

Holy Trinity Church

446 Hamilton St. Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550

A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12th, 2021

9:30 a.m. Choral Service

The Rev. Richard Signore, Celebrant & Preacher

Lana Pieczynski- Guest Pianist

Josh Spooner- Reader

Prelude

Advent Canticle: *"He came down that we may have love"*

Processional Hymn: #76 *"On Jordan's Bank"*

Collect : 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 Zephaniah 3:14-20

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;

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

Silence

Canticle 9

BCP, pg. 86

The First Song of Isaiah *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.

Silence

Gospel Acclamation



Holy Gospel Luke 3:7-18

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ

People 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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you Lord Christ

Sermon

Fr. Richard Signore

Prayers of the People III

Prayer Book, p. 387

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

Prayer Book, p. 360

The Peace

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Hymn

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer C BCP, p. 369

Sanctus S-124 Holy, holy, holy Lord

The Lord's Prayer Prayer Book, p. 364

Fraction Anthem S-154 Alleluia, alleluia

Communion Hymn

Post-Communion Prayer Prayer Book, p. 365

Recessional hymn: LEV #16 "The King shall come"

Dismissal Prayer Book, p. 366

Postlude

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Flowers on the Altar:** We would like to adorn our altar with flowers again! The flower sign-up sheet is on the back table. Please use a flower envelope to leave your payment. \$28 cut; \$38 arrangement
- **The Mission Plate** funds for the month November and December will be going to "The Episcopal Church in Navajoland."
- **Special request from the Daughters of The King:** Please donate to the Liberia Project. We are still collecting the following items: Spiral notebooks, binders, folders, writing paper, pens and pencils, markers, erasers, etc. There is also a great need for toiletries, including: shampoo, conditioner, bath (bar) soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body lotion (cocoa butter cream), deodorant, etc. This will be an ongoing mission. We are also seeking contributions toward the costs of shipping these materials to Liberia. You may donate by check or through Tithely. Please donate what you can and pray for them.
- **Winter coats** – We are still taking donations for our winter coat closet, which will be open on Saturday's 9-11
- **Annual Report Deadline**
If you contribute to the Annual Report, please know that this is the time to write your piece! It takes some time to compile, format, print and collate this report. We would like to have it available for parishioners to review on January 15, therefore.... All reports are due to Emily Waugh, the Parish Secretary, BEFORE January 10.

Winter Parking Information

Beginning December 1 and ending April 1,

Southbridge limits parking on Hamilton Street. Please see the information below to avoid a parking ticket!

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IS ON THE EVEN SIDE OF THE STREET.

On Even Dates:

- Midnight to 7pm, park on the **ODD** side of the street
- 7pm to midnight park on the **EVEN** side of the street

On Odd Dates:

- Midnight to 7pm park on the **EVEN** side of the street
- 7pm to midnight park on the **ODD** side of the street

*If you are parking at the church for a class or meeting **BEFORE** 7 pm, you must obey the rules for that **DATE** for parking **before 7 pm!** You are not required to leave the class or meeting to move your car.