

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!

Morning Prayer
(Book of Alternative Services)

The Gathering
of the Community



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

The Penitential Rite

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit:
a broken and contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise.

(Psalm 51.18)

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found,
call upon him when he draws near;
let the wicked forsake their ways,
and the evil ones their thoughts;
and let them return to the Lord,
and he will have compassion,
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
(Isaiah 55.6, 7)

If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins,
God is faithful and just,
and will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
(1 John 1.8, 9)

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

**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 neighbours 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.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

Lord, open our lips,

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory 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.

The Invitatory

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:
O come, let us worship.

Venite, (alternating verses)

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

**For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land.**

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11



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

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

61:1 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

61:2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

61:3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

61:4 They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

61:8 For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

61:9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

61:11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Psalm 126: (alternating verses)

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.**

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.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

**Praise to you, God of our salvation.
Your generous gifts surpass
all that we can ask or imagine.
You have delivered us from the exile of sin
and restored us to new life
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Glory and honour and praise to you
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24



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

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

5:16 Rejoice always,

5:17 pray without ceasing,

5:18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.

5:20 Do not despise the words of prophets,

5:21 but test everything; hold fast to what is good;

5:22 abstain from every form of evil.

5:23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5:24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gradual Hymn



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

The Good News

The Gospel
of Christ
according to
John 1: 6-8, 19-28



Advent Candle, Lauren Plummer

Reflection

Offered by
Jerry Cavanaugh



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

Offertory Hymn



"Sustainability" -- Building mural, Adelaide, Australia

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 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.**

Parish Discernment:

A Prayer for Vision and Leadership: (alternating verses)

God we come before you with grateful hearts
for the tremendous talent within our church.

We are a body filled with capable leaders
already doing great things.

Forgive us when we fail to heed your calling
in our lives or as a community.

Despite our forgetful nature, you love us dearly and want us to partner with you in this work. Not as servants, but as daughters and sons. Bring us a renewed vision of ourselves from your perspective. Help us to embrace your love so that we may share it with others.

Guide us as we make choices to act in loving ways towards ourselves and others; modeling community, self-care and wellness rather than selfishness, greed and isolation.

**Grant us a renewed vision as we seek you in your word.
Give us dreams to change our community
that make us come alive because we are doing
what you created us to do.**

Let our joy overflow from the leaders that rise up
and come alongside us with words of encouragement
and sharing the burden of the task.
Let us honour you with our work, with our families
and with our lives.

There have been and will be many more moments of doubt and uncertainty. We often allow our circumstances to cloud your brilliant vision and we are left with so many more questions than answers. Our storms seem monumental and some are fiercer than others, but you are larger than all of them.

We cling to you. Not in our understanding of your ways,
but our growing understanding of your loving nature.
Lord we believe your promises. Help us with our unbelief.
And as leaders that is where we gather our strength.
We are claiming Christ as our anchor
in the shifting sea of life.

**We humbly draw our power to love
from the amazing grace you have showered us with.
Thank you Jesus for loving us
and never removing us from your vision. Amen.**

(Adapted from www.forestviewchurch.ca/prayers_of_the_people/a-prayer-for-vision-leadership/)

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.**

The Blessing

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God, Alleluia.

Closing Hymn



Mary's Song, Lauren Wright Pittman,
Liturgical artist

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God

Acknowledgement of Sources:

Scripture:

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

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