

Third Sunday of Advent

Ushers :: K Moyer / L Vinis & Friend
Lectors :: Don Laufer & Annie Heckel
Acolytes :: Karen Fabiano | Don Laufer

PRELUDE | **O Word That Goest Forth on High** | *S. Rogers*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#59 v.1-3 | **Hark! a Thrilling Voice!** | *Merton*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT | ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

*S*ing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

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.

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.

THE RESPONSE | CANTICLE 9

The First Song of Isaiah *Ecce Deus*

Isaiah 12:2-6

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.

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 EPISTLE | PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

*R*ejoice 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.

GRADUAL HYMN

#68 v.1,3

| Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

| *Llangloffan*

THE GOSPEL | LUKE 3:7-18

*J*ohn 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon Dear People of God, Advent is a season of waiting and expectancy, of light, of promise, of love and hope. In our darkest time of the year, seasonally, and in the most painful part of the year for some of us, let us join our hearts and prayers together, holding tightly to each other, to our faith, and to our God as we pray,

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, we stand here together in the promises you have made to us. Your gift of the world to us holds promise of rich and joyous life, if we only learn to use this world wisely. Help us, we pray to understand all that means. Help us to recover the beauty and health of your world, to respond well to those around the world who need to share in our wealth. Help us to reclaim this world from our greed. May we be good stewards of this promise.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As people of your church, dear Lord, may we guard its strengths and illumine its dark places. May we and all your ministers hold to our promises to serve and love the people of God. Guard our leaders of our faith communities as they guide with love and wisdom. Help us to understand how broad the Church is, how wide she reaches, how deep are the promises made in her name. May she be your true movement on Earth.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of our nations, our states, our municipalities, we pray that they may live up to the promises they have made. We pray for their safety and their wisdom. May their guidance be a reflection of your love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who sit on the street corners, peek from under the tents, stagger down the alleys, we pray your wisdom and protection. May we find a way to bring your promises and your presence to them. For all who are ill, who suffer, who are in want, who cannot live in safety and abundance, we pray for them to know the fulfillment of the promise of your care. May they know your presence and see their prayers answered.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those today that we name in intercession or thanksgiving.

For these in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died in the promise of resurrection, we pray, Oh God. May they rest in your presence and know the joy of fulfillment. We pray for the empty places they have left in our lives, and for those whose grief is overwhelming.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY HYMN

#679 | Surely It Is God Who Saves Me

| Thomas Merton

RECESSIONAL HYMN

#72 v.1,3,4 | Hark! The Glad Sound!

| Richmond

Parish Events | See our newsletter, Tune-Up, for details

Online				In Person			
Dec. 12	10:30	Sunday School	Zoom	Dec. 11	17:30	Eucharist, Rt. II	Sanctuary
	10:30	Eucharist, Rt. II	YouTube	Dec. 12	8:00	Eucharist, Rt. I	Sanctuary
Dec. 14	19:00	Bible Study	Zoom		9:15	Bible Study	Yellow Rm.
Dec. 15	19:00	Episcopal 101	Zoom		10:30	Eucharist, Rt. II	Sanctuary
Dec. 17	8:30	Silent Prayer	Zoom		15:00	Ed. for Ministry	Yurt
				Dec. 15	13:00	HSK Packing	Yurt
					19:00	Episcopal 101	Yellow Rm.
				Dec. 17	9:30	Tai Chi	Parish Hall