

Holy Trinity Church
446 Hamilton St. Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550
A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

The Rev. Richard Signore, Celebrant & Preacher
Anne Bouvier-Monroe, Organist; Joe DiSalvatore, Clarinet
Joe DiSalvatore, Reader

Prelude: *“Creator of the Stars of Night” Sarum Plainsong, Setting by McCabe*

Processional Hymn: #67 Comfort, comfort ye my people

Words: Johann G. Olearius; Music: Claude Gounod

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness mourning ‘neath their sorrows’ load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near, calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here. Oh that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away; let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.

Advent Candle Lighting: O Come, O Come Emmanuel *Clarinet. Joe DiSalvatore*

*** Collect** *(said by all)*

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.

First Reading

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah

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-

Isaiah 6: 1-4, 8-11

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

Silence

PSALM 126

said by all, in unison

BCP, p. 782

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."

4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Holy Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord **People Praise to you Lord Christ**

Sermon

Fr. Richard Signore

Prayers of the People IV, BCP, p. 388 RESONSE: Hear our prayer.

Prayer for the Parish

O everlasting source of love, in whom our faith resides, guide us surely ever forward on our lifelong journey. Not so fast that we miss the beauty that surrounds us on the way, nor miss your grace so freely given that teaches us how to grow. But with a steady presence felt and a sense of gratitude may we find our place amidst the jungle of life within the kingdom of heaven on earth. Amen

Confession & Absolution

BCP, p. 360

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.

The Peace *(no handshaking or hugging please – solemn bow or wave only)*

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory: *“Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming” Arr. by M Hayes*

***The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A**

BCP, p. 361

Sanctus *(said by 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 Lord’s Prayer

Prayer Book, p. 364

Fraction Anthem *(said by all)* Words: Gary James

Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread. The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ. Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread. One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread. Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

Communion: *“Prelude on “Picardy” 17th C French melody, setting by Gilbert Martin*

Prayer *(said by those at home)* My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

The Post Communion Prayer *(Said by all worshiping in person)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son and 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

Dismissal Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn: LEVAS #14 Soon and Very Soon

Words & Music: Andrae Crouch

**Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**

**No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King, no more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
no more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**

Postlude: *"Lift Up Your Gates" Tune: Truro*

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