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***Welcome!***

**Sunday, December 11, 2022**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**The Holy Eucharist Rite Two**

***We are a worshipping community grounded in Eucharist and prayer,***

***committed to loving God and our neighbors.***

**If you are new to the Episcopal Church, and our Anglican form of worship, do not worry about “getting it right.”**

**You are welcome here.**

***“The Glory of God is a human being fully alive.” – St. Irenaeus***

**Advent Candlelighting**

Reader: "And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name'" (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader: Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

**People: Today we give thanks for the Marys among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.**

Reader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way. *(Light one rose candle.)*

*please stand as you are able for the entrance hymn*

**Entrance Hymn*O come, O come, Emmanuel (Veni, veni, Emmanuel)* (H 56)**

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The Word of God

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Celebrant | Blessed be the one, holy, and living God. |
| People | **Glory to God for ever and ever.** |
|  |  |

**Collect for Purity**

*The Celebrant and People say*

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

**Opening Song of Praise*S 280 Canticle 20 (Powell)***

*The following is sung, all standing*

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**The Collect of the Day**

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| Celebrant | The Lord be with you. |
| People | **And also with you.** |
| Celebrant | Let us pray. |

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: Isaiah 35:1-10**

*The people sit.*

*Reader*  **A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.**

1The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 2it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. 3Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” 5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. 8A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. 9No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.10And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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| Reader | The Word of the Lord. |
| People | **Thanks be to God.** |

*Silence may follow.*

**Psalm: Canticle 15: The Song of Mary Luke 1: 46-55**

*Remain seated. Ed Witsell, cantor.*

 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
  for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
 From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
  the Almighty has done great things for me,  
  and holy is his Name.  
 He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
  in every generation.  
 He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
  he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
  and has lifted up the lowly.  
 He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
  and the rich he has sent away empty.  
 He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
  for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
 The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
  to Abraham and his children forever.

**Second Reading: James 5:7-10**

*Reader* **A Reading from the letter of James**

7Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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| --- | --- |
| Reader | The Word of the Lord. |
| People | **Thanks be to God.** |
| *Silence may follow.* |  |

**Sequence Hymn*What child is this, who, laid to rest (Greensleeves)* (H 115)**

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**Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

*All stand.*

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| *Priest* | The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. |
| People | **Glory to you, Lord Christ.** |

2When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” 4Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

  7As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’11Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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| Priest | The Gospel of the Lord. |
| People | **Praise to you, Lord Christ.** |
|  |  |

**The Sermon** *Emily Waters Beckwith, lay minister & pantry manager*

**The Creed**

*Stand as you are able.*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**The Prayers of the People**

*All remain standing.*

Let us pray to the Lord, saying, in your mercy, Lord, save us.

Merciful God, you call us to goodness and lead us on right paths. You encourage us with signs of your coming and urge us to keep watch, that we might greet you with heads raised high when you to restore all of creation. Watching and waiting, we pray for this world that needs your saving power.

For nations at war, in your mercy, **Lord save us**.

For all who suffer from violence, in the streets or in their homes, in your mercy, **Lord save us**.

For all who live in worry or fear, in your mercy, **Lord save us**.

For those who have forgotten the ways of righteousness, in your mercy,

**Lord save us.**

For those who have never heard of your rescuing love, in your mercy,

**Lord save us.**

For those who have lost hope, or those who never had it at all, in your mercy, **Lord save us.**

For those who are weary, sick, or in prison, especially those we now name silently or aloud, in your mercy, **Lord save us**.

We pray too, for your church in the world, that we may increase in love for you and your children, and work in confidence for your coming reign.

**Celebrant:** Now by the power of your Holy Spirit, make us ever more faithful, that we may greet you in confidence and joy on that great day: through Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

*The Priest says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Priest and People*

**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 Priest stands and says*

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

**The Peace**

*Stand as you are able.*

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| *Priest* | The peace of the Lord be always with you. |
| People | **And also with you.** |

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

The Holy Communion

*The Celebrant says*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

The Great Thanksgiving

*Stand as you are able.*

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| 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 him thanks and praise.** |

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

*The People stand, sit, or kneel.*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.” Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

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

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Thanks be to God.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Blessing**

*The Priest blesses the people*

**Post-Communion Hymn*Come, thou long-expected Jesus (Stuttgart)* (H 66)**

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**Dismissal (BCP p. 366)**

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| Priest | Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. |
| People | **Thanks be to God.** |

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**Announcements**

*We are glad you are here. Our worshipping community welcomes all.*

* **Services of Holy Communion.** *Sundays at 10 a.m. at St. Mary’s and 1 p.m. at Church Without Walls. Please let us know if you would like to be added to our prayer list for the Prayers of the People or Morning Prayer.*
* **Morning Prayer.** *Mondays at 7:30 a.m., Dearing House.*
* **Centering Prayer.** *12:05p.m. Wednesdays, Dearing House (25 minutes)*
* **Finding the Stillness Within.** *A meditation space appropriate for beginners as well as longtime meditators. The 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Dearing House.*
* **Food Pantry:** *Tuesdays, 3 p.m. & Thursdays, 9 a.m.*
* **Altar Flowers:** *Please contact the office if you are interested in making a gift in honor of a loved one towards Advent or Christmas flowers, or if you would like to purchase a poinsettia that can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.*
* ***Born To Die Opus 25 Christmas Cantata, featuring the Jacksonville Gospel Chorale****: Sunday, December 17th, at 5:00 p.m. at St. John’s Cathedral. Reception to follow.*
* ***Christmas Eve Service****. December 24th at 4:00pm*

**St. Mary’s is a mission congregation and ministry**

**of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida,**

**serving under the pastoral direction of**

**The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard**

**Staff**

**The Rev. Canon Beth Tjoflat,** *vicar***Keith Sands,** *administrator*

**The Rev. Laura Mann Magevney,** **Emily Waters Beckwith,**  *associate priest lay minister & pantry manager*

**Susannah Sands,** *Learning Center* **Sarah Singer,** *development associate*

**Deborah Graham,** *sexton* **Dr. Sandra Roberts***, Organist*

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