

**A Service of Morning Prayer
for December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of 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*

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE - The Candle of Joy

Voice 1: Uncontainable, irrepressible, bubbling up in an explosion of energy.

Voice 2: What the weary long for, what our children often embody, what makes the Divine smile – joy.

Voice 1: It cannot be paid for, but is a priceless treasure.

Voice 2: As we hope for your arrival, as we pray for peace in your living, as we wait and watch and wonder how you might reveal yourself to us, God give us joy in your Advent.

Light three candles.

Voice 1: Joy is not a commodity that can be bought or sold, but lives deep in the human spirit. Help us to hear that truth and believe it. Let go of what our consumer culture says will bring us happiness – money, success, a scramble to the top that leaves us flat.

Voice 2: If we have robbed others of what they need in our clamour and quest for more than our fair share, forgive us. Help us hear the call of John the Baptist to turn around and begin again. God of love, we were made in joy. May we live that way.

All: We light a candle for joy. May it light the way.

CP 106 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Calling

1. 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!

2. O Zion, give voice to good tidings,
 ascend to the heights and sing!
 Proclaim to a desolate people
 the coming of their King.
 The works of pride all perish,
 like flowers they shall decay;
 the power and pomp of nations
 shall pass like a dream away.

3. But your word, O God, is faithful,
 your arm, O Lord, is strong;
 you stand in the midst of nations,
 and you will right the wrong.
 You will feed your flock like a shepherd,
 and fold the lambs to your breast;
 in pastures of peace you'll lead them,
 and give to the weary rest.

4. 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!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 And the love of God,
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.
May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,
**To you all hearts are open,
 All desires known,
 And from you no secrets are hidden.
 Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
 By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
 That we may perfectly love you,
 And worthily magnify your holy name;
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord is our refuge and strength: O come, let us worship.

Psalm: A Reading from Isaiah 12:2-6

Refrain: Ring out your joy, for the Holy One of Israel is in your midst.

12:2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

12:3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

12:4 And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

12:5 Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

12:6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

A Reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20

3:14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

3:15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

3:16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

3:17 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

3:18 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

3:19 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.

3:20 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 318 Rejoice Today With One Accord

1. Rejoice today with one accord,
sing out with exultation;
rejoice and praise our mighty Lord,
whose arm hath brought salvation.
His works of love proclaim
the greatness of his name;
for he is God alone,
who hath his mercy shown:
let all his saints adore him!

2. When in distress to him we cried
he heard our sad complaining;
O trust in him. what'er betide,
his love is all-sustaining.
Triumphant songs of praise
to him our hearts shall raise:
now every voice shall say,
"O praise our God alway";
let all his saints adore him!

A Reading from Philipians 4:4-7

4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

4:5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

4:6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

4:7 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.

CP 103 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

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
And let each heart prepare 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 Spirit evermore

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 3:7-18

3:7 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?"

3:8 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.

3:9 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."

3:10 And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

3:11 In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

3:12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

3:13 He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."

3:14 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."

3:15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

3:16 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.

3:17 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."

3:18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CP 89 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!***

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. *[Refrain]*

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe. *[Refrain]*

4. O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. *[Refrain]*

5. O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *[Refrain]*

6. O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *[Refrain]*

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our bitter conflicts cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace. *[Refrain]*

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 compiled and led by Betty Johnson

Today we offer our Prayers for Advent 3

Heavenly Father, as we continue our journey through Advent, we bring the needs of the church, and the world to you in faith and hope, saying

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray for the church:

We pray for the Anglican Church of Canada

We pray for the Diocese of The Territory of the People in British Columbia.

In our Diocese, we pray for Christ Church parish, Edmonton: Susan Oliver, Rector; Maureen Crerar and Martin Garber-Conrad, Honorary Assistants; Arlene Young and Sheila Moorey, Vocational Deacons; Alison Hurlburt, Parish Evangelist; Ronald Laginski, Administrative Assistant.

We pray for our parish of St. Peter's and especially for our clergy Heather and Alison.

We pray for our music ministry Nadine. We pray for our Wardens, Vestry and all the volunteers, especially those that have made the opening of our doors possible.

We pray for the Diocese of Buyé, the Rwiri Parish: Gabriel Manirakiza, catechist.

We pray for the people of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Grant that all who come into your church this hopeful season of waiting, may be enabled to renew their relationship with you. Help us all to be glad of your presence, and to rejoice at the coming of Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray for peace:

We know that without justice there can be no peace. We pray for a world where all people are respected, regardless of race and religion; where the earth's resources are used wisely for the common good; where through the transformation of our lives, we may do justice, love and kindness and walk humbly with our God.

We pray for our Queen and all those in authority throughout Canada and the World that they will hear this call for peace and justice.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray for homeless people and for refugees who have no country to call their own. Let your blessing be with those who work to help the homeless in this season and give to all of us the determination to help where we can.

We pray for people who are lonely, those who are lonely because they have lost a partner, those who are lonely because no-one seems to care, those who are lonely because of handicap or illness. Let your presence be with those who are alone at this season of friendship and may we take your friendship to those whom we know will be alone this Christmas.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray for friends and family who are ill at this time, especially those for whom our prayers are requested: Sandra, Merle, Mona, Lois Ward, Ray and Mary, Irene, Kathryn, Helen, Jenifer, Judy, Tony and Mary Jean, Luisa, Lois Davis, Marguerite, Evelyn, Miranda, Iain, Diane and Bill, Maxime, Barry Westervelt, Geraldine, Florence, Kathleen, Joan, baby Emelia, Jerry and those we remember in the quietness of our hearts. We bring them to you in the confidence that you love them and know their every need and that your healing power is still the same today. Bless those who care for them and all that is being done for their recovery and answer our prayers as you see best.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have completed this earthly journey and those left to mourn their leaving, especially for the repose of the souls of David Page and Willis Scott. May we all find comfort in your promise of eternal life.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, we thank you for answering our prayers and allowing us to once again, open the doors of St. Peter's to worship in person. The gift of being able to gather together is truly a blessing to us all and the ability to sing the songs of praise to glorify you is a gift we have missed. We praise and thank you that as we now gather in

person and online, we continue to be bound together in love and fellowship by your divine grace and compassion.

Make ready our hearts for your coming, O Lord, and receive our prayers in the name of the one who comes, Our gracious saviour, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Collect

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.

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
**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.**

CP 270 Lamb of God to Thee We Raise

1. Lamb of God, to thee we raise
hymns of holy love and praise
for the saint and prophet born
to be herald of the morn.

2. Like the morning star he rose,
thine appearing to disclose;
like an ensign lifted high,
he declared thy kingdom nigh.

3. Filled with grace and sanctity
from his blest nativity,
he, the new Elias, came
bearing zeal's most sacred flame.

4. Kinsman of the King divine,
greatest of the prophet's line,
blest forerunner of the Lord,
who his praises can record?

5. Mighty preacher, by whose word
souls to penitence were stirred
those who long in sin had strayed
then the call divine obeyed.

6. Make us, Lord, like him to be
fearless witnesses for thee;
faithful unto death be found,
and at last by thee be crowned.

The Dismissal

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*

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever, Amen.

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.