fuller life we yearn.

Let music cast a hopeful spell:

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” We sing. We sing.

**But this we often fail to say:
That God is with us every day.**

**With us, and with all humankind,
has been and will be through all time. We fail. We fail.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. *People:* **And also with you.** *Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Prayed together:

**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 Word of God

First Reading:

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it 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. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say 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."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then 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; ⁷the 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. ⁸A 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 traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No 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. ¹⁰And 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.

The Lector concludes: The Word of the Lord. *People respond:* **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary *Magnificat* *prayed in unison*

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory be 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.

Epistle

James 5:7-10

⁷Be 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. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Lector concludes: The Word of the Lord. *People respond:* **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #65 Prepare the way, O Zion

Bereden väg för

Herran

**Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Refrain: Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.**

**He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
*Refrain***

**Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.
*Refrain***

The Gospel:

The Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew

11:2-11

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the 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. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Truly 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.

The Gospeller concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. *People respond:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Nicene Creed

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 FOR ADVENT

Intercessor: As we anticipate the glorious birth of the Messiah, let us gather our prayers as an offering of faith, responding, "O come, O come, Emmanuel."

Intercessor: For the Church that watches and waits for you, O Lord, for those who seek, or lead or follow, that the path be made straight for your coming. We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Jeffrey and

Laura, our Bishops, Mary Anne, our priest today, and for our staff and Vestry.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport and for The Anglican Church of Kenya.

Let us pray

People: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Intercessor: For our nation and its people, that a spirit of mutual respect may inform and instruct those in positions of power and that together with them we may form a just and righteous society. Let us pray.

People: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Intercessor: For the welfare and peace of the world. That there may be freedom from the oppression and violence that imprison humankind and that swords of destruction may become tools of the light of hope. Let us pray.

People: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Intercessor: For the care and protection of this good earth which you have given us, that we may prepare for your coming again by fostering respect for all of creation. Let us pray.

People: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Intercessor: For all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and for those who care for them, that they may be given strength to endure and patience to carry on in the midst of trials. We pray especially for your healing touch in the lives of Cynthia Dwyer, Russ and Joan ...[parish prayer list...] and for those on our hearts....

(silence as people offer prayers either silently or aloud)

Let us pray.

People: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Intercessor: For all who have died, with thanksgiving for the fullness of their joy in you and their place in the company of heaven, that they too, may be present while we wait.

[insert names of people who died here]

Silence as the people add their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Let us pray.

People: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Intercessor: O come, Emmanuel, do not tarry; to the dead bring life, to the living hope, and to all creation the renewal of your first gifts. Let us pray.

People: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Silence

Intercessor:

Let us pray together for our Search Process:

Dear Lord, in this season of change, we pray for our parish of Christ Church and our vestry. Guide us that we may be patient in our discernment, steadfast in our commitment, and imaginative about our future. We look to your wisdom and companionship in our journey to find a rector who will enlighten and inspire us through preaching, who will engage us through teaching, who will encourage us to serve others, and who will motivate us to celebrate the gospel in word and deed. All this we ask so that we

may all come to know the love of Christ more deeply. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and people:

Most merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. 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.**

Announcements and Greetings

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Offertory anthem: The Advent of our God

R. Shephard

The Doxology: Hymn 380 (vs. 3)

Presentation of Gifts

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP, p.

361

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 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 sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus Hymnal #S-130 Holy, holy, holy
bert

F. Schu-

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of power and might,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Celebrant and People

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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*.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
People and Celebrant

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

Fraction Anthem – S-164 Jesus, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

F. Schubert

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace, give us your peace.

Invitation to Communion

Prayer for Spiritual Communion*

God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar you assure us of your presence within us and within the body of Christ, the faithful through all the generations; grant that we who have witnessed anew these holy mysteries, though unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.

Communion

Communion solo: Wayfaring Stranger trad., arr.

G. Matheny

Gabrielle Johnson, soprano

Advent Post-communion Prayer*

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; That, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping, but active in his service and joyful in his praise; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent Blessing

Closing Hymn: #75 There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Ascension

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!**

**O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish, like the grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away;**

**but the word of our God endureth, the arm of the Lord is strong;
he stands in the midst of nations, and he will right the wrong.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, the lambs he'll gently hold;
to pastures of peace he'll lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.**

Dismissal: "Let us go forth in the name of Christ." *People: Thanks be to God.*

Postlude: *Gottes Sohn ist kommen* BWV 601

J. S. Bach

Today's Service:

Officiant: The Rev. Mary Anne Osborn

Music Director: Mark Sullivan

Usher: Kay Claiborn

1st Reading & Psalm: Ed Seibert

2nd Reading: Diane Pierpont

Prayers of the People & communion prayer: Marsha Brown

Chalice Bearers: Annie Rae, Ed Seibert

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Diane Pierpont

*Church of England, Book of Common Worship

Upcoming Calendar Events



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Sunday, December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent

Morning Prayer – 9:00AM in the Parish Hall

Holy Eucharist – 10AM (streamed and in-person) with organ, hymns, and choir

Sunday School

Coffee hour – following 11:00AM service

An Evening of Advent Music - 4:00PM followed by a soup supper in the Parish Hall.

Wednesday, December 14

CC BY-NC

Staff Meeting - via zoom at 3:00PM

Advent Home Eucharist – 6:30PM – With host Julie Gibson

Thursday, December 15

Choir Rehearsal, 7PM – 9PM, Parish Hall

Friday, December 16 – Music for Meditation – A wonderful opportunity to hear Mark Sullivan playing CEC's fine organ. 12PM. Invite your family and friends to stop in ~ listen ~ relax with your lunch and/or a cup of coffee.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

A big thank you to everyone who made the Chili-to-Go, Wreath Sale, Cookie Box Sale and Christmas Market such a wonderful event.

A reminder to please return your 2023 Stewardship cards to the church (place on the altar, put in the offering plate or drop off at the Rectory) as soon as possible.

* Advent Home Eucharists - Sign up by emailing Rev. Mary Anne at revmao28@gmail.com or on one of the sign-up sheets in the back of the church. Contact Susan Leonard if you have any questions.

Advent Home Devotions – There are candles and Advent devotional booklets at the back of the church for use at home in your prayers and meditation. If you are homebound and would like a booklet contact Donna Tafel at the office and she will mail a copy to you.

Christmas Flower forms are available in the back of the church or in the rectory. Please complete along with your donation and return to the church by next Sunday, December 18th. Please call the office (203-453-2279) with any questions.

OUTREACH

Wondering how you can support our neighbors during the holidays? Most immediately, **Gift Cards** are needed for groceries from Big Y or Stop and Shop. You have several ways to donate: 1-purchase a gift card and put it, *along with the activation receipt*, in the offering plate; 2-write a check to CEC with "Gift Card" in the notation, or 3-put money in the box in the rectory hallway. All the Gift Cards will go to provide food for our neighbors through Guilford Social Services.

And thank you for sharing from what God has given to you!

A sure sign of Advent is the appearance of "**Angels under the Balcony**" and the "**Mitten Tree**"!



The paper angels are reminders for donations to the Town's Heating Assistance Program; we are also receiving gift cards for two families' Christmas identified by the Town's Social Service office.

Please also consider helping to decorate the Mitten Tree, with yes, mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, socks, toiletries, and candies to be shared with the Chapel-on-the-Green congregation in New Haven.

On Friday, December 23 @ 4PM friend of Christ Church Jeremiah Mead will be holding a recital at the church. He will have a soprano soloist with him and invites all to attend. Jeremiah will be playing some Advent/Christmas music along with what he's calling "some other fun stuff".

Bible Study Day/time change - Monday from 5-6 PM. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us! We are a casual bunch, and you will be able to jump right in. All you will need is the Zoom link, which does change weekly. I send it out in an email each Monday. **If you are interested in joining us, you can reach me at cbellomy15@gmail.com** and I will make sure you get the link!

Newcomers – If you are visiting Christ Church for the first time (or perhaps have been coming regularly) please fill out the Welcome form in the pew holder. We would also ask that you sign the guest book in the rear of the church before you leave.

Prayers of the People: As a reminder from last week, **we** have many who have been on the list for a very long time, however going forward we will keep the names for a month. Please call the office if you would like a name to continue or have a name removed.

ECW News:

On display in the Parish Hall is our fall Brownie Hostess kit. The kit is cellophane wrapped and a fall ribbon and bow with gift card completes the kit, \$10.00 each. Order forms are located on our table in the hall. The November kits will be available for pick up today. We will be offering them during December with Christmas ribbon and gift card. For further information contact Diane W. Link at (203) 458-1806.

Seeking new members! ECW is a Christ Church organization who's mission is to bring together the women in our parish to join in faith, compassion and companionship. We share common goals of love and support for all in need, within our parish, our community, or beyond. All Christ Church women are members, no dues, commitment or talent - just your presence.

ECW will not meet during the months of January and February but will continue to have need for our New Sox and Underwear. A selection of Cardholders and other items will be on the table, under the window in the Parish Hall. Look for special Valentine treats. We will meet next in March.

We all wish you and your families a blessed holiday season. Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Peaceful and Happy New Year!

The Guilford Food Bank requests help with the following items: Items needed from the 12.1.2022 list include: Peanut Butter, crackers, oatmeal, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, canned tomatoes, pasta sauce, 100% fruit juice, gluten free products, paper towels, laundry detergent, household cleaner, dish detergent and shampoo. Please leave your donations in the bin by the north (Town Hall-side) door to the Narthex or feel free to drop off any donations during the week when the you Tony Piscitelli for delivering the donations!