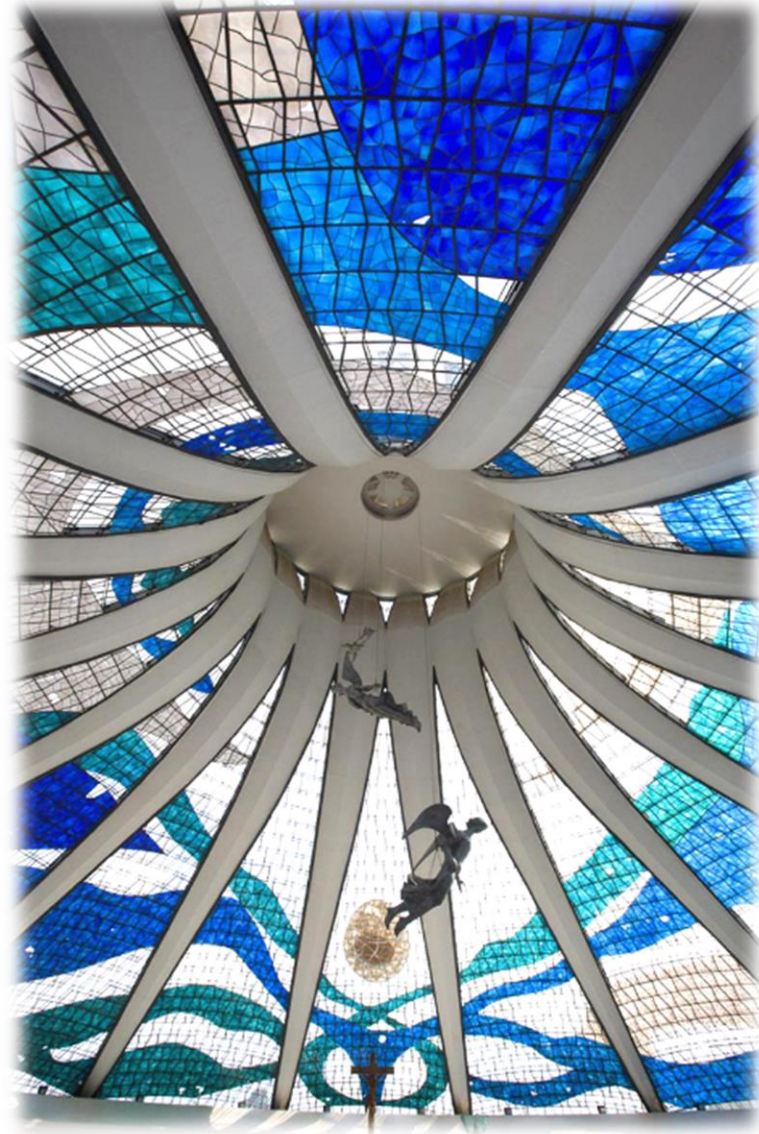


St. Luke's Table

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The Spirit of the Lord God
is upon me, because the Lord
has anointed me
to bring good tidings
to the afflicted.

Isaiah 61.1



Good Morning and Welcome!

A Service of the Word

Adapted from PRAY WITHOUT CEASING Morning and Evening Prayer for the Seasons of the Church Year

Liturgical elements from:

Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada

Connections Worship Companion

Sundays and Seasons Preaching 2019

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons/advent>

<https://biblegateway.com> (for Scripture passages)

Costa Blanca Anglican Chaplaincy (Church of England in Spain)



Joy, Stratz, Wayne; Almon, Margaret;
Halstead, Suzanne

The Gathering of the Community

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Again, I will say, “Rejoice!”

Shout aloud and sing for joy!

God is with us. The Lord is near.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God,
and open our ears to the preaching of John,
that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring
forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus
Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

Amen

Dear friends in Christ,
as we prepare to worship almighty God,
let us with penitent and obedient hearts
confess our sins against God and our neighbour
that we may obtain forgiveness
by his infinite goodness and mercy.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore and strengthen us through our Saviour
Jesus Christ, so that we may abide in your love and
serve only your will.**

Amen.

May the God of love and power forgive us
and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit
and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Opening Hymn:



She Was Fearless and Joyful!

The Third Sunday in Advent: JOY

Last Sunday, we lit the Candle of Peace.
We light it and the Candle of Hope again
as we remember that Christ,
who was born in Bethlehem,
will come again to judge the world
and bring it everlasting peace.

(The Candles of Hope and Peace are Lit)

The third candle of Advent
is the Candle of Joy.

When the angel Gabriel told Mary
that a special child would be born to her
she was filled with joy.

We light the Candle of Joy to remind us
that when Jesus is born in us
we have joy and that through him
there will be everlasting joy on earth.

(The Candle of Joy is lit)

Joy is like a light shining
in a dark place.
As we look at this candle
we celebrate the joy
we find in Jesus Christ.



Joy to the World!

Hymn of Prayer:

These Candles Shine with Glorious Light

**These candles shine with glorious light,
give peace and hope to those in night.
The joy they bring gives hope today,
and peace through Christ, in all our ways.**

**Give Joy, O Lord, to us this day,
make in our hearts a ready way.
That Christ, our Hope,
our King, may come
into our hearts and make His home.**

Song of the First-Born

Colossians 1:15-20

Christ is the image of the unseen God.

the first-born of all creation,
for in him were all things made,
in heaven and on earth.

Through him and for him were all things made,
before all he exists, holds all things in one.

The Church is his body, and he is its head.

He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead;
in all things he alone is supreme.

God made all his fullness to dwell in him,
to reconcile through him all creation to himself,
everything on earth and everything in heaven,
all gathered into peace by his death on the cross.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever.

Amen

The Invitatory

The Kingdom of God is at hand:
O come, let us worship.

The Collect of the Day:

**God of power and mercy,
you call us once again to celebrate
the coming of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes, he may find us
waiting in awe and wonder for him
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God
as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scriptures.
Our hearts and minds are open.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Zephaniah 3:14-20



Wall of Praise, Based upon Norman Rockwell's
Golden Rule, Thanks-Giving Square, Dallas, TX

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 judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king 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 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 people of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 12:2-6): Song of Thanksgiving (alternating verses)

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 defence'
and he will be my Saviour.

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,

this is know 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.**

**Glory to God, Source of all being,
eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for
ever.**

Amen.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7



Coptic Praise and Prayer Orans figures from Bawit,
Egypt -- Louvre Museum, Paris

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.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn



The Potluck -- Building mural by David Fichter, Cambridge, MA

The Good News

The Gospel
of Christ
according to
Luke 3:7-18



Advent Candle, Lauren Plummer

Luke 3:7-18

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 the 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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection



Joy, from Aspects of Daily Life

Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Prayers
of the People
Offered by
Brenda Munro



In the Time of Harmony: The Joy of Life,
Sunday by the Sea, Signac, Paul, 1863-1935

The Peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of God in Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

God is coming to gather
up the harvest, separating
the wheat from the chaff.
Let us offer our lives and
labour to the Lord.

Offertory Hymn

Bethlehem of the Heart



"Sustainability" -- Building mural, Adelaide, Australia

Bethlehem of the Heart, (5 verses)
(to the tune of Breathe on Me Breath of God)

**Bethlehem of the heart
where peace and love still reign.
A place that warfare cannot touch;
where hope is born again.**

**2. Bethlehem of the heart.
Angelic voices sing
of peace on earth, good will to all,
their joyful tidings ring.**

**3. Bethlehem of the heart
the star still brightly beams
reminding us that Bethlehem
fills all our hopes and dreams.**

**4. Bethlehem of the heart
our Lord is always near.
Jesus is born within our hearts.
Incarnate God is here.**

- 5. Bethlehem of the heart.
There's room for all within.
Open the door so all can find
a place inside the Inn.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to pray:

**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, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer over the Gifts:

**God of hope,
renew in us the joy of your salvation
and make us a living sacrifice to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Blessing

May God himself, the God of peace,
make you perfect and holy,
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and
body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia.
Thanks be to God, Alleluia.

Announcements



Cross with Trumpet, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library
Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Closing Hymn



Mary's Song, Lauren Wright Pittman,
Liturgical artist

Dismissal

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Again I will say, “Rejoice!”

The Lord is near.

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

Acknowledgement of Sources:

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The Revised Common Lectionary, a service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, (Second Sunday of Advent), Revised Common Lectionary (vanderbilt.edu)

Art:

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