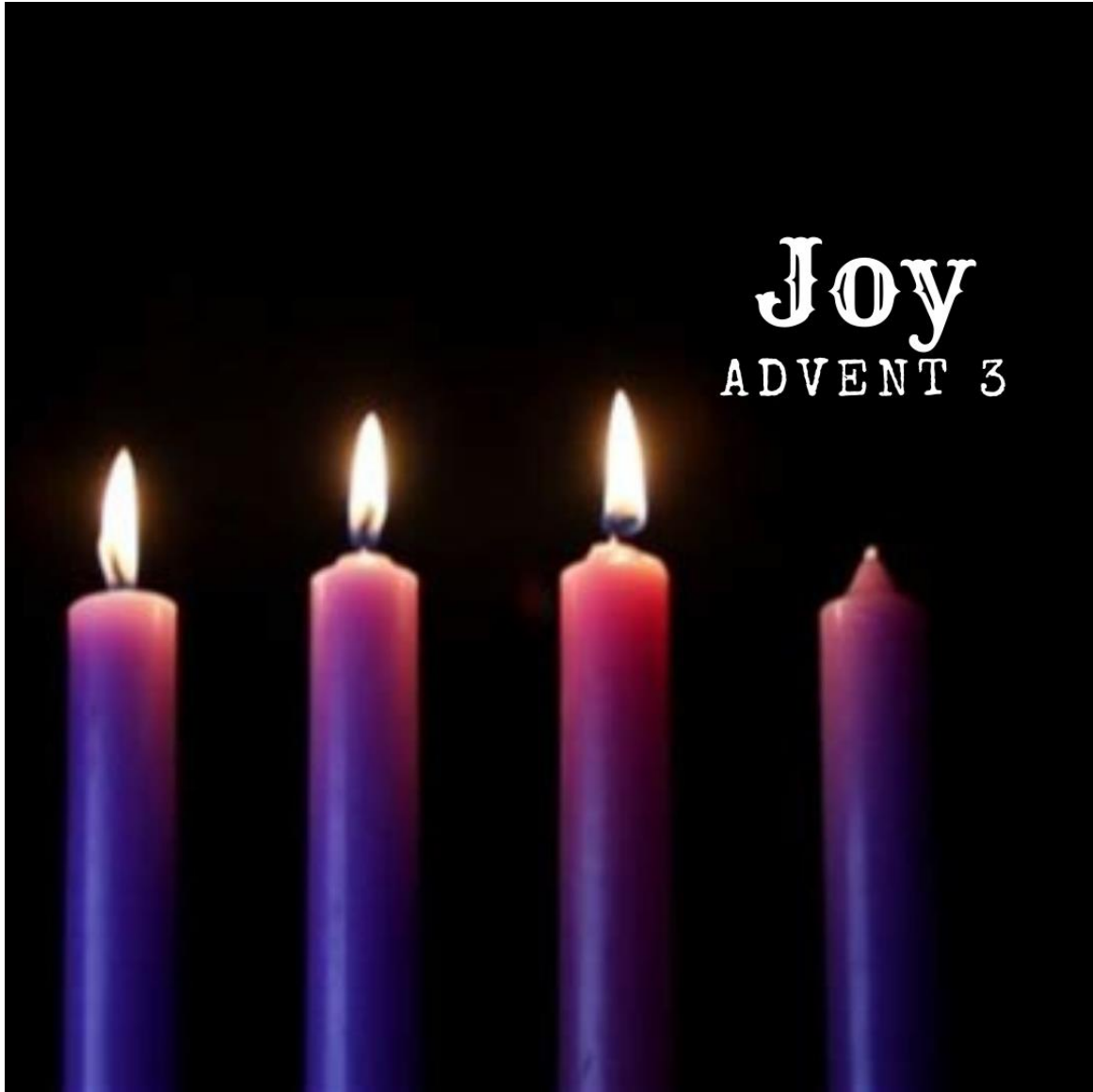


# The Third Sunday of Advent



December 13, 2020

**THE CHURCH OF  
THE HOLY TRINITY**  
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE



Wide Open Doors    Wide Open Hearts

# Sunday Morning Prayer

## The Third Sunday of Advent

**Prelude:** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion    George Frideric Handel  
Aimee Pilgermayer, Soprano

### Opening Hymn

*On Jordan's bank  
Westminster New*

### Hymnal 76

1 On    Jor - dan's bank the    Bap - tist's cry an -  
2 Then    cleansed be ev - ery    breast from sin; make  
3 For    thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
4 To    heal the sick stretch    out thine hand, and  
5 All    praise, e - ter - nal    Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

## **Advent Prayer**

*Leader* The third candle of Advent stands for Joy.

In the height of our Advent walk, grant us the courage to experience joy. Joy in the face of apathy, Joy in the face of sorrow, Joy in the face of uncertainty. **Amen**

## **The Opening Sentence**

*Leader* The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

## **Confession of Sin**

*Leader* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*All* **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.**

*Leader* 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.**

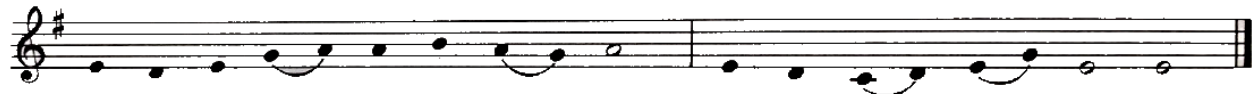
## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Leader* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*All* **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. Alleluia.**

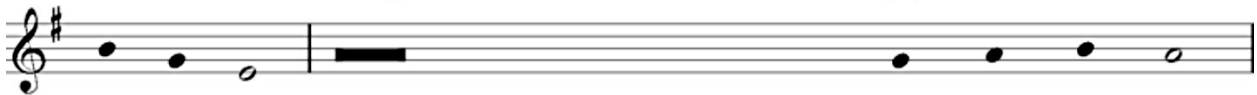
# The Invitatory: Venite



Our King and Sa - vior now draws near: Come let us a - dore him.



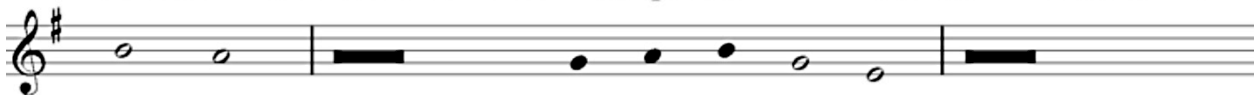
1. Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our



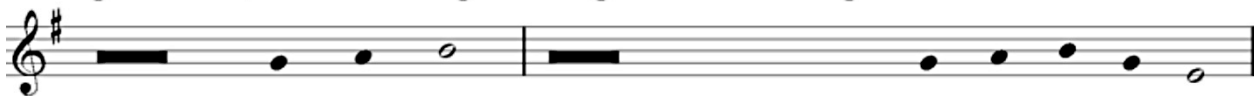
sal - va - tion. 2. Let us come before his presence with thanks - giv - ing



and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. 3. For the Lord is a



great God, and a great King a - bove all gods. 4. In his hand are



the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his al - so.



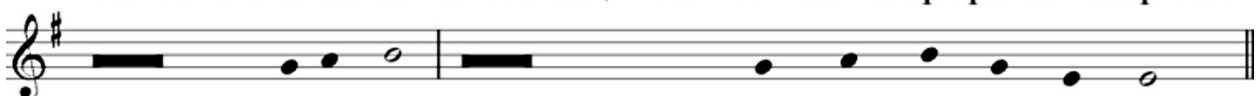
5. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have mold - ed the dry land.



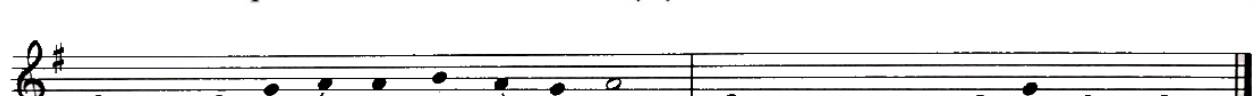
6. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord



our Ma - ker. 7. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture



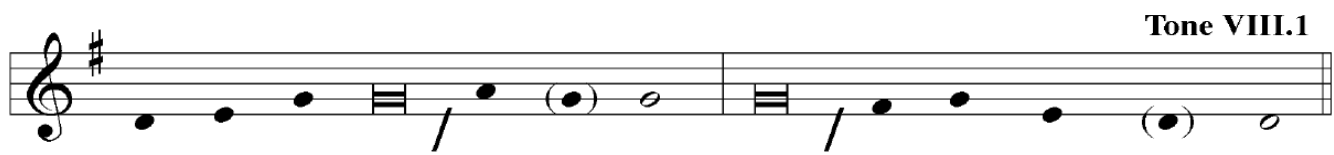
and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would heark - en to his voice!



Our King and Sa - vior now draws near: Come let us a - dore him.

*Then follows*

## Psalm 126



- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of / Zion,\*  
then were / we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with / laughter,\*  
and our / tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the / nations,\*  
“The LORD has / done great things for them.”
- 4 The LORD has done great / things for us,\*  
and / we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O / LORD,\*  
like the watercourses / of the Negev.
- 6 Those who / sowed with tears\*  
will / reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the / seed,\*  
will come again with joy, / shouldering their sheaves.

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 Readings

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### The First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

*Reader:* A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

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

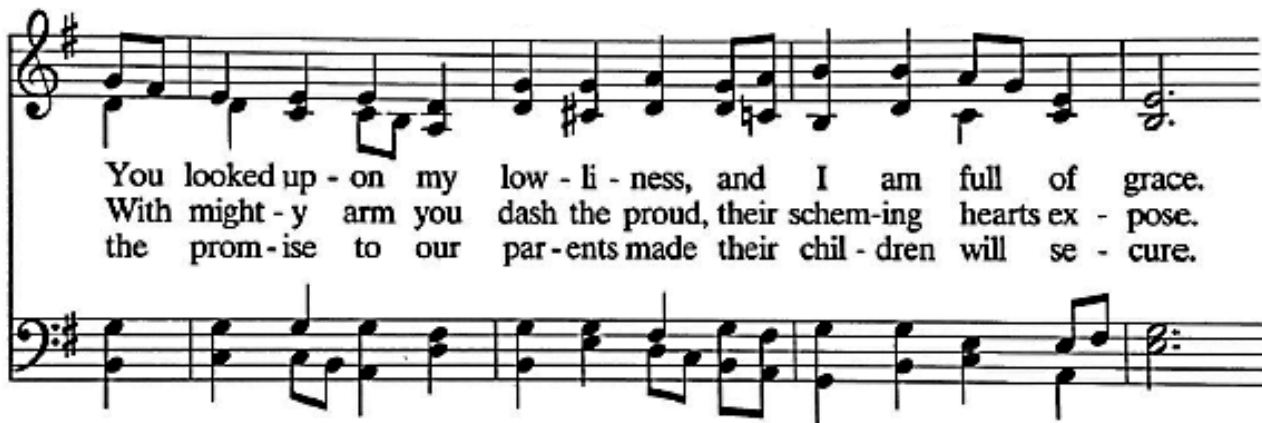
*Reader*    The Word of the Lord  
*All*        **Thanks be to God.**

# Canticle 15: The Song of Mary

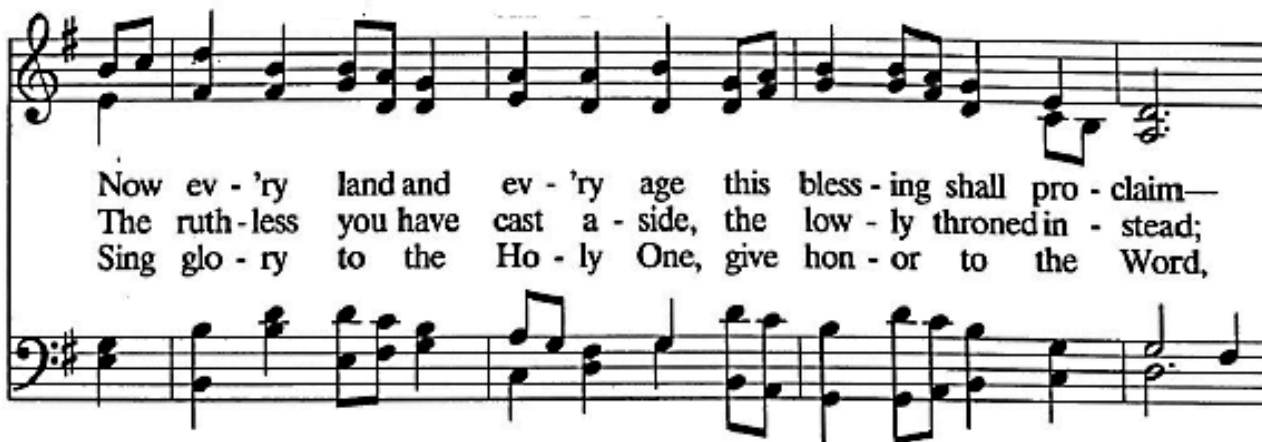
Kingsfold



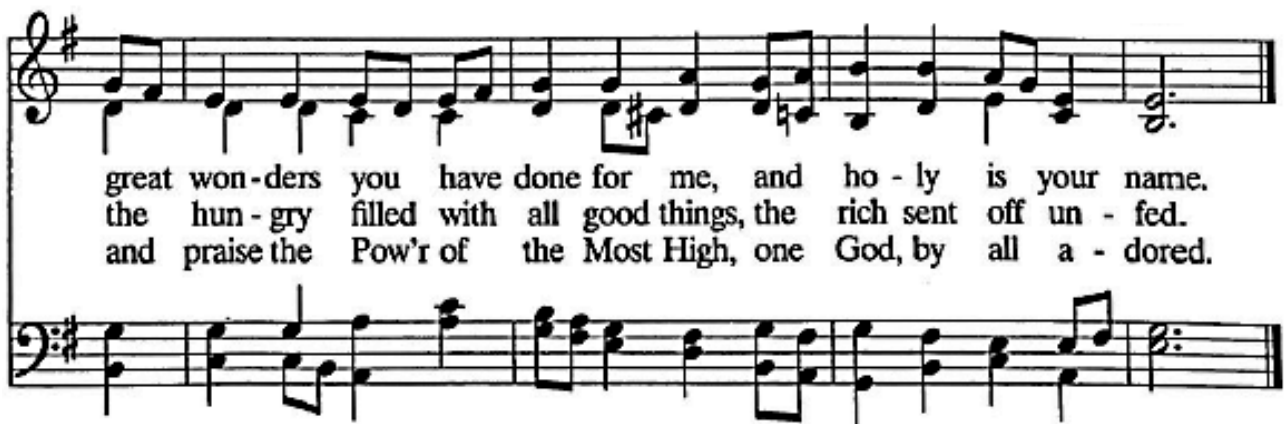
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

## **The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*Reader:* A reading from the second letter to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

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

*Reader*    The Word of the Lord  
*All*        **Thanks be to God.**

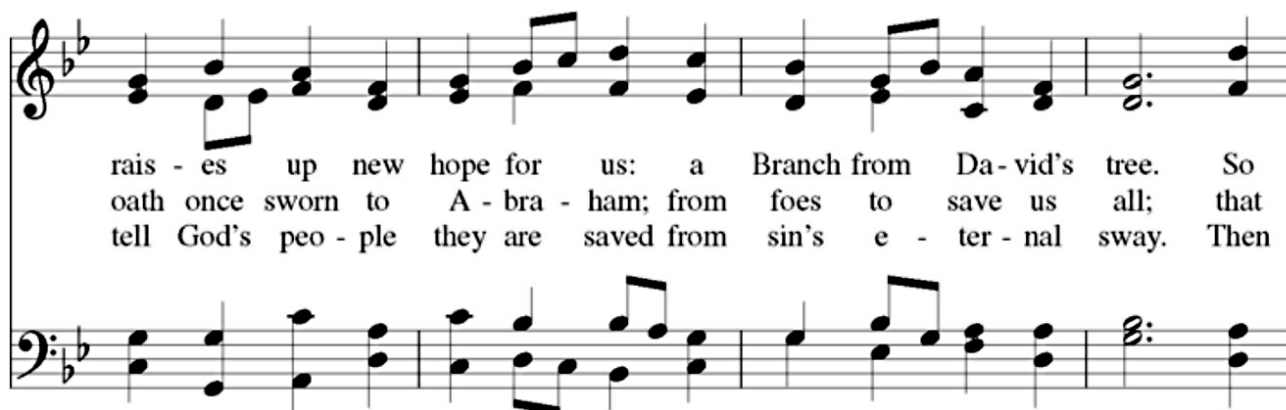


# Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah

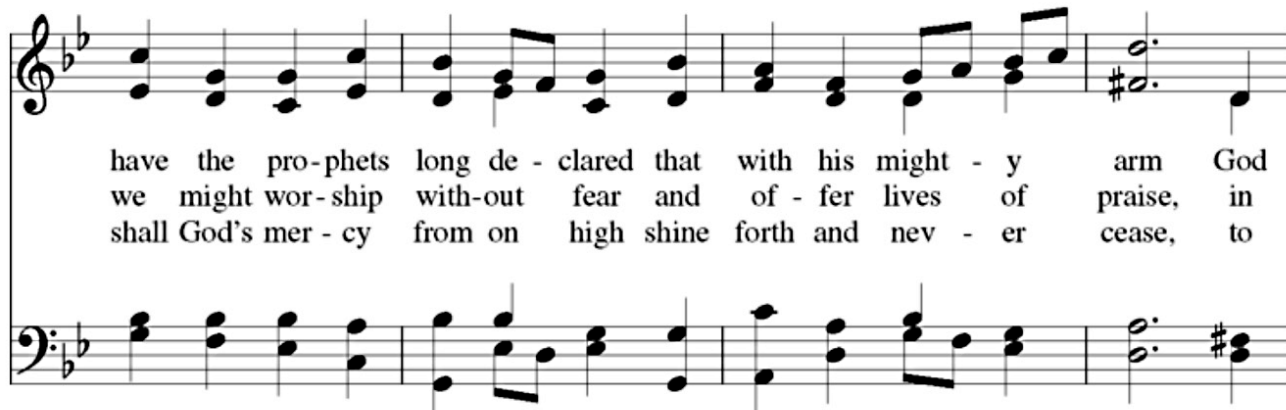
# Shepherd's Pipes



1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free and  
2. With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call, the  
3. My child, as pro - phet of the Lord you will pre-prepare the way, to



rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree. So  
oath once sworn to A - bra - ham; from foes to save us all; that  
tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway. Then



have the pro-phets long de - clared that with his might - y arm God  
we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise, in  
shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease, to



would turn back our en - e - mies and all that wish us harm.  
ho - li - ness and right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.  
drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

## **The Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8,19-28**

*Reader:* A Reading from the Gospel of John.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*Reader* The Gospel of the Lord

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Sermon**

*The Reverend Rachel Wenner Gardner*

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### **The Apostles' Creed**

*All*

**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.

## The Prayers

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*Leader* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Leader* Let us pray.

## The Lord's Prayer

*All* **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.**

## Suffrages A

Leader Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**People. And grant us your salvation.**

Leader. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**People. Let your people sing with joy.**

Leader. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**People. For only in you can we live in safety.**

Leader. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**People. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Leader. Let your way be known upon earth;

**People. Your saving health among all nations.**

Leader. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**People. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Leader. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**People. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## The Collect of the Day

*Leader* 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.*

## **A Collect for the Renewal of Life**

*Leader* O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **Collect for Peace**

*Leader* O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **A Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*All* **My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.** *(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)*

## **The Offertory / Parish Notices**

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*Good Morning and Thank you for joining us today.  
We miss seeing you in person, yet we are blessed to continue to worship with you each week.*

*As we continue to bring the church to you in the virtual world, we want to share with you somethings that are happening:*

*CH@Ts will resume with conversation around the devotional sent home for the season of Advent, Living Well through*

*Advent. Join us at 12:30 pm for discussion of how we hold on to hope in this in-between time.*

*Morning Prayer continues each weekday on Facebook Live at 9:00 am.*

*We will be continuing with Candlelight Compline weekly virtually until the New Year. Find us on Facebook at 5:30 pm on Wednesday evenings. If you want to pick up a candle or have one delivered, let us know!*

*Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services will be virtual this year. On December 24<sup>th</sup> join us for streaming services on Facebook. The Christmas Pageant Service is at 4:00 pm and at 8:00 pm we will have Christmas Lessons and Carols. [Click Here](#) Then on December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas, watch the rebroadcast of Diocesan Christmas Day Service from The Church of the Holy Trinity Sanctuary. [Click Here](#)*

*If you wish to give a gift today, we encourage you to do it during the Offertory, either by texting CHT DONATE to 73256 or pressing “Learn More” on our Facebook Page.*

## **Offertory Sentence**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. *1 Thessalonians 5:16-20*

## **Offertory Anthem**

*This is the record of John*

**Grayston Ives**

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who art thou?” And he confessed and denied not; and said plainly, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What art thou then? Art thou Elias?” And he said, “I am not.” And they asked him, “Art thou the prophet?” And he answered, “No.” Then said they unto him, “What art thou, That we may give an answer unto them that sent us? What sayest thou of thyself?” And he said, “I am the

voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.”

## **Prayer for Mission**

*Leader* Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen*

## **Advent Prayers of the People**

*Leader:* In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, remind us that you are always with us, that like Joseph we might always be eager to fulfill your will, and be eager to pray:

*Leader:* O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop and Daniel, our Bishop. In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for the Anti-Racism Commission. In our companion diocese of Guatemala, we pray for Iglesia Episcopal Santa Marta de Betania, (Church of Saint Martha of Bethany), Mazatenango, The Rev. Mirza Ramirez. We pray for this church and all who minister in your name, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

**People: Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

**People: Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick,

the suffering, and those in distress of any kind Gail, John, Michael, Judy, Victor, the Carambo Family, Jack, Mick's family, Robert, Barbara, Elliott, Jean, Joel, Ava's Family, Nana, Tere, Olivia, the Rose Family, Richard's Family, Maggie, Nathan and for the prayers of our youth that everyone will get their favorite treats like cupcakes this Christmas, that we will all be able to manage the stress of distance learning in school, grateful that teachers have been more understanding of homework load, that we will not have to carry the burden of decisions people made if they have not been careful with COVID protocol, that everyone has a safe and great Christmas; that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

**People: Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

Leader: In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate and give thanks for all the things we enjoy; that we might all obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

**People: Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

Leader: In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

**People: Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

Leader: O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved. Come Lord Jesus.

**All: Amen.**



## **A Concluding Prayer of Self-Dedication**

*Leader* Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

*All* Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge

*Leader* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Closing Sentence**

*Leader* Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior  
 2 He comes, the pri - soners to re - lease in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -  
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

## Postlude: Winchester New

Malcolm Archer

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**Please visit our website:** [www.htrit.org](http://www.htrit.org) for more information about services and activities at The Church of the Holy Trinity.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Giving:** There are several ways to still give at CHT. You can text, CHT DONATE to 73256 or scan the QR code. Standard text message rates apply. You can give electronically [here](#). You can also sign up to give weekly with REALM ([www.htrit.org/give](http://www.htrit.org/give)).



**Join our E-List:** Sign up at [www.htrit.org](http://www.htrit.org)

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## PARTICIPANTS

### OFFICIANTS

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The Reverend John Gardner

### PRAYERS

Gail Caruso

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Joshua Karstendick  
Peter Ryker

## **STAFF**

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Soozung Sa Rankin, Program Director  
Margaret DiPinto, Director of Operations  
Leda Milazzo, Administrative Receptionist  
Ella Christy, Rentals Manager  
Sarah Mammano, House Manager

## **MUSIC STAFF**

Dr. Benjamin Leiby, Organist/Choirmaster *pro tempore*  
Dr. John French, Organist/Choirmaster *emeritus*  
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Kile Smith, Composer-in-Residence  
Dr. Stephen Framil, Musician-in-Residence

## **Vestry**

Rectors' Warden – Oscar Gunther  
Accounting Warden – Michael Uftring  
Clerk – Nancy Rasmussen  
Vestry Members - Gail Caruso, Sally Griffith, Gordon P. Henderson, Simson Hui, Jim McElwain, Madelyn Mignatti, Amy Perkins, and Emily Stromberg