

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SANTA CLARITA
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10:00 A.M.
NOVEMBER 27, 2022

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Prayer of Meditation

Before the service begins, we encourage you to use the following for meditation.

Being gracious to the one who has only unkind words to say—that is grace. Generosity to those who cannot give in return—that is grace. Kindness to those who wish us harm—that is grace. Going beyond what is strictly necessary into a realm of sheer possibility—grace. -Br. Mark Brown

Prelude

Joyful, Joyful

Beethoven

Please stand as you are able.

Entrance Hymn #74

“Blest be the King whose coming”

Valet will ich dir geben

1. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!
 2. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!
 3. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!
 4. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!

For him let doors be opened, no hearts against him barred!
 By those who truly listen his voice is truly heard;
 He on - ly to the humble re - veals the face of God.
 He of - fers to the burdened the rest and grace they need.

Not robbed in royal splendor, in power and pomp comes he;
 pi - ty the proud and haught - ty, who have not learned to heed
 All power is his, all glory! All things are in his hand,
 Gen - tle is he and humble! And light his yoke shall be,

but clad as are the poor - est, such his hu - mil - i - ty!
 the Christ who is the Prom - ise, who has a - tone - ment made.
 all a - ges and all peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!
 for he would have us bear _____ it so he can make us free!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Holy and Gracious God, we pray that as we light this candle so, too, will a fire of Hope be kindled in our hearts. May we hold this Hope gently, as we are urged to stay awake and be ready for a most amazing event! As we prepare to receive the Christ Child, may we be ever mindful of our love for you, and Yours for us. This will keep the flames of Hope burning in this Advent season. We pray all this in the name of Emmanuel. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Priest: Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People: **You come to your people and set them free.**

Said 3 times:

Priest: Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
People: **Have mercy upon us.**

The Collect of the Day

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

The First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

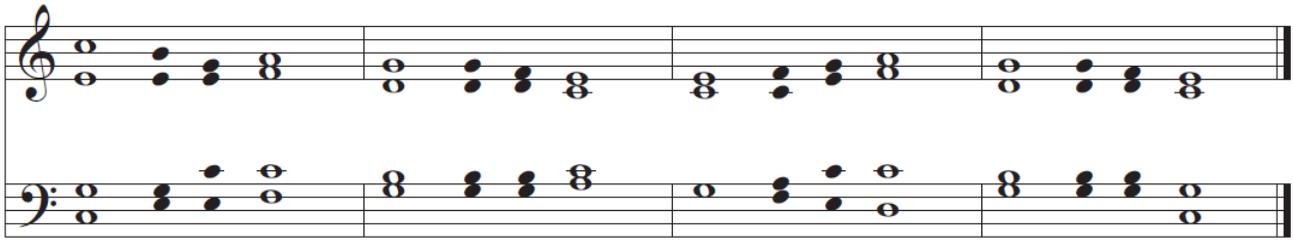
Reader: Mary Bennett

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122



1. I was glad when they said to me, *
 “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
2. Now our feet are standing; *
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.
3. Jerusalem is built as a city *
 that is at unity with itself;
4. To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, *
 the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.
5. For there are the thrones of judgment,*
 the thrones of the house of David.
6. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; *
 “May they prosper who love you.
7. Peace be within your walls.
 and quietness within your towers.
8. For my brethren and companions’ sake, *
 I pray for your prosperity.
9. Because of the house of the Lord our God.
 I will seek to do you good.

The Second Reading Romans 13:11-14

Reader: Mark Bridgeford

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn #56

“O come, O come, Emmanuel” (vs. 1 & 2)

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest all things might - i - ly;
that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
to us the path of know - ledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

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

The Gospel Reading Matthew 24:36-44

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Christopher Montella
Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand as you are able.

Nicene Creed

**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.

Prayers of the People

Reader: Ken Higginbotham

People of God, come, let us walk in the light of Jesus. Let us pray to God, saying, "Teach us your ways, O God, that we may walk in your paths."

Wake from sleep, O God, your Church. Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us live honorably as salvation draws ever nearer.

Silence

Intercessor: Teach us your ways, O God,
People: That we may walk in your paths.

Wake from sleep, O God, this nation. May we beat our swords into plowshares, and our spears into pruning hooks. May we learn war no more.

Silence

Intercessor: Teach us your ways, O God,
People: That we may walk in your paths.

Wake from sleep, O God, your creation. May the mountains rise to meet you and the crops of the fields burst forth in praise.

Silence

Intercessor: Teach us your ways, O God,
People: That we may walk in your paths.

Wake from sleep, O God, this city. May there be peace and prosperity within our walls. Make clear our paths that we may walk in your light.

Silence

Intercessor: Teach us your ways, O God,

People: That we may walk in your paths.

Wake from sleep, O God, those in pain and sadness. Deliver them from their darkness that they may rejoice in your light. May all those waiting for healing find your salvation is near.

The congregation may add their own petitions and thanksgiving.

Silence

Intercessor: Teach us your ways, O God,

People: That we may walk in your paths.

Wake all your people from sleep, O God. Prepare your saints for that day when the Son of Man will return, with the saints at rest to reign with us forever and ever.

Silence

Intercessor: Teach us your ways, O God,

People: That we may walk in your paths.

Priest:

O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Absolution

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

The Peace

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Members of the congregation who are present are encouraged to remain at their seats to pass the peace.

Members of the congregation who are joining us via livestream are encouraged to post "Peace be with you" in the comments or to use the "like" or "love" reaction button to take part in the virtual exchange of God's peace with the rest of the congregation at this time.

Please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

We are pleased to celebrate the following birthdays: Anne Sjolund on November 27th and James Torres on November 30th. We also celebrate the 45th wedding anniversary of Kimberlee & Mark Bridgeford on December 3rd.

Offertory Prayer

The People remain seated and say together:

Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Now, help us to be grateful, accountable, and, with praise and thanksgiving, to give of ourselves generously, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Offertory

People, Look East *Besancom Carol arr. Craig Phillips*
St. Stephen's Parish Choir

Please stand as you are able.

Presentation

Old 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures,
here be - low. Praise God, you hosts in heav'n a -
bove; Praise God the Trin - i - ty of Love. A - men.

Chords: G, D, Em, Bm, G, D, G, D, Em, C, G, D, Em, D, G, Am, G/B, C, F#dim/A, Em, D/F#, G, C#dim/ED, C, G/D, D7, G, G7, C, G

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Priest: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to

walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

Sanctus Hymn #S 128

Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, _____
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us 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 for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Please remain standing during the Fraction Anthem.

Fraction Hymn #S 154

Hurd

Cantor will sing the refrain first, followed by the congregation.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there-fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

*All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set belongs to God.
Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey you are welcome to receive the Bread made holy.*

The church teaches that temporal isolation cannot constrain the sacrament's ineffable power. Calling us to "massive, corporate, spiritual communion,"

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Priest and People say together:

O Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

Please be seated.

Please follow usher instructions for taking communion.

Communion Hymn #542

"Christ is the world's true Light"

St. Joan

1. Christ is the world's true Light, its Cap-tain of sal - va - tion,
2. In Christ all rac - es meet, their an-cient feuds for - get - ting,
3. One Lord, in one great Name u - nite us all who own thee;

the Day - star clear and bright of ev - ery race and na - tion;
the whole round world com - plete, from sun - rise to its set - ting;
cast out our pride and shame that hin - der to en - throne thee;

new life, new hope a - wakes, for all who own his sway;
when Christ is throned as Lord all shall for - sake their fear,
the world has wait - ed long, has tra - vailed long in pain;

free - dom her bond - age breaks, and night is turned to day.
to plough-share beat the sword, to prun - ing - hook the spear.
to heal its an - cient wrong, come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

Great day! Great day, the right-cous march-ing. Great day!

God's gon-na build up Zi-on's walls.

God's gon - na build up Zi - on's walls!

D.C.
God's gon - na build up Zi - on's walls!

Verse 1: Chariot rode on the mountaintop,
(God's gonna build up Zion's walls!)
My God spoke and the chariot did stop,
(God's gonna build up Zion's walls!)

Verse 2: This is the day of jubilee,
(God's gonna build up Zion's walls!)
The Lord has set his people free,
(God's gonna build up Zion's walls!)

Verse 3: We want no cowards in our band,
(God's gonna build up Zion's walls!)
We call for valiant-hearted men,
(God's gonna build up Zion's walls!)

Verse 4: Going to take my breast-plate, sword, and shield,
(God's gonna build up Zion's walls!)
And march out boldly in the field,
(God's gonna build up Zion's walls!)

Please stand as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

God of new beginnings,
you draw near to us in word and sacrament
to strengthen and renew us;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit,
may your light so shine through us
that all may welcome your Son at his coming.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Emmanuel. Amen.

Blessing

Know that the ever-present mystery we name God
is in your past forgiving you,
in your present loving you,
and in your future meeting you.
And may the blessing of the Source of life, love and hope,
the Word of life, compassion and wisdom
and Breath of life, grace and truth
surround, sustain and surprise you,
this day and all your days. **Amen**

Closing Hymn #486

“Hosanna to the living Lord!”

Hosanna



1. Ho - san - na to the liv - ing Lord! Ho - san - na to the in - car - nate Word!
 2. Ho - san - na Lord! thine an - gels cry; Ho - san - na Lord! thy — saints re - ply;
 3. O Sav - ior, with pro - tect - ing care a - bide in this thy — house of prayer,
 4. But, chief - est, in our cleans - ed breast, E - ter - nal! bid thy — Spi - rit rest;
 5. So in the last and dread - ful day, when earth and heaven shall melt a - way,



To Christ, Cre - a - tor, Sa - vior, King, let earth, let heaven, ho - san - na sing!
 a - bove, be - neath us, and a - round, both dead and liv - ing swell the sound:
 where we as - sem - bled in thy Name, in faith, thy part - ing prom - ise claim.
 and make our se - cret soul to be a tem - ple pure and wor - thy thee.
 thy flock, re - deemed from sin - ful stain, shall swell the sound of praise a - gain.

Refrain



Ho - san - na Lord! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Dismissal

Priest: As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve God.

People: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People taken from *Praying the Scriptures* by Jeremiah D. Williamson, ©2014 by Jeremiah D. Williamson. All Rights Reserved.
 From *The Hymnal 1982*: #486 “Hosanna to the living Lord!”, Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826), alt. Music: *Hosanna*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876). #74
 “Blest be the King whose coming” Words: Frederico J. Pagura (b. 1923); tr. F. Pratt Green (b. 1903), alt. Music: *Valet will ich geben*, melody Melchior Teschner
 (1584-1635) alt.; harm. and desc. Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930). Words Copyright © 1974 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.
 #56 “Come, O come, Emmanuel” Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.;
 adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811–1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright: Music: Both accompaniments copyright © 1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.
 #S128 The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord *Sanctus*, Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934). #S154 Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950).
 #542 “Christ is the world’s true Light”, Words: George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959), alt. Music: *St. Joan*, Percy E. B. Coller (b. 1895).
 From *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*: #5 *Great Day*, Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland (1937-1988). Harm. Copyright © 1981
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Doxology – Music: Old 100th, melody from *Pseumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. After Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).