

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 
OF *St. John the Baptist*

"Where All Are Welcome . . . No Exceptions!"

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

*The Visit of The Rt. Rev. Kevin S. Brown,
Bishop of Delaware*

The Holy Eucharist

The Word of God



Prelude Voluntary on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Hymn Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL **John Turner**

Prelude Anthem - "He That is Down Need Fear No Fall" *Words: J. Bunyan & Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams*
Vocalist: Rebecca Frankum **Accompanist: Scott Kresge**

Processional Hymn (Please stand as able) *Please see page 8* #76 | "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry"

Children's Chat - Robert Freeman

The Bishop Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**
The Bishop There is one Body, and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
The Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

Hymn of Praise: Wait for the Lord (Sung 3 times)

Taize Community

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The Collect of the Day

The Bishop The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

The Bishop Let us pray.

The Bishop prays the 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 forever.

People *Amen.*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Vocalist & Guitar: Rob Freeman

1. Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.
2. Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.
3. Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.

First Reading *(Please be seated)*

Reader A Reading from Zephaniah:

Introduction to the First Reading

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, announces joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

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;

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm of the Day

Canticle 9



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.

[ANT.]

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;

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.

Make his deeds known among the peoples;

see that they remember that his Name is exalted. [ANT.]

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.

[ANT.]

Second Reading

Reader A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians:

Introduction to the Second Reading

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. He urges the believers at Philippi to entrust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's peace and joy.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Sequence Hymn (*Please stand as able*) – *Please see page 9* Vs. 5 & 6

#56 | “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke:

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

The Holy Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

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.***

THE SERMON BY BISHOP BROWN

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates for Confirmation and Reception

The Bishop The Candidates will now be presented.

Presenter I present Timothy Ryan Howard for Confirmation.

I present James Joseph Mulholland, Jr. to be received into this Communion.

The Bishop Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate ***I do.***

The Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate ***I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.***

The Bishop Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People ***We will,***

The Bishop Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

The Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People ***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.***

The Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People ***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.*

The Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People ***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.***

The Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

The Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

The Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

The Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

The Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Prayers for the Candidates

The Bishop then says

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

The Bishop prays

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Confirmation and Reception New Members

The Sharing of the Peace *(Please stand as able)*

The Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

The Recognition of New Members by Letter of Transfer

Anthem - "God Be In My Head" Words: Sarum Primer (1514) & Music: H. Walford Davies

Vocalist: Rebecca Frankum Accompanist: Scott Kresge

The Prayers of the People *The Leader and People pray responsively.*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. (*Silence*)

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Kevin our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, especially remembering those on our parish prayer list and those we name in our hearts.

(The congregation may add their own petitions either silently or aloud after the prayer list is read.)

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. (*Silence*)

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. (*Silence*)

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. (*Silence*)

The Bishop and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

The Bishop Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

The Holy Communion

Being seated, we begin with a time of offering, giving money as a sign that our life serves God's purposes and showing our gratitude for God's many blessings.

*Your faithful tithes and offerings are much needed and can be sent to:
The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, PO Box 441, Milton, DE 19968 OR
Securely online through our website - <https://www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org/give.html>*

Offertory Sentence

Doxology (*Please stand as able*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.

Offertory Hymn

Please see page 10

#67 | "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

The Great Thanksgiving

The Bishop The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

The Bishop Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

The Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

S130

Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord. God of power 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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of 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 Savior 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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

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

The Bishop continues.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O 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 may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of 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 him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Bishop And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
People **Our Father, who art in heaven,** *And forgive us our trespasses,*
hallowed be thy Name, *as we forgive those*
thy kingdom come, *who trespass against us.*
thy will be done, *And lead us not into temptation,*
on earth as it is in heaven. *but deliver us from evil.*
Give us this day our daily bread. *For thine is the kingdom,*
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Bishop Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**
The Bishop The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Distribution Anthem – “Blessed Be the God of Israel” *Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. & Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams*
Vocalist: Robert Freeman Accompanist: Scott Kresge

Post Communion Prayer *(Please kneel or be seated)*

The Bishop Let us pray.
People **Eternal God, heavenly Father,**
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our 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.

Benediction by the Bishop *(Please stand as able)*

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**
 May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**
 May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**
 And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn *(Please stand as able)* *Please see page 11* #68 | **“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace and with hope. Christ is near.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *“Air in G minor”* Georg Friedric Handel

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The Rev. Thomas M. White, Rector
Tom Waite, Acolyte
Robert Freeman, Youth Minister /Soloist
Bel Gwiazdowski, Lay Reader
Scott Kresge, Organist/Videography/Streaming
Rebecca Frankum, Cantor & Soloist
Elizabeth Scheer & Susan Mattia, Videography/Streaming
Clara Escobar & John Robinson, Ushers

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 ref - uge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944),
 after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.
 Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690;
 harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

Advent

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1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



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

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.;
adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

LM with Refrain

Offertory Hymn

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

67

Advent



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



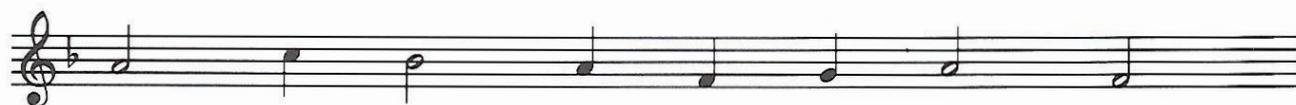
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Advent

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple - nish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.

Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865

76. 76 D

**With great happiness and gratitude to God,
we warmly welcome the following as new
members of this fellowship of faith:**

