

Morning Prayer, Advent III

December 13, 2020



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
515 Second Street | Woodland, California

Gaudete Sunday

In Advent, we are wide awake, watching for God coming into the world. Sometimes we watch in the darkness, but today is the Sunday for rejoicing! *Gaudete* is the Latin word for *rejoice*. We celebrate this day as the mid-point of the Advent season, when half of our waiting is behind us.

On this day, we mark our anticipatory joy by lighting the pink candle in our Advent wreath, and reciting the Song of Mary, (which is also known by a Latin name) *the Magnificat*.

Order of Service & Readings

Ring of the Bells

Organ Prelude *Setting by Andreas Nikolaus Vetter, Savior of the Nations, Come!*

Welcome & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v. 1,6,7



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
6 by thy draw - ing night; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice!
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Opening Sentence

Officiant O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east at the word
of the Holy One. *Baruch* 5:5

or

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down
righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and
let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. *Isaiah* 45:8, *NRSV*

Confession of Sin

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Versicle

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People **And your glory all the day long.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Antiphon

Officiant Our God and Savior now draws near:

All **O come let us worship.**

All **Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving *
and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.
For you are a great God; *
you are great above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are yours also.
The sea is yours, for you made it, *
and your hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture
and the sheep of your hand. *
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!
Let us listen today to God's voice:
Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness,*
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me.
They put me to the test, *
though they had seen my works.
Forty years long I detested that generation and said, *
"This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways."
So I swore in my wrath, *
"They shall not enter into my rest."**

Canticle 15

The Song of Mary, *Magnificat*, Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

All **Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in
the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Antiphon

Officiant Our God and Savior now draws near:
All **O come let us worship.**

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.

Canticle E

A Song of Jerusalem Our Mother, Isaiah 66:10-14

All **Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her ***
all you who love her,
Rejoice, rejoice with her, *
all you who mourn over her,
That you may drink deeply with delight *
from her comforting breast.
For thus says our God, *
“I will extend peace to her like a river,
the wealth of nations like an overflowing stream.
“You shall nurse and be carried on her arm, *
and you shall nestle in her lap.
“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; *
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.
“You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice, *
you shall flourish like the grass of the fields.”

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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.

Canticle B

A Song of Pilgrimage, Ecclesiasticus 51:13-16, 20b-22

All **Before I ventured forth, even while I was very young, ***
I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.
In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her, *

and I will seek her to the end.
From first blossom to early fruit, *
she has been the delight of my heart.
My foot has kept firmly to the true path, *
diligently from my youth have I pursued her.
I inclined my ear a little and received her; *
I found for myself much wisdom and became adept in her.
To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory, *
for I have resolved to live according to her way.
From the beginning I gained courage from her, *
therefore I will not be forsaken.
In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her, *
therefore have I gained a good possession.
As my reward the Almighty has given me the gift of language,*
and with it will I offer praise to God.

Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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.

Homily

The Rev. Carren Sheldon

Hymn

Hintze/Bach, Songs of thankfulness and praise

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Jes - us, Lord, to thee we raise,
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro-phet, Priest, and King su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
 4 Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen - dent light,

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;
 and at Ca - na, wed - ding - guest, in thy God - head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
 where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw,

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
 man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
 When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,

an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man - i - fest.

The Apostles' Creed

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.
People **And listen to our prayer.**
Officiant Let us pray.

Help us, O God our Savior;
People **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Officiant Look upon your congregation;
People **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Officiant Declare your glory among the nations;
People **And your wonders among all peoples.**

Officiant Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
People **Never forget the lives of your poor.**

Officiant Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
People **And your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Officiant Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
People **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

Officiant 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.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offerings of prayer and/or money are welcome at this or any time.
[Click here to donate: https://tithe.ly/give?c=409634](https://tithe.ly/give?c=409634)

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.**

Closing Hymn

Kathleen Thomerson, I Want to walk as a child of the light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

I want to fol-low Je-sus.
 I want to look at Je-sus.
 I want to be with Je-sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
 When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je-sus.
 show me the way to the Fa-ther.
 shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. *rit,*

a tempo Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus,

Concluding Sentence

Ephesians 3:20, 21

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Postlude

Setting by Paul Manz, Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Virtual Coffee Hour, all are welcome!

After the service, grab a cup of something, and join us for online fellowship.

This week's coffee hour host is Bruce Watts.

For what do you rejoice today?

For all the latest information on St. Luke's, sign up at our website to get our weekly e-mail updates, or [contact our Church Administrator](#).

Coffee Hour Hosts

Sundays, 10-11:30am, via Zoom

Coffee hours need Zoom hosts. Bring a spirit of joy, admit participants into the Zoom group and facilitate a conversation. No baking required! For information on the Coffee Hour Hosts Team [email Margaret Wischart](#).

Book Study

Mondays, 5-6pm, via Zoom

Reading and discussing Thich Nat Han's *Living Buddha, Living Christ*. For information, contact [Mairic](#).

"The Way of Love" (Forward Movement)

Wednesdays, 7 pm, via Zoom

A weekly gathering for a short reading, reflection, and prayer. Books can be purchased online. Drop-in as your schedule allows. [Click here to e-mail Margaret](#).

St. Luke's Queer Alliance

Thursdays, 6:30 pm via Zoom

St. Luke's welcomes sisters, brothers and non-binary queers in search of a faith community that supports everyone's unique path on the spiritual journey: a home where diversity isn't silenced but celebrated, where belonging grows from the soil of respect, love, inclusion, commitment and joy. For information, [e-mail Mairic](#).

Inquirers' Group

Tuesdays, in January, February & March, 2021, 6pm, via Zoom

This group will meet to explore and discuss the Episcopal Church, our teachings and questioning. While no experience is necessary, you'll need an inquiring heart. Participants who discern a call to the sacrament of Confirmation will be prepared for it. For information, [contact Rev. Carren](#).



St. Luke's provides a welcoming sanctuary for all people,
takes faithful risks to foster community and proclaim God's love
through our words, deeds and relationships.

**At St. Luke's Episcopal Church,
we affirm God's love for all of God's people.**

Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey,
whatever your age, abilities, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity,
religious background, socio-economic circumstance, or political affiliations:
you are welcome here.

We intend to:

- *Provide a welcoming sanctuary for all*
- *Prioritize being and staying in relationship*
- *Nurture the next generation*
- *Weave God into the fabric of our daily lives*
- *Engage the world around us*
- *Speak truth in love*
- *Honor our legacy and traditions*
- *Take faithful risks, having courage to evolve*

With Christ and in Christ, We Welcome, Celebrate, Collaborate and Grow

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*St. Luke's is steadfast
in its commitment to
full-inclusion for queer
folk in God's Church.*