

HOLY EUCHARIST

Third Sunday of Advent – December 13, 2020

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

The King shall come, vv 1, 5 (*Words on last page*)

Hymnal 73

OPENING SENTENCES

Celebrant The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
People **and all flesh shall see it together.**

Isaiah 40:5

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And God's Spirit with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE

Isaiah 66:10-13

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her;
rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her—
that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast;
that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom.

For thus says the Lord: I will extend prosperity to her like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees.
As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE

The Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)

And Mary said: I'm bursting with God-news;

I'm dancing the song of my Savior God.

God took one good look at me, and look what happened—

I'm the most fortunate woman on earth!

What God has done for me will never be forgotten,

the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.

His mercy flows in wave after wave

on those who are in awe before him.

He bared his arm and showed his strength,

scattered the bluffing braggarts.

He knocked tyrants off their high horses,

pulled victims out of the mud.

The starving poor sat down to a banquet;

the callous rich were left out in the cold.

He embraced his chosen child, Israel;

he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.

It's exactly what he promised,

beginning with Abraham and right up to now.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:26-38

The gospels are stories of Jesus' life

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

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

"Live Generously"

The Rev. Dr. Kate Heichler

PRAYER SONG

O come, o come Emmanuel, vv 5-6 (*Words on last page*)

Hymnal 56

OUR PRAYERS

Let us offer our thanksgivings and prayers for the world, the church, the people
in our lives, responding to "Emmanuel, God with us," with "Hear our prayer."

Almighty God, we thank you for your many gifts to us;
for all celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week..., and for other gifts we name now...
Emmanuel, God with us: **Hear our prayer.**

Jesus, you call us to be light to the world. Bless all churches and ministers, especially...
Make your church a beacon of hope, grace and mercy.
Emmanuel, God with us: **Hear our prayer.**

Jesus, we lay before you the wounds of the world...Provide for those in need;
comfort those in mourning; give justice to the oppressed; and awaken generosity in us.
Emmanuel, God with us: **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, thank you for your healing love all around us. We lift before you now...
and any others whom we name now...

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn them:

Emmanuel, God with us: **Hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Redeemer, we thank you for the forgiveness and grace you offer us.

Forgive us for all the ways we ignore your true gifts in this season of giving;

for the ways we hurt those we love;

for the ways we damage our bodies and our planet;

for the ways we take more than we need and ignore the needs around us;

and any other sins of action or inaction that we name before you now...

Emmanuel, God with us: **Hear our prayer.**

ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Beloved of God, your sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Take up your forgiveness with thanksgiving, and live without shame or anxiety.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN

The first one ever, v 1 (*Words on last page*)

Hymnal 673

You can make your offering online at <https://christchurchlaplata.org/donate/>

Or text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256, and follow the prompts.

THE HOLY MEAL

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 God thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, you have given us tongues and voices with
which to praise you, and you have given us abundant reason to praise you –
the promise of salvation, the promise of righteousness.

And so we lift our voices now, joining with the heavenly chorus to sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly
 Lord, God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are full, full of your
 glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. , Ho - san - na
 in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord God, you made this beautiful world **and all the life it holds.**
 Then humankind, given freedom, overturned the harmony of that creation;
 allowing sin and death free play. **We turned the world upside down.**
 When you sent your Son into human flesh, bound in space and time,
 against all reason and expectation,
you began the turning that is restoring all things to wholeness.
 In your tender compassion, O God, the dawn from on high has broken upon us,
in the person of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,
 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 to remember 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
 for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me.”**

Recalling his goodness and perfect love, **we come to be fed and renewed.**
 Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts.
Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son.
 Fill us with your Holy Spirit. **Make us ready at all times
 to speak of the hope that is within us through knowing Jesus.**

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,
 now and for ever. *And all the people said: AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**Our Father in heaven, holy be Your name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy on us.**
(spoken) Jesus, Bearer of our sins, **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, **give us your peace.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. **AMEN!**

THE COMMUNION

Consecrated bread will be brought to all present in person; those worshipping at home are invited to partake of consecrated bread and wine at home tables.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Ave Maria

Franz Schubert

Voice: Alicia Cordelle; Piano: Tim Illick

PRAYER OF THANKS

**Almighty God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine,
signs of your broken body and shed blood,
by which we are healed in body, mind and spirit.
Give us the faith to see you at work when it looks like the world is upside-down.
Give us expectant hearts to anticipate your coming to us,
in Word and Sacrament, work and rest, in other people and in silence,
That we may bear your light into the darkness.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Canticle of the Turning, v 3 (*Words on last page*)

PRAYERS FOR BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

COMMUNITY NEWS

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ
People **Thanks be to God!**

OUR PRAYERS

We Pray For: Those in need of healing – Melanie Coe, Alicia Cordelle, Steve Blamer, John MacCoy, Marion Denniston, Barry Kercher, Kim Rundel, Beverly Stone, Gary Murray, Susan White, Bonnie Rafer, Doug Scott, Garner Burroughs, Andie Corby, Betty and Peanut Bowling, Susie and Ed Marshall, Linda Mattingly; and those in mourning, Barb Palko and family, Bill Cooke and family,

Birthdays: Jesse Herbert, 12/13; Betty Bowling, 12/18

Anniversaries:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME TO MAKE OUR PLEDGES FOR 2021!

Vestries are beginning to budget for 2021 - please make your pledge of participation in God's mission at Christ Church. Our Stewardship theme this year celebrates the distinctiveness we each bring to Christ Church, the diversity God delights in, and the wonderful flavor that results when we bring ourselves together, investing in God's mission through our church. Salads generally begin with greens! What percentage of your income can you pledge to enrich God's salad at Christ Church?

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF HOPE AND HEALING, Tonight at 5 pm

Also next week we will have our customary "Blue Christmas" service, this year entirely online, Zoom and Facebook Live. Please pass along the invitation to all those who you know who are struggling to find joy in this holiday season of hardship and grief, this year more than most. The service will be at our regular Zoom link.

COLLECTING COATS AND BLANKETS:

1. Bill Hoxie has built an enclosed bin to collect coats and blankets – one side is for new items (preferred) and the other for used. We will need some folks to assist with laundering the used items, and/or making donations to our Giving Fund to cover the cost of dry cleaning. We can also use help with distributing the goods. Please contact Deacon Joan if you'd like to be part of this ministry to keep people warm this winter.
2. Neal Bankenstein is collecting new coats and jackets for schoolchildren in need – the stock for elementary school children has already run out. These must have tags still on. Please contact Neal (nbankenstein@ccboe.com) to arrange drop-off.

ONLINE GIVING - You can text a donation - text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256, and follow the prompts. You can give to Open Plate or toward your pledge. A 2.6% fee is charged for credit or debit cards - you'll have the option to include that in your gift or not. Standard text message rates do apply. You can also give online - go to www.christchurchlaplata.org and scroll down to the "Donate" link.

GIVING FUND – Please consider making a dedicated donation to the Giving Fund, from which Rev. Kate can offer help. Our policy is to help once, as we are able, and deal with repeat requests on a case-by-case basis. You can write a check or give online at the donate page on our website, www.christchurchlaplata.org, or text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256, and follow the prompts, designating Giving Fund. You now have the option to make pledge offerings or donations online, or by text.

HYMNS

The King shall come

1 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks;
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings:
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray,
come quickly, King of kings.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

The first one ever

The first one ever, oh, ever to know
Of the birth of Jesus, was the Maid Mary,
Was Mary the Maid of Galilee,
And blessed is she, is she who believes
Oh, blessed is she who believes in the Lord,
Oh, blessed is she who believes
She was Mary the Maid of Galilee,
And blessed is she, is she who believes.

Canticle of the Turning

From the halls of power to the fortress tower
Not a stone will be left on stone;
Let the king beware for your justice tears
Ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more
For the food they can never earn
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed
For the world is about to turn.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears
For the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!