

Christ Church Trumbull

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021, Year C

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

All His mercy endures forever.

Advent III Candle Lighting

Holy and Gracious God, as we light this candle, we pray that you would kindle the fire of joy in our hearts. We thank you that you are Christ who weeps with us in our grief, walks with us in the shadows, and desires joy for us. As we prepare to receive the Christ Child, increase our joy especially in those places where joy has faded. Joyful, Joyful we adore Thee today and evermore.

All Amen.

Gloria — Hymn No. 56 (v. 1-3)..... “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All 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.

All Amen.

The First Lesson..... 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 of 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 renew you in his love;
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 peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 9 (*said responsively by whole verse*)

Reader Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,

All **For the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;
 he has become my salvation.**

Reader With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
 and you will say on that day:

All **Give thanks to the LORD,
 call on his name;**

Reader Make known his deeds among the nations;
 proclaim that his name is exalted.

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

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

The Epistle 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 54 "Savior of the Nations, Come!" (Verses 1 & 2)

Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
of the virgin undefiled,
though by all the world disowned,
still to be in heav'n enthroned.

The Gospel **Luke 3:7-18**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.
All **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 axe 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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon Pastor Jane Jeuland

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant As we begin this time of prayer for one another, our community,
and our world, I invite any prayer requests for traveling, birthdays,
anniversaries, or healing.

Celebrant prays for all prayer requests.

Prayer Leader As we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us offer prayers to God who stirs up strength and comes to help us.

For the coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory, for the coming of Wisdom to teach and guide us, for the coming of Emmanuel, the hope of all the peoples.

Silence

Prayer Leader Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Prayer Leader For this community, that God would guide us with his truth, fill us with his love, and provide for us from his bounty.

For God's justice, peace, and freedom in our community and our world.

For the leaders of our nation and those who serve on the frontlines especially police officers, fire fighters, medical professionals, and social justice advocates.

For all those who have suffered under the weight of racism. For all those who have been infected with COVID 19. For all those who are hungry and alone this Advent.

For all those in need of food, shelter, access to education and healthcare and for those facing financial hardship especially all the people who rely on the services of The Prospect House in Bridgeport.

For all those who suffer in body, mind, and spirit, especially Justin, Evan, Grace, Anna, Max, Roger, Ellie, Rob, Doug, Sal, Maggie, Joanne, Stephen, Leslie, Diane, Amanda, Linda, Dorothy, Albert, Bill, Tom, Peter, and Sue.

For those who have gone before us under the sign of faith, and for all the departed especially Anthony Luka Mesiya.

Joining our voices with the blessed Virgin Mary, and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

All To you, O Lord.

Celebrant O King of all the nations, only joy of every heart, keystone of the mighty arch who makes us one: Come and save the creature you fashioned from clay. Glory to you for ever.

All Amen.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.**

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.

All **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Announcements

Holiday Outreach Please support our holiday outreach efforts! Specifically:
McGivney Christmas Store - new, unwrapped toys and personal gift items. Donation box in office foyer. Donations need to be received by Sunday, December 12th.
The Jesse Tree - new, wrapped gifts of warm winter clothes (sweaters, pants, socks, etc.) for the clients of Prospect House in Bridgeport. Email Maryanne in the parish office for a “gift tag.” Wrapped gifts - with a gift tag on the outside

of the package with gender and size - need to be received by Monday, December 20th.

St. Nicholas Coat Drive – new and/or gently used winter outerwear (coats, hats, scarves, gloves). Donations need to be received by Monday, December 20th.

**St. George's
Community Supper** Accepting donations of small bags of pretzels and cookies, and clementines. We are assembling 45 bagged dinners today, Sunday, December 12th after our 9am service. Eggnog and cookies will be served! Please join us!

Pies for Sale! We have a few pies left – apple (double crust) and blueberry crumb. The price per pie (frozen) is \$15. Payment by cash or check (made out to Christ Church Trumbull). Payment due at pick up. To place your order and arrange pick up, email: info@christchurchtrumbull.org.

**Meditation Group
1st & 3rd Mondays** Join us at noon on zoom for Meditation Group. All are welcome to join in for meditation and fellowship. Contact the parish office or check the weekly eNews for the zoom link.

**Prayer Group
2nd, 4th & 5th
Mondays** Our Prayer Group will meet at noon on zoom. This is a virtual space to pray as a group for those in need and to give thanks for prayers answered. All are welcome to join. Contact the parish office or check the weekly eNews for the zoom link.

**Bible Study with
St. Timothy's** Join Rev. Kevin Olds for virtual Bible Study every Thursday evening at 7:30. Contact the parish office for the zoom link.

Communion As we serve communion, please come down the side aisle and come to the altar railing one household at a time. At this time we serve grape juice only. You may deposit your juice cups in the waste basket and find your seat walking down the aisle to your left. If you are in person, do not feel obligated to receive. If you receive physically or spiritually, please silently prayer the post-communion prayer or the prayer of spiritual reception.

Offering If this is your first time at Christ Church, we invite you simply to receive, but if this is your regular church home we ask that you give by placing your offering in the offering plate or via PayPal on our

website. We thank everyone who helps support the ministry and outreach of this community. We could not continue this work without you.

Celebrant Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God.

Solo by Matthew Johnson “Who Would Send a Baby”..... Mary Kay Beall

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

All **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.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death,
 We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection

under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Nicholas, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

All **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior 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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

All **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
grant us peace.**

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.

Communion Hymn 343 “Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless”

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless
thy chosen pilgrim flock
with manna in the wilderness,
with water from the rock.

We would not live by bread alone,
but by thy word of grace,
in strength of which we travel on
to our abiding place.

Be known to us in breaking bread,
and do not then depart;
Saviour, abide with us, and spread
thy table in our heart.

Lord, sup with us in love divine,
thy Body and thy Blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine,
be our immortal food.

As you listen to the music selections, we invite you to pray silently the prayer of spiritual communion if you are virtually joining us or the post-communion prayer if you are in person and have received communion.

Prayer of Spiritual Reception *(silently)*

Lord Jesus, I cannot now worship you at the altar of the church in this Sacrament of your Body and Blood, yet in spirit I receive this bread and this wine in my heart, mind, and spirit. Visit me, I pray, with your mercy, pardon, and blessing, and fill me with faith and love and repentance, and so strengthen and sustain me by your grace that I may with pure heart and mind follow you, the only God, now and ever. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer *(silently)*

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.

We encourage you in this time to reflect on what has stood out for you in our worship together. What is God inviting you to in the week ahead?

Blessing *(please stand)*

Celebrant Remember friends, as we go, that life is short. And we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. Amen.

Closing Hymn 72 “Hark, the Glad Sound!”

Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,
the Savior promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved Name.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**