



St. James's Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Before the liturgy, in silence, talk to God. During the liturgy, let God speak to you.

After the liturgy, speak to one another. Please silence all electronic devices.

Prelude: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit: Kyrie Leo Sowerby

Hymn 68: *Llangloffan*, "Rejoice! rejoice, believers"

Advent Lighting Prayer

Celebrant

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this Advent wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 355

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

Collect for Purity

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.*

Kyrie S95 (*The People echo each petition sung by the Cantor.*)

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

BCP 212

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

New Testament: 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9 *Ecce Deus*

Plainsong, Tone VIII.1

The Cantor sings the first half of each verse; the congregation sings the second half.



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 defense,

and he will **be my Savior.**

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,

and this is known **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.**

Hymn 65 (vs. 1-2): *Bereden väg för Herran* “Prepare the way, O Zion”

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 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.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Children’s Procession *(The children may follow the clergy to Children’s Chapel at this time if they wish. Please send them with their coats, as Children’s Chapel may be held outdoors, depending on the weather.)*

Hymn 65 (vs. 3): *Bereden väg för Herran* “Prepare the way, O Zion”

Sermon: The Reverend Hilary Streever

Celebrant

Dear people of God, by virtue of our baptism into the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church, all Christians carry the ministry to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

Our history is marred by oppression, by the enslavement of those who differ from us, and by the forces of racism that attack human dignity. The sin of racism is woven into our lives and our cultures, in small and great ways, in things done and things left undone. As followers of Christ, we reject racism and the oppression of other human beings. In building Christ's beloved community, we must strive to love all people, respect all people, and work for the good of all people. We must stand alongside God's children of every race, language, and culture, and work together as agents of justice, peace, and reconciliation.

Accordingly, I invite you to join me in the renewal of our baptismal vows.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People I do.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People 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.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People 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.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever
you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example
the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons,
loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Commissioning for Sacred Ground

Celebrant

I invite those who have participated or are currently participating in the
Sacred Ground ministry to please come forward.

Dear People of God, we stand in the shadow of the prophets crying out
for justice and peace. As St. Paul wrote, God calls us to be a people of
reconciliation, serving a world in need. To that end, these women and
men have taken a courageous first step towards racial justice and
healing by participating in the ten-part small group series, Sacred
Ground. This work involves risking ourselves for the sake of God's love,
moving beyond ourselves in order to seek and serve Christ and one
another. We are all called to the work and ministry of becoming
beloved community.

Question Will you persevere in the ministry of becoming beloved
community?

Answer I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you who witness these promises do all in your power
to uphold them in this ministry?

People We will, with God's help.

Celebrant

In the name of God and of this Church, I commission you to live into the reign of Christ our Savior as agents of justice and reconciliation in our sinful and broken world. *Amen.*

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.*

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Hymn 671 (vs. 1-3): *New Britain*, “Amazing Grace”

Solo Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
 That saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found;
 Was blind, but now I see.

All ’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
 And grace my fears relieved;
 How precious did that grace appear
 The hour I first believed.

All The Lord has promised good to me,
 His word my hope secures;
 He will my shield and portion be,
 As long as life endures.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

BCP 360

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.*

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord at the altar. Gluten-free wafers are available. All are invited to receive a blessing at the altar, indicated by crossing your arms across your chest.

Offering of Gifts and Praise

To give online, you may use the QR code located in the back of the bulletin.

Song: The Maker

Daniel Lanois

Oh, oh deep water – black, and cold like the night
I stand with arms wide open,
I’ve run a twisted mile;
I’m a stranger in the eyes of the Maker.

I could not see for the fog in my eyes
I could not feel for the fear in my life
From across the great divide, in the distance I saw a light:
Jean Baptiste walking to me with the Maker.

My body is bent and broken by long and dangerous sleep
I can’t work the fields of Abraham and turn my head away
I’m not a stranger in the hands of the Maker.

Brother John, have you seen the homeless daughters
standing there with broken wings?
I have seen flaming swords there over east of Eden
burning in the eyes of the Maker.

Oh river rise from your sleep....

Hymn 60 (v. 6): *Conditor, alme siderum*, “To God the Father”

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 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 him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (*The Celebrant continues.*)

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 S125

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

Celebrant

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.

Celebrant

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

As the children return to their parents, the people sing

Antiphon

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
For the Lamb of God has tak-en a-way our sins.

Verse

Sing with all the peo - ple of God,
and join in the hymn of all cre - a - - - tion.

repeat Antiphon

Music at Communion

Anthem: Daughter of Zion (*Judas Maccabeus*) George Frideric Handel

Daughter of Zion, shout for joy!	Hail, hosanna, David's son,
Shout aloud, Jerusalem!	Be thou by thy people blest!
Lo, thy King now comes to thee,	Thine eternal kingdom come!
yea, he comes the Prince of Peace.	Praise be sung to thee on high!

Hymn 54: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, "Savior of the nations, come!"

Special Celebrations and Prayers

People with birthdays or anniversaries during the week and any with special prayer requests may come forward to the altar rail to receive a blessing.

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Please kneel as able.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he, whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Hymn 72: *Richmond*, "Hark! the glad sound!"

Dismissal

People Thanks be to God.

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of
John Moncure Daniel, Jr. and Joy Beam Daniel.*

Service Participants

Preacher: The Reverend Hilary Streever

Celebrant: The Reverend Dr. John McCard

Deacon: The Reverend Dr. Robert Friend

Lector: Linda Owen

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Becky DeCamps, Teri Miles

IWC Greeters: Andy Smith, Ashley Peace, Chris Peace

Musicians: West Gallery Choir, Guitar Ensemble

Soloists: Knox Hubbard, Dr. Lisa Edwards Burrs

Percussionist: Scott Milstead

Organist: Virginia Ewing Whitmire

Director of Music: Dr. Mark A. Whitmire

Prayers of the People

Please lift up to God those who have asked for our prayers:

For the sick and in need: especially Basil Acey, Mary Lee Allen, Elizabeth Austin, Jennifer Ball, Hylah Boyd, Bryana Braxton, John Daniel III, Tom Evelyn, Kate Gareau, Leigh Hulcher, Dave Johnson, Sue Kneip, Eileen Long, George Longest, Emma Mason, Matt Mattox, Linda Mays, Eve McCray, JoEllen McGugan, Bunky Miller, Harry Moore, Kenny Morphis, Linda Pharis, Carol Piersol, Margaret Raigins, Bradford Smith, Jay Stegmaier, Alan Stone, Jessie Sumrell, Ginger Trice, Jim Tucker, Anne Turnbull, Sam Witt, Erin Wright, Cassandra and family, Ben and Eloise, Ace, David, Dylan, Elaine, James, and Melissa

For those serving in our Armed Forces: especially David Bhatta, Robby Farmer, Wilson Nance, William Smith, and Mitchell Teefey

For all who advocate for the most vulnerable and strive to bring an end to poverty and homelessness: especially our outreach partners ACTS, CARITAS, REAL Life, and RE:Work Richmond

For our Mission Partners, both domestic and abroad: especially St. Joseph's Family in Haiti, Our Little Roses in Honduras, Hurley Community Development Center in Hurly, Virginia, and St. Christopher's Church in Bluff, Utah.

For the newly born: especially Anne Conway Brown, daughter of Jane Garnet and Tyler Brown and granddaughter of Laura and Charlie Brown, and James Knowles Chauncey Millen, son of Ashley and John Millen, who were born recently

For all celebrating their birthdays this week, especially those who celebrate their birthdays today: Clark Barrineau, Aaron Bowles, III, Bruce Cann, Janet Peyton, Will Ratliff, Aidan Salmon, Chas Skidmore, Janey Timmons, Sam Witt, and Virginia Wright

For those who have died recently: especially Ralph Pope

Sacred Ground

A curriculum designed by the Episcopal Church's ministry for Becoming Beloved Community, Sacred Ground is a powerful ten-part film and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. This series is especially designed to help white people talk about racism with other white people. You are invited to join one of our small, lay-facilitated groups, which meet once or twice a month. Each small group walks together through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

Learn more at:

www.doers.org/becomingbelovedcommunity

www.episcopalchurch.org/sacredground

www.episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community

Contact: the Rev. Hilary Streever at hstreever@doers.org or (804) 355-1779, ext. 319

Sacred Ground Participants

Maureen Ackerly	Diane Dodd-McCue	Jim Kaczorowski
Billy Baxter	Jane Dowrick	Mary Lou Lee
Andy Bennett	Patty Duffy	Hortense Mitchell Liberti
Betsy Blair	Darien Fisher-Duke	Rhoda Mahoney
Meta Braymer	Carol Ann Fuller	Dale Mann
Marjorie Bribitzer	Sam Fuller	Heather McGuire
Maxie Cannon, Jr.	Pam Goggins	Dena Moore
Marsha Carter	Nancy Goodall	Harry Moore, Jr.
Susan Coleman	Suzanne Hall	Katie Morris
Mark Cooper	Christie Hartwell	Jeanette Nicholson
Fraser Davis	Martha Heeter	Linda Owen
Melinda Davis	Laurie Hoen	Judy Philpott
Becky DeCamps	Leigh Hulcher	Madeline E Pleasants
Lisa deWolff	Laura Inscoc	Jennifer Pollard
Theo deWolff	Anne Kaczorowski	Ruth Pratt

Robin Price
Gigi Redmond
John Reynolds
Julia Reynolds
Mary Lou Rumble
Richard Rumble
Jan Schlesinger
Charol Shakeshaft
Mark Shuford

Bennett Shumaker
Susan Siegfried
Blake Singer
Kilpy Singer
Bill Smith
Karen Stanley
Hilary Streever
Brooke Taylor
Emily Thrower

Maggi Tinsley
Clare Trow
Kay Tyler
Chamie Valentine
Antonia Vassar
Stephen Watts II
Priscilla Webster
Fontaine Williamson

Music Notes



The Maker was written by Daniel Lanois (b. 1951), a Canadian record producer, guitarist, and singer/songwriter. It first appeared on his album *Acadie* in 1989. Lanois was called “the most important record producer to emerge in the 1980’s” by *Rolling Stone* for his work with U2 (*The Unforgettable Fire* and *The Joshua Tree*), Peter Gabriel (*So*) and Bob Dylan (*Oh Mercy*). The commonality of these albums was a more explicit spirituality than previously expressed by these artists. *The Maker* was part of the sound-track of the movie *Sling Blade* and has become a classic, covered by Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris, the Jerry Garcia Band and the Dave Matthews Band, among others.

Daughter of Zion is my arrangement of music from George Frideric Handel’s *Judas Maccabeus*. The oratorio tells the story recorded in the *First Book of Maccabees* in the Apocrypha. I have paired the music with a text from this morning’s Old Testament lesson from the prophet Zeephaniah.

Amazing Grace was written by the English poet and Anglican clergyman John Newton (1725–1807). Newton grew up without any particular religious conviction. As a young man he was conscripted into service in the Royal Navy. After leaving the service, he became involved in the Atlantic slave trade. In 1748, a violent storm battered his vessel off the coast of Ireland, so severely that he called out to God for mercy. This moment marked his spiritual conversion, and led to his abandoning slave trading. He first took a job as tide surveyor in Liverpool, but he began to think he had been called to the ministry. After theological studies, at the age of thirty-nine, Newton began forty-three years of ministry in the little market town of Olney. He often composed hymns based on the lessons for the evening service. In 1779,

two hundred and eighty of these were collected and combined with sixty-eight hymns by Newton's friend and parishioner, William Cowper, and published as the *Olney Hymns*.

Handel's *Messiah*: Christmas Eve at 10:30 p.m.

On Christmas Eve the Parish Choir, accompanied by strings, will sing the first section of *Messiah*, Handel's most beloved work and among the most popular works in Western music. According to the manuscript, written in Handel's own hand, *Messiah* was composed between August 22 and September 14, 1741. The libretto was compiled by Charles Jennens, a clergyman, literary scholar and editor of Shakespeare's plays. He created the libretto by assembling verses from the King James Bible, including not only the story of Christ's life from the New Testament but selections from Old Testament books of Isaiah, Haggai, and Malachi and others. Part I is primarily concerned with the Advent and Christmas stories.

December 24

<i>Friday</i>	Christmas Eve Family Eucharist
4:00 p.m.	Cherub Choir and Children's Choir
6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist West Gallery Choir and Youth Choir
10:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Choral Prelude Handel: <i>Messiah</i> (Part I) Parish Choir and Strings
11:00 p.m.	Festival Holy Eucharist

News and Events

To view the echimes on doers.org, scan this QR code with your smart phone's camera app:



Giving Online

We thank you for your ongoing support of God's mission at St. James's. To give financially online, go to doers.org/give or scan this QR code with your smart phone's camera app:



Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Monday, December 13th

7:00 pm Service of Hope

Sunday, December 19th – Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I *

5:00 pm Children's Christmas Pageant

Friday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Festival Eucharist *

6:00 pm Festival Eucharist

10:30 pm Choral Prelude: Handel's *Messiah*

11:00 pm Festival Eucharist, Rite II

Saturday, December 25th -- Christmas Day

10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, December 26 -- Christmas I

10:00 am Christmas Lessons & Carols *

Sunday, January 2 – Christmas II

9:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II *

11:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite II*

11:30 am Outdoor service (*weather permitting*)

**Live-streamed at doers.org and YouTube*

St. James's Episcopal Church

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804-355-1779 | www.doers.org