

CHRIST & SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025, 10:15 a.m.

*All page numbers refer to the Book of Common Prayer. Hymns can be found in the blue Hymnal 1982.
Service music, marked with an 'S', may be found in the front portion of the hymnal.*

PRELUDE: Meditation on Veni Emmanuel

Philip Moore

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Advent Wreath Prayers

Malcolm Archer

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true:

To you be praise and glory for ever!

Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth

As a burning and shining light.

May we your servants rejoice in his light,

And so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom,

Jesus our Savior and King of the ages, Blessed be God for ever.

Please stand at the ringing of the bell.

HYMN 59: Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

p. 355

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Celebrant 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.**

KYRIE ELEISON: Hymnal S86

David Hurd

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

THE wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it 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. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say 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." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then 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; the 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. A 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. No 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. And 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146:4-9 (*sung by all*)

Robert Knox Kennedy



- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their | help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their | God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is | in them; *
who keeps his promise for | ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are op|pressed, *
and food to those who | hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the | blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed | down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the | stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the | wicked.
- 9 The Lord shall reign for | ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

THE SECOND LESSON

James 5:7-10

BE 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. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People Thanks be to God.

HYMN 76: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

WHEN John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As 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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly 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."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Noah Van Niel

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

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and redeemer.

That God may bring in God's kingdom with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations a reign of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

The priest adds concluding prayers and the following collect.

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

p. 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(please kneel)*

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.**

Celebrant 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 PEACE *(please stand)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: This is the record of John

Orlando Gibbons

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

-John 1:19-23

Please stand as the Celebrant approaches the altar.

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
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.

The Celebrant continues with the Proper Preface.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS: Hymnal S 124

David Hurd

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. 368

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

The Celebrant continues...

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 LORD'S PRAYER: Hymnal S 119 (*sung by all*)

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

FRACTION ANTHEM: Hymnal S 161

David Hurd

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Communion at Christ & St. Luke's:

- At the indication of the usher, please move to the center aisle and proceed up the altar rail. Move to the open spot filling in from the center of the rail to the wall.
- Kneel as you are able and place one hand over the other, palms up, to receive the bread.
- To sip from a chalice to receive the wine, consume the bread leaving your palms empty.
- To intinct (dip) your wafer into the wine, hold it between your thumb and forefinger.
- Once the chalices have passed, exit out the side and back down the side aisles to your pew.

Gluten free wafers are available, simply let the priest know you require one. If you prefer not to receive the bread or wine but would like a blessing, gently cross your arms across your chest.

A standing station is also available in front of the pulpit.

COMMUNION ANTHEMS

Zion Hört Die Wächter Singen, from Cantata 140

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Zion hears the watchmen singing
the maidens' hearts with joy are springing,
they wake and quickly to Him go.
Their Friend comes in Heav'nly splendor,
With graceful strength, with mercy tender
Their light is bright, their star doth glow.
Now come, thou worthy One;
Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Hosanna!
We follow all to that glad hall
To our Lord's table we are called.*

Rejoice in the Lord alway

16th century

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice.

Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand.

Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,

let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,

keep you hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

-Philippians 4:4-7

COMMUNION HYMN 454: Jesus came, adored by angels

Lowry

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

p. 366

Celebrant Let us pray. (*please stand or kneel*)

People Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE ADVENT BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN 556 v. 1-5: Rejoice, ye pure in heart

Marion

THE DISMISSAL

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Toccata on Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Albert Travis

WE INVITE YOUR PRAYERS

If you would like to be added to the Prayer List, please contact a member of clergy or BJ Taylor, Facilitator for Pastoral and Congregational Care (taylorasc@aol.com).

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Emmanuel, Glenmore and Trinity, Gretna.

All those facing illness, surgery, injury or adversity, especially: Nancy Hoffman, Elmer Morales-Torres, and Autumn Vandehei. We pray for all who are deployed, especially Michael Ortiz. We also continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and for sustained peace in the Holy Land.

Those who ask for our continuing prayers: Carter Bernert, David Black, David Durica, Marilyn Gindroz, Valerie Harrington, Gary Hecht, Frank Kirchner, Wayne Lundie, Ceil McCoid, Mary Helen McCoy, Leon Parham, Allen Shaffer, William Swan, Jake Tobin, and Marie Ward.

Our loved ones needing continuing prayers: Mary Baldrige, Ron Baldrige, Ryker Bellamy, Marian Butler-Shaw, Brittany Clark, Ellen Coffman, Joseph Graif, Heather Hayes, Calvin Horsley, Dean Kershaw, James Kilavey, Henley Lanphere, Wesley Lupo, Lesney Miller, Shawn Morlock, Leslie Pugh, Mavis Stapleford, Christine Szeligowski, Auris Torres, and Carl Welch.

This week's Birthdays: Dec. 15-21

Albert Butzer, Sara Caro, Robert Carter, Monica Deng, Keith Ehrhard, Tim Haycox, Marsh Pierce, Kevin Rafferty, Tracy Reynolds, Shannon Scharnhorst, Mary-Carson Stiff, Jess Stribling, and Waylon Taylor.

This week's Anniversaries: Dec. 8-14

Joseph & Kate Bobbitt and Leslie & Thomas Yuill.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITURGY & MUSIC

VOCES8 - Tuesday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.

The Virginia Arts Festival presents chamber choir VOCES8 in a special holiday program. Very limited tickets are still available from vafest.org. There will be a reserved section for current Friends of Music patrons on a first-come-first-serve basis

Blue Christmas Service – Sunday, December 21, 6:00 p.m.

The Season of Christmas is a joyous time. However, it is not always easy to participate in that joy in the ways we might want. For those wrestling with grief and loss, with anxiety and uncertainty, and for those whose experience of the holidays brings up challenging memories, it can feel overwhelming to have to try to embody the joy of the season. The Blue Christmas Service is designed to be a space of quiet rest and contemplation, where we can bring the entirety of being - the good, the unpleasant, the broken, the hopeful - and hold ourselves in the goodness of God's love. Join us on December 21 for a service incorporating silence, music, and space for reflection. The chapel will open at 5:30 p.m. for silent prayer.

FORMATION

Advent Adult Forum: Sacred Word & Sacred Image – continues Sunday, December 14 & December 21, 9:15 a.m

Christ & St. Luke's is now the steward of the Heritage Edition of *The Saint John's Bible*. This Advent, we will take advantage of this wonderful gift and use it to help reflect on some of the passages central to our understanding of Advent. Using the words of Scripture, and the beautiful illuminations in *The Saint John's Bible*, we'll spend some time reflecting together on this season of waiting and anticipation. This forum series will be participatory, with attendees' input being central to our study process. We'll be aided by our Christ & St. Luke's docents of *The Saint John's Bible*, who will help unlock some of the rich meaning woven into each illumination.

Sunday Childcare, Children's Formation, and Children's Chapel Fall Schedule

- **9:00 a.m. - *Children up to 3 years old*** gather in the blue room in the Parish House at the end of the hallway before the stairs for childcare if their parents are attending adult formation or sing in the choir.
- **9:00 a.m. - *Children's Formation for children 3-8 years old*** gather in the meeting room (the gold room) for what was formerly known as "Sunday School." We will explore scripture and the traditions of the Episcopal church through stories, music, and art response.
- **9:00 a.m. - *Children's Formation for children 9-12 years old*** gather in Lower Lloyd for discussion of scripture, the Episcopal Church, and Christ & St. Luke's. Participants are invited to join their families for the 10:15 a.m. service.
- **9:00 a.m. - *Formation for youth ages 12-16*** gather in the Mezzanine office, up the parish house stairs.
- **10:15 a.m. - *All children through 8 years old*** participate in developmentally appropriate worship during Children's Chapel in their respective rooms. Older children will be brought into church to rejoin their families at the Peace. If you would like your child under 3 to join you at the Peace, please come to the Children's Room at that time to sign them out.

CSL Youth Christmas Morning – Today, December 14, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Lower Lloyd

It's Christmas morning for all CSL Youth this evening! All are invited for Caroling and Cocoa at 3:00 p.m. and CSL Youth Christmas Morning will begin at 5:00 p.m. Christmas breakfast will be served and reindeer games and crafts will appear. We will meet in Lower Lloyd. Wear your Christmas pajamas or favorite Christmas sweater. Bring a wrapped gift (\$10 limit!) for our gift swap. Please note that these gifts are for fun! Our revels should be finished around 7:00 p.m. Contact Kathy Hanna (kathy.hanna@christandstlukes.org) with questions.

Rector's Book Club – Friday, December 19, 4:00 p.m.

We'll be discussing Hannah Anderson's book, "Heaven and Nature Sing,"

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Campaign Update

We have incredible news to share! We have officially exceeded both our total amount pledged and our total number of pledgers compared to last year. Currently, we have raised \$1.25 million, which puts us approximately 96% of the way toward our \$1.3 million goal. We are just \$50,000 short of fully funding our vision for the coming year. We know there are still several members who have indicated they plan to pledge. If you have received a follow-up call or email, we would deeply appreciate a response — even if it is to let us know that you are unable to pledge this year — so that we can finalize our budget planning. If you have questions about pledging, please visit the CSL website and review our FAQs about giving.

Christmas Memorial Flowers – Last day to submit names is Today!

We invite you to participate in a cherished Christ & St. Luke's tradition by dedicating Christmas Altar Flowers in memory of the departed or in thanksgiving of loved ones this Advent season, a contribution that supports our flower ministry for the year. Christmas Flower envelopes will be available in the pews today until Sunday, December 14; but we encourage you to submit your contributions online on our giving page. Be sure to select "Christmas Flowers" in the drop-down box. Your contributions of \$12.00 per person or \$20.00 per couple will be mentioned by name in our Christmas bulletin. ***The last day to order flowers is today, Sunday, December 14*** so we can ensure the list is prepared in time for the Christmas bulletins.

Christmas Ushers Needed

We are in need of ushers for our Advent and Christmas Services. If you are interested in being an usher for a day, please contact Judie Belka (office@christandstlukes.org) and she will add you to the schedule.

FAITH IN ACTION

Save the Date - Norfolk Winter Shelter: March 8-15

The Norfolk Winter Shelter begins soon! This important ecumenical ministry helps provide emergency shelter for those experiencing homelessness during the coldest months of the year. This year's "NWS" runs from December 21 – March 22. Christ & St. Luke's is teaming up with Freemason Baptist to host a week of the NWS from March 8 – 15. Please save the date, and keep an eye out for the volunteer registration form, which will open soon. We need your support to make this vital ministry possible.

FELLOWSHIP

Caroling and Cocoa, TODAY, December 14, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Dress in holiday garb and we will regale the neighborhood with Christmas carols. After caroling, we will have hot cocoa and cookies (feel free to bring your favorite Christmas cookies!) and fellowship in the Main Reception area.

Queer Theology Discussion Group – Sunday, December 14, following coffee hour, the Parlor

We're a parishioner-led group devoted to exploring queer theology more deeply, and how members of the LGBTQIA+ community are not just accepted in the Episcopal Church but embraced in God's love. We ask ourselves: How does the queer perspective enrich queer theology and our community? December's meeting will focus on the transgressive nature of Mary. All LGBTQIA+ people and allies are welcome. For more information contact Anders "AJ" Nolan (creekhiker@gmail.com).

Prayer Guild – Thursday, December 18, 7:00 p.m.

We are a small group of parishioners who meet to write prayers in support of the parish community. This month, our prayers will be prompted by characters in the Advent story. If you'd like to join us, or would like more information, contact Barb Kersey (barbkersey59@gmail.com).



Christ & St. Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

560 West Olney Road
Norfolk, Virginia 23507
(757) 627-5665 info@christandstlukes.org

WORSHIP SERVICES AND FORMATION

Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Chapel)
Sunday, 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum & Children's Formation
Sunday, 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Church)
Thursday, 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Chapel)

The Reverend Noah Van Niel, Rector
The Reverend Jared Grant, Associate Rector
The Reverend Vince Connery, Assisting Priest
Kevin Kwan, Organist & Director of Music
Marjorie Setnicky, Associate Organist
Kathy Hanna, Director of Family, Youth and Children's Ministry
Judie Belka, Director of Parish Operations
Matthew Davis, Communications Director
Stephen Ipock, Facilities Manager
Michelle Sturges, Business Administrator
Rachel Welch, Administrative Assistant
Will Lee, Media Specialist
David Roberts, Sexton for Security

If this is your first time, welcome! Scan this QR code for our digital guest information or visit christandstlukes.org/guests.

To make a one-time gift online, or a pledge to Christ and St. Luke's, please visit: christandstlukes.org/give or text to give by texting "GIVECSL" to 73256.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the back of the Church.

