

# The Third Sunday of Advent

13 December 2020



Trinity Episcopal Church  
Watertown, New York



TRINITY  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Founded 31 May 1828

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD, RITE II

*The Third Sunday of Advent*

13 December 2020

THE VOLUNTARY *Meditation on 'Creator of the Stars of Night'* Rebecca Groom te Velde (b. 1956)

*Sung by all.*

THE OPENING HYMN

STUTTGART



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.

*The people standing, the Celebrant begins*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*Then the Celebrant says*

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4.14, 16*

*The Celebrant then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and 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.

*The Priest stands and says*

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.*

*Sung by all.*

**KYRIE** *Lord, have mercy upon us*

*Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena; Healey Willan*

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up -  
on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.  
Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

*The Celebrant says to the people*

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says the Collect.*

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 people sit.*

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

*Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11*

*Lector* A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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 favor,  
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.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*The psalm is recited in unison.*

**PSALM 126** *In convertendo*

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

**THE EPISTLE**

*1 Thessalonians 5.16-24*

*Lector* A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

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.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*Sung by all.*

**THE SEQUENCE HYMN**

**RICHMOND**



1. The Priests and Le - vites sent to John, they asked of
2. Art thou E - li - jah, tell us plain, what of - fice
3. The Jews sup - pos - ed John to be their Sav - ior
4. As the great Pro - phet hath de - clared, I am the
5. Pre - pare your gra - cious Lord to meet! Sub - mit un -
6. O! could we be like un - to John, sub - mis - sive,

him to know: art thou the great Mes -  
 dost thou bear? We must re - port to  
 and their Lord! But John re - plied I  
 voice that cry, my voice is in the  
 to his ways; and tru - ly hum - bled  
 hum - ble, meek, to hon - or none but  
  
 si - ah come? The power on earth to show.  
 those a - gain: those who have sent us here.  
 am not he, I on - ly bear re - cord.  
 des - erts heard: your prince of life is nigh.  
 at his feet, ob - tain his pardon - ing grace.  
 Christ a - lone and none but Christ to seek.

*Then, all standing, the Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 1.6-8, 19-28*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* Glory to you, Lord 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.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*The people are seated.*

**THE SERMON**

The Rev'd Molly Payne-Hardin

*The people stand.*

**THE 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.

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *Form II*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, DeDe Duncan-Probe;  
for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.  
Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.  
Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially Peter, Bernie, Paul, Linda, the Guillo family, Carolyn, Chris, Mary, and Jan.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.  
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

We pray for all who are serving in the Armed Forces, especially Ben Miller and Kyle Hesse during his deployment.

I invite your additional prayers and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.  
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

**THE ANTHEM** *O Thou that Tellest* from *Messiah*, HWV56      George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God! (*Isaiah 40.9*)

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. (*Isaiah 60.1*)

*Sackets Harbor Vocal Arts Ensemble and Orchestra*

*Dr. Ivy Walz, Mezzo-Soprano*

*from the 100th performance on the Trinity Concert Series, December 22, 2019*

*Said by all.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.



*The Celebrant says*

### THE ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

*Sung by all.*

### THE CLOSING HYMN

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN



1. Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2. He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em-brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re-sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

*Refrain*



Oh, blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

THE VOLUNTARY *People, Look East!*

arr. Kristina Langlois (b. 1956)

# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*The mission of Trinity Episcopal Church is to celebrate Christ through steadfast worship,  
inclusive hospitality and service to all.*

**The Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe**, *Bishop of Central New York*

**The Reverend Molly Payne-Hardin**, *Rector*  
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## TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANT

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