Third Sunday of Advent
In-gathering Sunday
December 11, 2022
10:30 AM  Holy Eucharist
PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN  H66  Come, thou long-expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Is-rael’s strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e-ter-nal Spi-rit rule in all our hearts a- lone;

from our fears and sins re-lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev-er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.
by thine all suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.


LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

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

People: Lord, grant us your light, that being rid of the darkness of our hearts, we may come to the true light which is Christ. AMEN.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant:  Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY  (Said together)

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.
HYMN OF PRAISE   H56  O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here unnumbered.

Israël, heareth the voice of one that crieth in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY
Celebrant: God be with you
People: And also with you
Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

FIRST LESSON  Isaiah 35:1-10
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.

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

THE PSALM  Psalm 146:4-9  Lauda, anima mea

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 oppressed, *
   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!

SECOND READING  
James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer  
wants 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.

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

All stand and sing before and after the Gospel is read

HYMN  L11  Prepare ye the way of the Lord

THE HOLY GOSPEL  Matthew 11:2-11

Celebrant:  The Holy Gospel of our Savior 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.”

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON The Rev. Stacey Kohl, Priest-in-Charge

JAZZ RESPONSE A musical response to the sermon

THE NICENE CREED Please rise, in body or in spirit.

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, 
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary 
and became truly human. 
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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
We are bearers of Christ’s love for the world. A love that compels us to get up and do! We must go and proclaim this blessed news!
Behold and bless the Church, remembering our Presiding Bishop, Michael; our bishops, Jeffrey and Laura; our Priest-in-Charge, Stacey; our wardens, Brian and Claire, our vestry; and our fellow Episcopal churches in Connecticut, especially: St Stephen’s, Bloomfield; St George’s, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; Calvary St George’s, Bridgeport. In the worldwide Anglican Communion, we pray for the Anglican Church of Kenya.
Stir up your power, O God, and with great might come among us.
Let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us.

We must go and serve the poor and homeless!
We pray for individuals and families in our world who suffer from hunger and hardship. In our midst, we lift up Loaves & Fishes, Sunrise Café, and other feeding programs in New Haven.
Stir up your power, O God, and with great might come among us.
Let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us.

We must go, to embrace the stranger!
We pray for refugees and immigrants who are forced by circumstance, or, who make a decision, to wander far from their homes.
Stir up your power, O God, and with great might come among us.
Let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us.

We must go and give voice to the voiceless!
Empower us to lend a hand to any who cannot speak for themselves, or to those who feel let down by society.
Stir up your power, O God, and with great might come among us.
Let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us.

We must go and lift up all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit, especially baby Jasper, Cathy & Mark, Hanne, Jess, John, Michael, Tim, Tom, and those on our prayer list. Please name those for whom you would like to pray…
We commend our loved ones who have died, to our Loving God. We especially lift up the soul of Thurmon Whitley who died last Friday. Receive him into the company of your saints, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Console his son, Andy, in his grief and gather us all in to the fulness of God’s promises.
Stir up your power, O God, and with great might come among us.
Let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us.

Celebrant: We must go in love as Christ loved us. Is it daunting to go into the world with the love of Christ? Yes. But we will go, for Christ goes with us. AMEN.

(Phrases in italics are from an anonymous Advent prayer)

CONFESSION OF SIN
Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept, then minister and people say together

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.

ABSOLUTION
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.

Please rise, in body or in spirit.

THE PEACE
Celebrant: La paz del Senor sea siempre con ustedes. People: Y con tu espíritu.
Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you. People: And also with you.
The people greet one another with a sign of God’s peace and then are seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY PRAYER
O God, our times are in your hands: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants, especially Veronica, David, and Margaret as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.
OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

OFFERTORY HYMN  

Where charity and love prevail, God is there.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING  

Eucharistic Prayer B

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 God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.
Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.
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:
The Celebrant continues
We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People
We remember Christ’s death,
We proclaim Christ’s resurrection,
We await Christ’s coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the
sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Paul and James and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. AMEN.

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

PADRE nuestro

que está en los cielos
Santificado sea tu Nombre
Venga tu reino
Hágase tu voluntad
En la tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy el pan de este día y
perdona nuestras deudas
como nosotros perdonamos
nuestros deudores
y no nos dejes caer en al tentación
sino que líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la
Gloria, ahora y por siempre. AMEN.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.
THE FRACTION  S163  Lamb of God

Celebrant: 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN  Taste and See

Celebrant and People:
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.
BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN  H76  On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry an-

2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord, our

4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose

1 announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken,

2 straight the way for God within, and let each heart pre-

3 refuge, and our great reward; without thy grace we

4 bid the fallen sinner stand; shine forth, and let thy

5 advent doth thy people free; whom with the Father

1 for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.

2 pare a home where such a mighty guest may come.

3 waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

4 light restore earth's own true likeness once more.

5 we adore and Holy Spirit ever more.


DISMISSAL
Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia!
People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 11, 2022

Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rev. Stacey Kohl, Priest-in-Charge

Worship Leaders:
Claire Cody
Kate Galambos
Lynne Severance
Nate Solberg

Musicians:
William Cleary
Alec Pedersen
Dylan Rowland

Technical Assistance:
Nate Solberg

Bread Baker:
Agatha Zichichi-Evans

ST. PJ’S COVID-19 POLICY
As winter approaches, and with it the increasing number of cases and hospitalizations, we, as God’s community, seek to lift up the most vulnerable among us by continuing to wear masks at all times within the church. Mask wearing will continue to be optional for readers, preachers, and celebrants while they are speaking.

Please be aware that by attending church, you are participating in our live stream, which means you may appear in a video that is saved on our Facebook page.
REGULAR EVENTS

2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN
This Sunday is In-Gathering Sunday for all our 2023 pledges. If you have not yet completed your pledge, please prayerfully consider how you will support God’s mission at St. PJs in the next year. Paper pledge cards are available at the back of the church and an electronic version is available on our website: stpaulstjames.org/pledge.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

TO DONATE TO ST. PJs
If you wish to donate to St. PJs, via Venmo, Paypal or Credit Card, please scan the QR code below:

NOTICES

Christmas at St. PJs
Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. | Blue Christmas Service
A service of comfort to celebrate the glory of the incarnation in the midst of sadness, grief, and loss many are experiencing.

Dec. 18 after the 10:30 a.m. Service | Greening of the Church
Join us after the service to decorate the church for Christmas.

Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m. | Christmas Eve Service
Join us for an all-ages Christmas Eve Service. Children are welcome to wear their "PJs to St. PJs" as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Adults: PJs optional!

Dec. 25 online any-time | Christmas Day Service
Join us online on our Facebook or YouTube page for a Christmas Day service including music, readings, and prayers for Christmas Day.

SC REGION ADVENT SERIES: Becoming Beloved Community
Weekly on Mondays at 7 p.m. on Zoom
As Advent is a season of preparation for the inbreaking of Jesus, The Episcopal Church has developed an Advent study series to help us reflect on how we are preparing to make flesh the Beloved Community of God’s dream. Each week we will look at the lectionary readings for the preceding Sunday. The Rev. Rachel Thomas will facilitate this Monday evening (7-8 p.m.) Zoom group. Email her at rthomas@episcopalct.org to receive the link.

THE ST. PJ'S ALTAR IN ADVENT

Steve Crowson
Priest Associate
## PRAYERS & THANKSGIVINGS

We pray for the souls of the faithful departed and their families and friends.

Thurmon Whitley  (12/9)

Blessed are they who die in the Lord; even so saith the Spirit for they rest from their labors.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

We give thanks for the birthdays and anniversaries of members, friends, and supporters of the St. PJ's community.

Veronica Holcomb  (12/11)  
David Hill  (12/12)  
Margaret Conable  (12/17)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing... 
-Romans 15:13

## OUR STAFF

The Rev. Stacey Kohl, Priest-in-Charge  
William Cleary, Director of Music  
Tudy Hill, Minister of Pastoral Care  
Susan Yates, Liturgist  
Crystal Gooding, Parish Administrator  
Samuel Rodriguez, Sexton  
The Rev. Steve Crowson, Priest Associate

## OUR VESTRY

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<tr>
<th>Wardens:</th>
<th>Brian Fillmore, Claire Cody</th>
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<td>Treasurer:</td>
<td>David Hill</td>
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<td>Clerk:</td>
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|                | Vanessa Gonzalez-Rivera