

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

3601 Alabama Ave SE Washington, DC 20020 + Rev. Todd Thomas, Rector
Sunday December 4, 2022 Second Sunday of Advent

Our goal is to follow Jesus by
living in love, walking by faith,
and serving our community.



A note to all our guests...

We're so glad you are here! This bulletin has all the information you'll need. As you look toward the altar at the front of our worship space you'll notice an open door to the right. That door leads to a hallway where you can turn left to find the restrooms and our Parish Hall. In an emergency you may exit that way or by the main doors at the back of our worship space.

Your children are very welcome in worship, and we don't mind the sounds that children often make. We have activity bags at the back of our worship space to help make your child be more comfortable during worship. Those bags are gifts for your children to keep and take home.

Worship: We'll begin with a prelude, a musical call to worship. Then, as a guest you're invited to participate as much as you are comfortable. In the bulletin you'll see bolded parts when all the people are invited to participate with responses, so please *sing, pray and join us in sharing at the altar as much as you like*. Our offering plate is not passed, but is in the foyer near the front door; you're not obligated to make an offering. We will offer you a time to introduce yourself during the announcements and we hope you will, but it's ok if you don't want to stand or say anything. ***We're glad you're with us!***

Prelude:

Ukrainian Bell Carol

Music: Olson

Lighting Our Second Advent Candle

READER: "This morning we light another Advent candle and we now have two small flames glowing brightly. We will keep lighting candles until we again celebrate the arrival of our Savior who is the Light of the World. May these small flames remind us to always keep our eyes on Him, Jesus, our Light and our Life."

Please stand as you are able for our opening songs and prayers.

Opening Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**Words: Neander
OLFB #12 vs. 1-4 Music: Herren**

Verse 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Verse 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen How thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Verse 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Verse 4 Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen Sound from His people again,
Forevermore we adore Him.

Opening Praise and Prayer

CELEBRANT: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God

PEOPLE: **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

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.**

Hymn of Praise: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

**Words: Wesley
OLFB #257 vs. 1-2 Music: Prichard**

Verse 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art:
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Verse 2 Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

The Prayer of the Day

CELEBRANT: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

CELEBRANT: Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Our Scripture Readings for the Day *You may be seated for the readings.*

A reading from Isaiah, Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall

graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

READER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from Psalm 72 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

2 May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.

3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

5 May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

7 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

19 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

READER: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

PEOPLE: **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A reading from Romans, Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May

the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

READER: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for this Gospel song and reading.

Gospel Hymn: **Lord, Be Glorified** (vs. 1-2 before, vs. 3-4 after)

Words: Kilpatrick
OLFB #32 Music: Kilpatrick

Verse 1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In my life, Lord be glorified today.

Verse 2 In my home, Lord be glorified, be glorified;
In my home, Lord, be glorified today.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

Rev. Todd Thomas

CELEBRANT: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves,

'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

CELEBRANT: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Verse 3 In Your Church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In Your Church, Lord, be glorified today.

Verse 4 In my heart, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In my heart, Lord, be glorified today.

You may be seated for the sermon.

The Sermon

The Rev. Todd Thomas

The Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able for the Creed.

**ALL: 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 and the Son,
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

Please stand or kneel as you are able for the Prayers and Confession.

LEADER Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
Almighty God, help your people to seek truth, to live together in love, and to
speak and act for peace in the world. Lord, in your mercy:

PEOPLE ***Hear our prayer.***

LEADER: Help us to value one another, to honor one another, and to serve the
common good. Lord, in your mercy:

PEOPLE ***Hear our prayer.***

LEADER: Help us preserve and honor the earth, using natural resources wisely for
our good and the good of all who will follow us. Lord, in your mercy:

PEOPLE ***Hear our prayer.***

LEADER: Bless our families and friends, and all those with whom we share our days.
Bless those we name before you, now... *you may silently or aloud lift the
names of those you know who most need a blessing.* Lord, in your mercy:

PEOPLE ***Hear our prayer.***

LEADER: We lift to you all those on our church prayer list, who need you at this time
especially Lillie, Shanice, Constance, Father Errol, Bishop Paula, Otis,
Jairon, Jeremiah, Jessie, Christine E., Calvin, Wilbert, Lisa, Doris J., Edgar,
Mary, Ernest, Kimberly, Deborah, Ruby, Dorothy, James, Christine S.,

Herman S., Noah T., Delores, David, Rosa, Alice, Doris W., Charles, Bernard, Cynthia, Donna, Adam and Elaine. Lord, in your mercy:

PEOPLE *Hear our prayer.*

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

PEOPLE *Hear our prayer.*

CELEBRANT: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession

CELEBRANT: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

PEOPLE: **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace, Announcements & Celebrations

CELEBRANT: The peace of Christ be always with you.

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

You are invited to stand and give a greeting to those around you!

Offering Our Gifts Back to God

CELEBRANT: We should not neglect to do good and to share what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Thank you all for making this parish family a priority in your giving.

Offertory Hymn Give Me Jesus,

CELEBRANT: All things come from you, O Lord.

PEOPLE: And of your own have we given you.

Gathering in Gratitude at God's Table of Grace

Please stand as you are able.

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, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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:

CELEBRANT and PEOPLE

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

CELEBRANT: Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord 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 he 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

PEOPLE: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

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

CELEBRANT and PEOPLE

**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.**

Breaking the Bread

CELEBRANT: Alleluia! Christ has given us the bread and cup of eternal life;

PEOPLE: **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

CELEBRANT: These are the gifts of God for the people of God; all are called and all are welcomed at God's Table of Grace. Receive as you are able, for God loves you.

Those who are with us at the church building may be seated and will be invited row by row to come forward and receive a wafer. Please ask for a gluten free wafer if needed. The wafer by itself is a full participation in the sacrament, but there are also individual cups of consecrated wine to each side if you would like to have the wine as well. Please come forward down the middle aisle and return to your seat by the outside aisles. Those at home who have pre-consecrated bread and wine, and those who have other bread and drink at home, are invited to join us at this time. All are welcome to receive the bread and cup. If you would rather have a blessing, or if you'd like a blessing as well, please cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

CELEBRANT: Though some of us may not have consecrated bread and wine, we still share the mystery and joy of the Table. Let us all pray together with those online the prayer of spiritual communion.

PEOPLE: **My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Though I may not now be able to receive you in bread and wine from the altar, I invite you to live within my heart. I know you are with me; never let us be separated. Amen.**

CELEBRANT: And now let us pray.

Please stand as you are able for this prayer, the blessing and the closing hymn.

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.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn:

Come Thou Font of Every Blessing

**Words: Robinson
OLFB #479 vs. 1, 3 - 4 Music: Nettleton**

Verse 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise:
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,

Verse 2 Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home:
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Verse 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter,
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

The Dismissal

CELEBRANT: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude: **He Shall Feed His Flock**

Music: Handel



WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS for the members who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week.

We ask your prayers for parishioners relatives and friends.

Thank you to all who have helped prepare, lead, and participated in our worship!

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