



The Third Sunday of Advent
17 December 2023
10:15 a.m.

Voluntary *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Hal Hopson

Hymn 74

Valet will ich der geben

Opening Sentences & Collect for Purity

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

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.**

The Trisagion

David Hurd

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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 First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Reader A reading from 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle The Magnificat

The canticle is read in unison.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor 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.**

The Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Reader A reading from First 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 59

Merton

The Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Gospeller 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.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

A brief silence follows.

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: 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.

The Prayers of the People

The presider introduces the prayers

As we joyfully await the coming of God's reign in Christ, let us pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High and reach from beginning to end, mightily and sweetly ordering all things. Behold and bless your church, especially Michael our presiding bishop, Jennifer our bishop, Bradley and Jason our clergy, St. John's staff and vestry, the Diocese of Brasilia and their bishop Mauricio, the Diocese of Haiti and St. Andre's, Mithon, and the people and clergy of the Church of Pakistan, and Trinity, Anderson. Be present in ordering the life of St. John's and every congregation.

Come and teach us the way of wisdom.

O Adonai, God of the Covenant, ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and on Mount Sinai gave your law. Forgive us when we stray from your guidance and your will.

Come and restore our common life.

O Root of Jesse, you stand as an ensign to humankind; before you rulers will shut their mouths, and nations bow in worship: We pray for your peace and justice in every nation and throughout the world; be present to all whose lives are ravaged by war, strife, or disaster; especially the people Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine. Lead us toward repair, understanding, and healing across the world, in our nation, and within our communities. Guide the leaders of this and every land into the paths of peace and goodwill.

Come and redeem the world made through you.

O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can shut, you shut and no one can open: Guide us in opening the doors of opportunity for the unemployed, for the homeless, for prisoners, and for all who are oppressed; and lead us in closing the doors that lead to poverty, bigotry, and injustice.

Come and free the oppressed.

O King of the Nations and their Desire, you are the cornerstone that makes us one: we lift up all who are suffering and in need, especially those commended to our prayers and those we name together; **Rosemarie Goonewardene, Sue Eichhorn, Don Nead, Janet Huber, Ginny Hull, Pam Ogorzaly, Barbara Hess, Paul Lawson, Pequita Behrndt, Carolyn Speer, Carol Helgerman, John Howland, Alyce Dressler, John & Elizabeth Barrett, Bill McInerney, Jerry & Sandra, Terry, Lori, Martie, Joy, Ben, Judy, Rhianna, Josh, Chris, Rosemary, Deb, Paul, Marcus, Ben, Brent, Gabby, Kirsten, Pam, Wendell, Charles, Sara & Juni, Crystal, and their families**, and those we name now either silently or aloud.... Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous and help us minister to them in your love.

Come and fashion us anew.

O Dayspring, radiance of the Light Eternal and Sun of Righteousness: shine your light on those who have died; including Gary, Douglas Campbell, Gary, those buried in the Memorial Garden, and those we name now either silently or aloud.... Bring comfort to all who mourn.

Come and enlighten all who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O Emmanuel, God with us, Expected One and Savior, we give thanks for all the blessings of this life and especially for the blessings we name now either silently or aloud.... Make each of us ready to receive you into our hearts, to serve you in all whom we meet, and to greet you with gladness at the day of your appearing.

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

The presider concludes the prayers

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another in the name of Christ.

Announcements & Blessings for Personal Life

Those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, or other milestones are invited to come forward.

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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,

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

The presider 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 the blessed Mary, blessed John, 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.



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

Musical score for the Lord's Prayer. It consists of ten staves of music in a single system, all in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the staves. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, and rests.

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 the Bread

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the Alleluia. The second staff contains the second line. The third staff contains the third line. The fourth staff contains the final line of the Alleluia.

The Invitation & Communion of the People

The consecrated Bread and Wine are living signs of the presence of Christ in this gathering. All Baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion; however, no one who comes forward will be refused. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please ask when you come forward.

Music during Communion

Hymn 72
Hymn 73

*Richmond
St. Stephen*

The Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

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

The Presider blesses the people, and they respond
Amen.

Hymn 438

Woodlands

The Dismissal

A member of the clergy dismisses the people, and they respond
Thanks be to God.

Voluntary *Blest Be the King Whose Coming*

J.S. Bach

Our worship has ended. Our service begins.



Those Serving

Presider	Jason Fortner
Preacher	Kirsten Guidero
MC	George Moore
Acolyte	Jack Kueberth
Lectors	Kyle Tribbett, Stephanie Amador Tribbett
LEM	Brent Ladd
Ushers	Becky Dick, Carol L'Homme
Counters	Sally Byrn, Elizabeth Ladd
Altar Guild	Dorinda Kueberth, Heather Johnston Nicholson, Linda Jeffries, Michael Benner, Robert Kurtz



Welcome

May today's worship give you a sense of Christ's peace and inspire you to God's service.

We welcome the full participation of children in our worship. Activity bags are located at the rear of the church and may help them during the liturgy. Please return the bags after the service. **We also offer nursery care during the service.** If you feel it is more comfortable for your child to be in childcare, an usher can direct you to the nursery.

St. John's has a Hearing Loop system, which allows those wearing appropriate hearing aids to receive the church's sound system directly. If you wear a hearing aid, you may need your audiologist to activate the T-coil in your device.

New To St. John's?

We're glad you're here.

If you are visiting with us, we invite you to worship, explore, ask questions, and help yourself to all our parish has to offer. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to an usher, a member of the clergy, or by filling out a guest card. Please visit stjohns-laf.org/guest or use the QR code.



Parish Announcements

Please welcome our guest preacher, the Rev. Dr. Kirsten Guidero. Kirsten is an Associate Professor of Theology at Marian University in Indianapolis.

Hanging of the Greens - TODAY after the 10:15 Service

Please stick around after the 10:15 service next Sunday to help ready the church for Christmas. Lunch will be served.

'Longest Night' Service - Wednesday, December 20, at 6 p.m.

The Christmas season can be a painful time. While the joyful sounds of the season are all around us — on the radio and television, in shopping malls, and in our churches — many of us are reminded of what we have lost or never had. Broken relationships, unemployment, ill health, the pain of isolation — all these can make us feel alone amid celebration. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone.

To honor and name the difficulty of this season, **St. John's will host a "Longest Night" Service at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20.** Let us join together, sharing and hearing prayers, Scripture, and music that acknowledge God's presence for those who struggle and for those who mourn. Hear the good news that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

End-of-Year Giving to St. John's

Each week throughout the year contributions that are delivered to the office, either in person or through the mail, are counted and then deposited with the offerings received on the following Sunday. December 24 - 25 will be the last opportunity to have your contributions counted and deposited in 2023. (Even though there will be an electronic deposit made on December 31, the deposit won't clear the bank until January 2.) Hand delivered contributions should be delivered to the office by December 22 as the office will be closed December 23 through January 1. If you are mailing your contribution, please allow at least seven to 10 days for delivery. Mailed contributions should also reach the parish office by December 22.

Epiphany Pageant Sunday, January 7, at St. John's

St. John's will host an Epiphany Pageant of lessons and hymns on Sunday, January 7. There will be only one service that Sunday at 10:15 a.m. All children ages 3 through the eighth grade are invited to participate. We will have a rehearsal at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 6, at St. John's. Please contact Amanda Yauney at amanda@stjohns-laf.org with any questions. More information will be forthcoming.

Advent and Christmas at ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

Find the complete Advent and Christmas schedule at www.stjohns-laf.org/christmas.

Wednesday, December 20 – 6:00 p.m. "Longest Night" Service

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve, December 24

9:00 via Zoom & 10:15 a.m. Morning Prayer

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

4:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols Service via Zoom, hosted by Good Shepherd

9:00 p.m. Carol Prelude & 9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25 – 10:15 a.m. Carols & Holy Eucharist

1st Sunday after Christmas, December 31— 8:00, 9:00 via Zoom, & 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Worship

The Feast of the Epiphany (observed), Sunday, January 7 – 10:15 a.m. Epiphany Pageant
& Holy Eucharist (one service only)



Parish Prayer List

St. John's Cycle of Prayer— Brent & Elizabeth Ladd, Keith & Samantha LeGrand, Marilyn & Randy Leigh, Karen Lohmeyer, Teresa Lohrman

Parish Prayer List—Rosemarie Goonewardene, Sue Eichhorn, Don Nead, Janet Huber, Ginny Hull, Pam Ogorzaly, Barbara Hess, Paul Lawson, Pequita Behrndt, Carolyn Speer, Carol Helgerman, John Howland, Alyce Dressler, John & Elizabeth Barrett, Bill McInerney, Jerry & Sandra, Terry, Lori, Martie, Joy, Ben, Judy, Rhianna, Josh, Chris, Rosemary, Deb, Paul, Marcus, Ben, Brent, Gabby, Kirsten, Pam, Wendell, Charles, Sara & Juni, Crystal, and their families.

For the people of Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine; for hostages and all innocent civilians in harm's way; for peace in all places of conflict; for the victims of violence; and for repair, understanding, and healing across the world, in our nation, and within our communities.

For those who have died—For all who have died, including Gary, Douglas Campbell, Gary, and those buried in the St. John's Memorial Garden

The leaders of our Communion—Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, the Presiding Bishop; & Jennifer our Bishop

St. John's Leadership, Staff, Clergy, & Seminarian—The Vestry, Wardens, and Volunteer staff; Amanda, Eva, Michael, & Teresa; Jason, Bradley, & Carolin

Our Ministry Partners—The Diocese of Brasilia and their bishop Mauricio and the Diocese of Haiti and St. Andre's, Mithon; The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, and St. John's, Bedford.

This nation and all in authority—Joe, our President; Eric, our Governor; and Tony and John, our mayors and Erin, mayor-elect

ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

Worshiping · Sharing · Making Christ Known

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Parish Staff & Leadership

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop · Bradley Pace, Rector

Jason Fortner, Curate · Teresa Lohrman, Associate for Administration & Finance

Michael Bennett, Director of Music · Amanda Yauney, Director of Christian Education

Becky Dick, Sr. Warden · Bruce Johnson, Jr. Warden

St. John's is a parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Indianapolis.

