

MORNING PRAYER

ADVENT THREE

DECEMBER 13, 2020

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCE

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.***

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

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

V: Lord, open our lips.

R: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

***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.***

Alleluia

THE VENITE

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

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Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

***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.***

THE PSALMS APPOINTED

Psalm 148 *Laudate Dominum*

- 1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.
- 2 ***Praise him, all you angels of his; *
praise him, all his host.***
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.
- 4 ***Praise him, heaven of heavens, *
and you waters above the heavens.***
- 5 Let them praise the Name of the LORD; *
for he commanded, and they were created.
- 6 ***He made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.***
- 7 Praise the LORD from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- 8 ***Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing his will;***
- 9 Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 ***Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and wingèd birds;***
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 ***Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.***

- 13 Let them praise the Name of the LORD, *
for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.
- 14 ***He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!***

Psalm 149 *Cantate Domino*

- 1 Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
- 2 ***Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.***
- 3 Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
- 4 ***For the LORD takes pleasure in his people *
and adorns the poor with victory.***
- 5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds.
- 6 ***Let the praises of God be in their throat *
and a two-edged sword in their hand;***
- 7 To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples;
- 8 ***To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron;***
- 9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!

Psalm 150 *Laudate Dominum*

- 1 Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple; *
praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 ***Praise him for his mighty acts; *
praise him for his excellent greatness.***
- 3 Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; *
Praise him with lyre and harp.
- 4 ***Praise him with timbrel and dance; *
praise him with strings and pipe.***
- 5 Praise him with resounding cymbals; *
praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.
- 6 ***Let everything that has breath *
praise the Lord. Hallelujah!***

***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.***

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

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 to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 15: THE SONG OF MARY *Magnificat Luke 1:46-55*

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 for ever.

***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.***

A READING FROM 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and

blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN #438: TELL OUT MY SOUL

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Robert Fruehwirth

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

THE PRAYERS

V: The Lord be with you.

R: ***And also with you.***

Let us pray.

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,
for ever and ever. Amen***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Sam and Anne our Bishops with all bishops, priests, and deacons. We pray for the Diocese of North Carolina. We also pray for Pastor Holman and Dickerson Chapel AME.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for our President, our Congress, and our State Government. We pray for an easing of violence and for the spirit of peace to prevail. We pray for the feeding ministry of Orange Congregation in Mission.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. We pray for the work of the Eno River Association.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable in Orange County. We pray for inmates, first responders, and healthcare workers. We pray for educators, students, and parents of school-aged children. We pray for families unable to gather over the holidays.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Comfort those who mourn, especially Jim Shanley at the death of his sister, Peg Kinnaman. We pray for those in our parish family, especially: Jackie, Mildred, Katherine, Lois, Tom, Molly, Jim, Rowen & Jan, Ann, Anne, Daisy, Tom, Champe, Keyon, Andy & Barrie, Patrick, Laura, Sandra, Bartow, Joseph, Robert, Tricia & Don, and Nell. We also pray for Mary Armbrester, Karl & Janice Eicher and Knox Efland.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Peg, that your will for them may be fulfilled, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

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.**

CLOSING HYMN #72: HARK! THE GLAD SOUND!

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

2 Corinthians 13:14

SUNDAY FORUM: REST AND SILENCE: PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Robert+ will use the poetry of T.S. Eliot to explore Advent practices of spiritual rest and waiting for God. We will explore the primacy of rest in the Christian life as a way of preparing for God to come.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday (12/13): Advent Three

- **Morning Gathering for Worship & Formation including:**
 - **9:00** Gathering (Worship Zoom)
 - **9:15** Morning Prayer
 - **10:15 Children's Programming** (Formation Zoom)
 - **10:15 Sunday Forum (Worship Zoom):** "Rest and Silence: Preparing for the Word"
- **Youth Confirmation Class** (Formation Zoom); 4pm

Monday (12/14):

- **Education for Ministry** (Formation Zoom); 6:30pm
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Tuesday (12/15):

- **Morning Silence** (Worship Zoom); 7:30am Gathering for Silent Meditation
- **Staff Meeting** (Meetings Zoom); 10:00 am
- **Food for All / Hugh Tilson's Team** (Fellowship Hall); 5:30 pm
- **Vestry** (Meeting Zoom); 7:00pm
- **Visio Divina** (Meeting Zoom); 7:00pm
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Wednesday (12/16):

- **Morning Prayer** (Worship Zoom); 8:00am
- **For Those Who Live Alone** (Meeting Zoom); 5:00pm / Margaret Brill hosting
- **Choir** (Meeting Zoom); 7:00pm
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Thursday (12/17)

- **Fellowship Breakfast** (Meeting Zoom); 8:30am
- **Adult Bible Study** (Formation Zoom); 7:30pm
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Friday (12/18):

- **Morning Prayer** (Worship Zoom); 8:00am
- **Awareness thru Movement Class** (Meeting Zoom); 9:30am
- **Compline** (Worship Zoom); 8:30pm

Sunday (12/20): Advent Four

- **Morning Gathering for Worship & Formation including:**
 - **9:00** Gathering (Worship Zoom)
 - **9:15** Morning Prayer
 - **10:15 Children's Programming** (Formation Zoom):
 - **10:15 Sunday Forum** (Worship Zoom):
- **Youth Group Party** (Formation Zoom); 4pm

PLEASE MASK UP IF YOU COME INTO ANY OF THE BUILDINGS ON THE CHURCH PROPERTY!!

ADVENT SUNDAY FORUMS

12/13: "Rest and Silence: Preparing for the Word"

Robert+ will use the poetry of T.S. Eliot to explore Advent practices of spiritual rest and waiting for God. We will explore the primacy of rest in the Christian life as a way of preparing for God to come.

12/20: The Annunciation

Lisa+ will lead us on a guided meditation on our Gospel lesson for the 4th Sunday of Advent, the Annunciation as told in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 1:26-38). There will be time for quiet reflection as well as for sharing.

IN-PERSON, OUTDOOR EUCHARISTS

Our next, in-person, outside Eucharist is scheduled for Wednesday, the 16th at Noon. It will be in the Memorial Garden where we can accommodate 24 easily. To sign up, first fill out [the health screening form here](#). Masks are required and physical distancing must be observed. We expect to continue having Wednesday Eucharists as long as the weather allows.

VISIO DIVINA ON TUESDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 22

This Advent, join me, Amy Peterson, for Visio Divina! We'll meet once a week to share artwork and images related to the week's lectionary texts, and we'll reflect together on the Scripture and what the art shows us about it. If you're interested, email Amy Peterson (coamyp@gmail.com) for more details.

Tuesdays at 7pm

December 15 - reflecting on Advent 4

December 22 - reflecting on Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00pm Christmas Pageant (Worship Zoom)

8:00pm Christmas Celebration (Worship Zoom)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

10:30am in front of the church (registration required/fill out the [health screening form here](#))

ORANGE CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION

Providing Beef Stew to Orange Congregations in Mission Food's Pantry is a commitment St. Matthew's has made and kept for years now. We hope that you will consider contributing to OCIM's Holiday meals for Christmas. Bring your donated items by the church anytime. Drop them in the basket under the alcove of the Hayden Building or leave them by one of the doors.

PRAYER LIST

We pray for all who are sick, or in any need or trouble, remembering especially the following members of our parish family: Jackie Fredericks, Mildred Pruessing, Katherine Nelson, Lois Horn, Tom Vail, Molly Zaragoza, Jim Fesperman, Rowen & Jan Grant, Ann Burdette, Anne Weaver, Daisy Huffman, Tom Sinn, Champe Davis, Keyon Hutson, Andy & Barrie Wallace, Patrick Craft, Laura Middlebrooks, Sandra Poffenbarger, Bartow Culp, Joseph Riddick, Robert Fruehwirth, Tricia & Don Hill, and Nell Schrader.

And these others for whom our prayers are desired: Melanie Maupin, Betsy Zaragoza, Gene & Lillian Thompson, Derek Kendall, Harry Dula, Mathew Thomas, Arnold Thomas, Gail Clifford, Dorothy Garton, Erin Vaughan, Bob Caldwell, Baylor Pisano, John Charton, Lucy Gradowski, Ken

Foland, Savannah Fonvielle, Colleen Paisley, Ben Mueller, Richard Haase, Linda Saterfield, Chip Joyner, John Logan, the Spurlocks, the Tuckers, Anna Lawrence & Dan Bass, Fred Edoughs, Timothy, Gogi, Bob, Laura Merrill, Jeannine Beardslee, Brooke Harnisch & Dan Roberts, Amy, Evelyne Accad, Amalia, Maddie Powers, Joe & Pat McDonald, Allie, John & Rachel Hougom, Richard Stevens, Mary Beth, Sam Hammond, Mary Armbruster, Karl & Janice Eicher, and Knox Efland.

We pray for all doctors and nurses, service workers, inmates, and the unemployed. We pray for educators, students, and parents of school-aged children. We pray for families facing separation during the holidays.