**Sunday, December 13th, 2020 – Advent 3**



**Welcome** to this livestream Service of Morning Prayer on our Facebook Page. Though we are unable to gather for in-person worship at this time, we are glad you have joined us virtually.

**This Week’s Ministry Team:**

**Officiant -** The Rev. Stephen Laskey

**Music -** Matthew Ma

**Canticle** – John Palmer

**Reader –** Neil Seedhouse

**Prayers of the People –** John Palmer

**Camera –** Zoltan Barabas

**The Gathering of the Community**

**Prelude –** *Sleepers, Wake!*

**Sleepers wake! A voice astounds us;**

**The shout of rampart guards surrounds us;**

**Awake, Jerusalem, arise!**

**Midnight’s peace their cry has broken,**

**Their urgent summons clearly, spoken:**

**“The time has come, O maidens wise!**

**Rise up, and give us light;**

**The bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!**

**Your lamps prepare and hasten there,**

**That you the wedding feast may share.”**

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**Words of Welcome**

**Hymn of Praise –** *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

**Praise the one who breaks the darkness**

**with a liberating light**

**Praise the one who frees the prisoners**

**Turning blindness into sight**

**Praise the one who preached the gospel,**

**Healing every dread disease,**

**Calming storms and feed thousands**

**with the very bread of peace**

**Praise the one who blessed the children**

**With a strong yet gentle word,**

**Praise the one who drove out demons**

**With a piercing two-edged sword.**

**Praise the one who brings cool water**

**To the desert’s burning sand.**

**From this well comes living water,**

**Quenching thirst in every land.**

**Praise the one true love incarnate:**

**Christ who suffered in our place.**

**Jesus died and rose for many**

**That we may know God by grace.**

**Let us sing for joy and gladness,**

**Seeing what our God has done.**

**Praise the one redeeming glory,**

**Praise the One who makes us one.**

Contributors: Rusty Edwards

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**Opening Responsory**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**and also with you.**

Loving God, we have come to worship you.
**Help us to pray to you in faith, to sing your praise with gratitude, and to listen to your word with eagerness;**

**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Lighting of the Candle of Peace for the 3rd Sunday of Advent*

**An Act of Reconciliation**

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Most merciful God,

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may do justly, love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Jubilate – Psalm 100

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \***

**serve the Lord with gladness**

**and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God; \***

**he himself has made us, and we are his;**

**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;**

**go into his courts with praise; \***

**give thanks to him and call upon his name.**

**For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \***

**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**The Proclamation of the Word**

**First Reading** – **First Reading** – 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 favour, 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.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God**

**Canticle - The Magnificat** (Luke 1:46b-55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; \*

**for he has looked with favour 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**

**Second Reading** – 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.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation for Advent**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

**The Gospel** – **The Gospel** – John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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

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 Gospel of Christ

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

**Homily –** *Father Steve*

**An Affirmation of Faith**

We say together in faith

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.

**We believe in God the Father,**

**who created all things:**for by his will they were createdand have their being.

**We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:** for with his blood,he purchased us for God,from every tribe and language,from every people and nation.

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit:**The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

**Hymn** – When the King Shall Come Again

**When the King shall come again**

**all his power revealing,**

**splendour shall announce his reign,**

**life and joy and healing:**

**earth no longer in decay,**

**hope no more frustrated;**

**this is God's redemption day**

**longingly awaited.**

**In the desert, trees take root**

**fresh from his creation;**

**plants and flowers and sweetest fruit**

**join the celebration.**

**Rivers spring up from the earth,**

**barren lands adorning;**

**valleys, this is your new birth,**

**mountains, greet the morning!**

**Strengthen feeble hands and knees,**

**fainting hearts, be cheerful!**

**God who comes for such as these**

**seeks and saves the fearful.**

**Deaf ears hear the silent tongues**

**sing away their weeping;**

**blind eyes see the lifeless ones**

**walking, running, leaping.**

**There God's highway shall be seen**

**where no roaring lion,**

**nothing evil or unclean**

**walks the road to Zion:**

**ransomed people homeward bound**

**all your praises voicing,**

**see your Lord with glory crowned,**

**share in his rejoicing!**

Contributors: Christopher Idle

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**Prayers of the People**

**The Flowers on the Altar** today are given by Pat Nociar for the glory of God and in celebration of a birthday and giving thanks for good health.

**In the Anglican Church of Canada**, we pray for our Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls. We also pray for The Venerable Alan Perry, General Secretary along with the staff of the General

Secretary’s Office; and we pray for Melanie Delva, the Reconciliation Animator.

**In the Anglican Communion**, we pray for the Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury); The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton Bishop to the Forces and Bishop to the Falkland Islands

**In our Diocesan cycle of prayer**: We pray for our Metropolitan, Archbishop Melissa Skelton and bishop-coadjutor elect, the Rev. John Stephens. We pray for The Deanery of Royal City/South Burnaby – The Reverend Gordon Barrett, Regional Dean as well as the Deanery of Point Grey – The Reverend Christine Rowe, Regional Dean.

We also pray for our companion Diocese of Episcopal Church of Northern Philippines and its bishop, Brent Alawas. We remember our twinned parish of Holy Apostles, Abatan, the parish priest Joey Napat-a as well as the people and ministries of the parish.

**In our Parish Cycle:** we pray for Joyce Pushie; Pray Reh & Janaya Lah; and for Anil & Cynthia Richards. We pray for their well-being, work, ministry, and their families here & away.

**The Collect**

God of power and mercy,

**you call us once again**

**to celebrate the coming of your Son.**

**Remove those things which hinder love of you,**

**that when he comes,**

**he may find us waiting in awe and wonder**

**for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**

**one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Rejoicing in God’s new creation,

let us pray as our Redeemer has taught us.

**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.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**The Doxology**

Glory to God,

**Whose power working in us**

**can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God from generation to generation**

**in the Church and in Christ Jesus**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** – *Tell Out My Soul*

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!**

**Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;**

**Tender to me the promise of his word;**

**In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!**

**Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;**

**His mercy sure, from age to age to same;**

**His holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!**

**Powers and dominions lay their glory by**

**Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight**

**The hungry fed, the humble lifted high**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!**

**Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord**

**To children's children and for evermore!**

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**Dismissal**

Go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**