

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY

December 12, 2021 Year C

10:30 AM

* Indicates please stand

Prelude **Trio on “O Come, Emmanuel”**
Meditation on *Veni Emmanuel*

A. Lovelace (1919–2010)
Philip Moore, 2014

***Hymn** Hark! a thrilling voice (*Merton*)

Hymnal # 59

***Opening Acclamation**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen

***Collect for Purity**

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**

Hymnal # S-91

***The Collect of The Day**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
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.*

The First Lesson

Sing 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;

Zephaniah 3:14-20

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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *Remember, O thou Man*

text & music by Thomas Ravenscroft (1592–1633)

Remember O thou man, thy time is spent:
How thou art dead and gone, And I did what I can, therefore repent

Remember Adam's fall O thou man, from heav'n to hell!
How we were condemned all In hell perpetual, therefore to dwell.

Remember God's goodness, O thou man, and promise made!
How he sent his son, doubtless Our sins for to redress: be not afraid!

The Epistle Reading

Philippians 14:4–7

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***The Gospel Reading**

Luke 3:7–18

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

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Megan Castellan

***The Nicene Creed**

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

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.

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.

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**

With Zephaniah, Paul, and John, let us receive the good news of Christ's coming, and seek the Word that is soon to be revealed, responding to each petition by saying, "Come, Lord Jesus."

+ That we may embrace those who are in need by giving generously from our abundance, treat employees as we would wish to be treated, and in all our relationships speak words of truth and forgiveness; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ That there may be peace among peoples and nations, with mutual cooperation in the quest for a just and equitable distribution of the world's resources; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ That we may be sensitive to the needs of our spiritual shepherds and guides who join John the Baptist in preparing the way for the coming of the Messiah, calling upon them to preach with confidence and conviction, and to nourish us through the blessings of the Eucharistic Meal; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ That in the closing weeks of Advent, we may clear the pathways of our lives to make straight the way for the birth of God's Word and reflect on the mystery that is now at hand; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ That the Church may rededicate herself to the ministry of baptizing, welcoming young and old alike to unite with Christ, the everlasting light that never fades away; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ That through death we may enter the gate of eternal life, and join those who have died in the hope of the resurrection; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

We were baptized into Christ's death and resurrection and called to be a baptizing community, in whose fellowship we continue our prayers and petitions

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, and especially for:

Dave	Dan	Elaine	Pat	Ovie
Amelia	Wes	Joan	Heather	Stanley
Dani	Jean	Cathey	Judy	Carol
Mary	Vivian	Laurie	Lorraine	Sara
Tom	Sarah	Theodore	Tina	Jon
Giovanni	Felice	Margaret	Carl	James
Cindy	Edith	Elaine	Jennifer	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week.:

David Faulkner, Beverly Beer, Susan Shell

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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.*

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 Peace**

Please remain in your pew. Wave!

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements & Welcome

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem *Come, thou long expected Jesus*

tune: from Walker's *Southern Harmony* 1855,
arr by. John A. Behnke, 2018

Come, Lord Jesus... Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart. Come, Lord Jesus...

Come, Lord Jesus... Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne. Come, Lord Jesus...

[Charles Wesley, 1707-1788]

***Offertory Hymn There's a voice in the wilderness (*Ascension*)**

Hymnal # 75

***The Great Thanksgiving**

Expanded Language Prayer A

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 our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: *continuing:* Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy (Sanctus)

Hymnal # S-114

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and became 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 maker of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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, Jesus 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:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ.

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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Fraction Anthem
Dei)**

**Lamb of God (*Agnus
Hymnal # S-158*)**

The Communion of the People

All people are invited to the Lord's Table.

Eucharist will be distributed in the form of the bread with wine available for intincture. Please come forward in a single line in the center aisle to receive. Wait to remove your mask until you return to your seat, and then replace it after consuming the Sacrament.

Post Communion Prayer

*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

***Hymn** Rejoice! rejoice believers (*Llangloffab*)

Hymnal # 68 vs. 1 & 3

Dismissal

Postlude Finale on *Winchester New* (On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry)

arr. by Christopher Tambling, 2014

Liturgical Ministers: Jeffrey Bowen, Peg Coleman, Sally Clayton

Virtual Vergers: Matthew Sanaker, Virgiiia McGhee

Choral Music Sung by the St. John's Cyber Choir

Hymns for The Third Sunday Of Advent
12 DECEMBER 2021

Hark! a thrilling voice (*Merton*)

Hymnal # 59

1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding.
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day."

2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

4 so when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
may he with his mercy shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while unending ages run.

There's a voice in the wilderness (*Ascension*)
Hymnal # 75

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, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away;

3 but the word of our God endureth,
the arm of the Lord is strong;
he stands in the midst of nations,
and he will right the wrong.
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd,
the lambs he'll gently hold;
to pastures of peace he'll lead them,
and bring them safe to his fold.

Rejoice! rejoice believers (*Llangloffan*)
Hymnal # 68 vs. 1 & 3

1 Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights
appear!
The evening is advancing, and darker night is
near.
The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw
nigh;
up, watch with expectation! at the midnight
comes the cry.

3 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now
appear;
Arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this
darkened sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O
Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with
thee!



St. John's Church
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"Like" us on facebook @ Saint John's Episcopal Church

Office Hours Monday thru Thursday 10-3

The Rev. Megan Castellan, Rector

Matthew Sanaker, Sr. Warden

Parish Administrator

Karen A. Hindenlang, Director of Music/Organist

Lynne Walton, Intern

Cora Yao, Jr. Warden

Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

Crawford R. Thoburn, Assisting Conductor

George E. Damp, Guest Organist

If you need pastoral assistance, or just want to reach out to Mtr. Megan, please call her at 315-757-0251, or e-mail mtrmegan@stjohnsithaca.org.

If you would like to contribute to our ministries, you may make a secure donation at <https://stjohnsithaca.org/donate/>. Thank you!

Sign up for our weekly newsletter The Fledgling by contacting the church office.

Cyber Choir continues this Advent and welcomes new participants. For info, see our Director of Music/Organist Karen Hindenlang after the service or contact her through the church office.

2022 PLEDGE ENVELOPES, for those who use them, are on the table in the back of the nave. They are sorted alphabetically by last name. Please pick up your envelopes and take them home with you at your earliest convenience. If you do not find your envelopes, or have never had envelopes and wish to begin using them, please contact the parish office: (607) 273-6532 or office@stjohnsithaca.org.

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS TODAY at 4 pm, live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook, our 2020 service with the St. John's Cyber Choir and Organ offering seasonal hymns and music by Bach, Buxtehude, Elvey, Lohan, Thoburn, and Vaughan-Williams.

St. John's Christmas Giving Tree is back again this season, but in a different format – we will be purchasing gift cards for the families! We have agreed to sponsor a total of five families this year. To purchase gift cards, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAAAD2FA6FB6-stjohns1>. The gift cards should be mailed to the church or placed on the collection plate next **Sunday, September 19**.

Please Join Us:

Coffee Hour today in the Parish Hall. Please continue to wear your mask when you are not actively eating or drinking.

Join us for Morning Prayer weekdays at 9:30 on FaceBook & YouTube.

One License # A – 724223

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to donate toward the Christmas flowers and wreaths that adorn the nave during Christmas may do so by placing a check in the offering plate, noted Christmas Flowers; or you can mail a check to the church. If you wish the flowers to be in memory of a loved one, please note that name below, tear off, and return this slip with your check. **All names must be received by December 22nd at the latest to insure inclusion in the bulletin.**

Christmas flowers Donated by _____ in memory of _____



**Greening of the Church
Sunday, December 19th**

WHEN: Join us after the 10:30 service.

WHAT TO BRING: Work gloves, wire cutters, screw drivers, scissors, pruning shears and dress for a mess! The Altar Guild supplies the greens, fir trees, bows and candles.

WHO: Everyone is welcome! You don't have to be an interior designer to help; every pair of hands is welcome. Children are welcome to attend and help with their families since there will be no childcare provided. We'll set up the sanctuary trees and nativity scene, too. It will be more fun if you come!

COME JOIN THE FUN AND BE AMAZED AT HOW BEAUTIFUL OUR SANCTUARY LOOKS WHEN WE ARE DONE!