

December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

Welcome

*Hearing Assistive Devices and Large Print service leaflets are available
Please ask an usher for assistance*

Please ask an usher for a copy of the service music

John 1:5



*The light
shines in the darkness,
but the darkness
has not understood it.*

The Gathering of the Community

Processional Hymn #91 “People, Look East! The Time Is Near”

Greeting

page 185

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Third Candle – The Candle of Love

John the Baptist

Leader Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Leader Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Love. Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.

A person lights the Candles of Hope and Peace.

Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly, and show God’s love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God’s forgiveness.

A person lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Love.

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

Let us pray.

People **Lord God, your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. Amen.**

Hymn #107 “Prepare the Way” [*sung 4 times as children go to Sunday School*]

Collect for Purity

page 185

Celebrant Almighty God,*People* **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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 Eleison** [Arranged by Michael Leach]*Cantor* Kyrie eleison.*People* **Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.***Cantor* Christe eleison.*People* **Christe eleison. Christe eleison.***Cantor* Kyrie eleison.*People* **Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.****Collect of the Day***Celebrant* Let us pray.*People* **God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.****The Proclamation of the Word**

First Reading:

Isaiah 61:1–4,8–11

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

¹ 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 broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

Arrangement by Christopher L. Webber

Tune Hymn #216 St. Fulbert

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Freedom was like a dream to us
When God set Zion free;
We laughed, we sang, our voices rang
With shouts of liberty.</p> <p>2 The heathen nations round us said,
“God’s gifts to them are good;”
Yes, God has done great things for us,
We praise him as we should.</p> | <p>3 Restore our fortunes now, O Lord,
Like Negev’s waterways,
And grant that those who sow in tears
May reap with hymns of praise.</p> <p>4 Let those who weep as they go out
And take with them good seed,
Bring back in joy such harvest sheaves
As may fulfill their need.</p> |
|---|--|

Praise to you, God of our salvation. Your generous gifts surpass all that we can ask or imagine. You have delivered us from the exile of sin and restored us to new life in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Glory and honour and praise to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Second Reading:

I Thessalonians 5:16–24

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May 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. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory 7: Advent



My soul waits for the Lord;
in his word is my hope.

**My soul waits for the Lord;
in his word is my hope.**

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice.

In his word is my hope.

There is forgiveness with you;
therefore you shall be feared.

In his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord,
more than watchmen for the morning.

In his word is my hope.

O Israel, wait for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy.

In his word is my hope.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**My soul waits for the Lord;
in his word is my hope.**

Holy Gospel:

John 1:6–8,19–28

Subdeacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Subdeacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said,

7

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”
as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Subdeacon The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

A time for silent reflection is kept.

The Apostles’ Creed

page 189

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

People **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 of the People

Leader In joyful expectation, we pray.

People **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Confession and Absolution

page 191

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

8

Celebrant Most merciful God,

People **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 neighbours 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 upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

page 192

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn #88 “Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus”

The Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer #3

page 198

Proper Preface Advent

page 219

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 Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing.

9

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.

People

Hymn #722

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full,
full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna
hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessèd is he who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna
hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling 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 Saviour 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 he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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, Father, according to his command,

People **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, 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, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

10

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all 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 whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer [Hymn #684]

Celebrant As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

People **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowèd 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 them who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread #5

page 212

Celebrant God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

People **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

O Lamb of God [Hymn #685]

People **O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world:
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world:
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world:
grant us thy peace.**

The Communion

page 213

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All are invited to share in Communion. If you would rather not receive the bread and wine, please feel free to come forward for a blessing.

Communion Hymns

#96 "Creator of the Stars of Night"

#97 "Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

page 214

Celebrant All your works praise you, O Lord.

People **And your faithful servants bless you.**

Gracious God we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Announcements

Recessional Hymn #116 “Your Kingdom Come”

Dismissal

Subdeacon Go in peace full of expectation to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please join us for refreshments following the service.

Services

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Said Eucharist (BAS 1962)
	9:00 a.m.	Mandarin Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist (BAS)
	3rd Sunday of the month (AAWE)	

BAS 1962 (Book of Alternate Services) uses the 1962 rite which is the traditional language as in the BCP (Book of Common Prayer)

Mandarin Fellowship is offered in the Sanctuary. We hope our Mandarin Fellowship can be a “harbour for love,” where we seek truth together, while experiencing and receiving the abundant grace of God.

衷心欢迎您来到圣乔治教会大家庭，我们的国语团契每周日上午9点举行主日聚会。

盼望国语团契可以成为一个爱的港湾，在这里我们一起寻求上帝的真理，一起经历上帝的同在，一起领受上帝的恩典。

BAS (Book of Alternate Services) uses contemporary, inclusive-language

AAWE (Amazing, Awesome, Alternate Worship Experience) is a Communion service that is more informal with alternative music and prayers

Interim Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Honorary Associate	The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD
Associate, Mandarin Ministry	Morning Wang
Organist & Director of Music	Michael Leach
Parish Administrator	Craig Gustafson
Custodian	Philip Ikhuoria