

The Third Sunday of Advent

17 December 2017 The Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.

WELCOME to The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. We are so glad you are here to worship with us this morning. If you are visiting, we invite you to sign the guest register in the narthex or to fill out a visitor card, found in the pews. Place the visitor card in the offering plate or give it to an usher or member of the clergy. As the parish community gathers, we invite you to prepare for worship in prayerful silence. During the liturgy, we will use the BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 1979 and *The Hymnal 1982*, found in the pew racks. 'S' refers to the service music section at the front of The Hymnal 1982. Large-print leaflets and hearing assistance devices are available. Please speak with an usher or member of the clergy before the liturgy.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

The liturgy begins on page 355 in the BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: Benedictus - Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

As the church bell rings, all stand and sing:

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION: Hail to the Lord's anointed HYMNAL, 616

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

All join in singing

Trisagion Hymnal, S-100

THE SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

All join in singing

HYMN Wait for the Lord



Words: Isaiah 40: Taize Community 1984 Music: Jacques Bethier (1923-1994) Reprinted under One-License.net A-725467

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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.
Peoble Thanks be to God.

The Cantor sings the antiphon, and then all sing together



The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad in - deed.

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.

Repeat antiphon (all singing together)

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.

Repeat antiphon (all singing together)

THE SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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.

All stand and sing:

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE: There's a voice in the wilderness crying

HYMNAL, 75

THE HOLY 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 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

During the pageant, all are invited to join in singing:

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her Baby in a manger for His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

THE NICENE CREED

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor You are

You are faithful, O God, and by you we are called into the fellowship of your Son. Bless we pray, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Mariann, our Bishop; Cricket, David, and Sue, our clergy. Shield all who minister in your name.

People Restore us, O Lord God of hosts.

Intercessor Awaken, O desire of nations, the hearts and souls of those who hold

power in this and every land, so that all earth's peoples may enjoy the fruits of their labors and preserve the resources of this planet to the

next generations.

People Restore us, O Lord God of hosts.

Intercessor Comfort, O comfort your people most gracious God, throughout this

land and around the world. Give strength and courage to those in trouble, healing for those who are sick, and your loving presence to those who are lonely. Help us to see them through your eyes and to be

your hands and heart to give them hope.

People Restore us, O Lord God of hosts.

Intercessor Prepare our hearts, O Wisdom, that we may be ready for your coming

and be inspired to share the joy of your life enfolded in ours. Give us

the desire to know and love you.

People Restore us, O Lord God of hosts.

Intercessor Disperse our sadness, O Dayspring, for those whom we commend to

your eternal care. Remind us that the deceased are not without hope,

but in your loving presence forever.

People Restore us, O Lord God of hosts.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers with a collect, then all say together

THE CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

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 PEACE & THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY The Adult Choir sings

ANTHEM: O nata lux

O born light of light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, mercifully deem worthy and accept the praises and prayers of your supplicants. Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost ones. Grant us to be made members of your holy body.

Text: Offertory hymn for Lauds on the Feast of the Transfiguration

Music: Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER B)

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 367

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT

HYMNAL, S-124

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

AGNUS DEI:

HYMNAL, S-161

All who seek a deeper relationship with God in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion during this liturgy. Gluten-free wafers are available. The second chalice bearers have grape juice. Please make your need known at the altar rail. If the reception of Holy Communion is not part of your tradition, you are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate to the priest your desire to receive a blessing.

THE COMMUNION

All join in singing

HYMN: Glory, love and praise and honor

HYMNAL, 300

The Adult and Youth Choirs sing

ANTHEM: Come with us, O blessed Jesus

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891) and Charles P. Price (b. 1920)

Music: Werde munter, Johann Schop (d. 1665); arr. and harm. J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Both can be found at Hymn 336

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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

All respond: Amen.



THE DISMISSAL All respond: Thanks be to God

ORGAN VOLUNTARY:

'Great' Prelude in C minor, BWV 546 - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Please respect those who wish to listen to the organ postlude by holding your conversations outside the sanctuary. Thank you.

Thank you for worshipping with us. At the conclusion of the liturgy, we invite you to join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Parish Hall, located on the lower level of the building.

To learn more about the mission and ministry of The Church of the Redeemer, visit the parish website: redeemerbethesda.org

■ PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Church of the Redeemer.

You're invited to join us in our mutual Christian journey.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table for communion.

Please sign the guest book in the foyer or complete a visitor's card, and please take a copy of Redeemer Spirit.

We wish to welcome you fully into the Redeemer community!

Adult Forum Today

Today, on Rose Sunday - December 17th - relax and enjoy *The Christmas Cantata* by Mark Schweizer. Pick up a copy at www.sjmp.com, or purchase one from Cricket (\$10). Mr. Schweizer is the author of the Liturgical Mystery series set in St. Germain, North Carolina. It's like Cabot Cove with an Episcopal twist.

Jan. 14: Speaker from the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC) "Finding Asylum in Trump's America"

A "truth speaker" from TASSC will tell the story of fleeing to the U.S., the poignant challenges of recovering strength and hope, while struggling to survive here ~ and the amazing work of TASSC, a support group formed in DC 20 years ago by, for and about survivors of torture and to work against torture. As the U.S. political environment has hardened, TASSC has responded.

Redeemer parishioners and Redeemer's outreach program have supported TASSC over the last 12 years. More info, www.tassc.org or Steve France, 240-498-2502.

Redeemer Book Group

The Book Group is reading "The Alto Wore Tweed" by Mark Schweizer. St. Germaine is a quiet little town in the mountains of North Carolina. Quiet until full-time police detective, part-time Episcopal choirmaster and aspiring whodunit novelist Hayden Konig begins his opus amidst murder and hilarious mayhem at St. Barnabas Church. In addition to discussing this liturgical mystery novel, we will continue delving into the forty rules of love that were listed in the book we have been discussing. No prior reading of the book is required. The meeting for discussing "The Alto Wore Tweed" and the forty rules of love is TODAY at 3:00 pm at the home of Susan Grigsby, 7325 University Avenue in Glen Echo. Any questions? Contact Huda Kraske at hgkraske@aol.com.

The book to be read after that is "The Book of Joy" by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmund Tutu and deals with attaining happiness in a changing world. This book affirms many of the 40 rules of love mentioned above. More on this later.

For more information, contact Huda Kraske at hqkraske@aol.com or by calling 301-656-2087. All are welcome.

Christmas Services at Redeemer

December 20 at Noon - "Blue Christmas"

December 24 at 10:30 a.m. - Advent IV Holy Eucharist in the Parish Hall

December 24 at 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist with music and choirs

December 25 at 10:00 a.m. - Simple Holy Eucharist

Upcoming P.R.A.Y. Events (Potomac River Anglican/Awesome Youth)

Here are some of the upcoming events for youth at Redeemer. I sure hope that your students will participate in these events and activities. All events are designed for those in 5th grade and up. If the event is a Redeemer only event then we are a bit flexible with the ages. For PRAY events we do try to keep to 5th grade or higher.

Caroling at the Oasis & Secret Santa

TODAY

1:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We will sing for the residents of the Oasis, a unit specializing in care for those with dementia and Alzheimer's. The group will gather for snacks and a gift exchange when we take a break in our singing time. Gifts should be under \$10. There is no other cost for the event.

Meet at the entrance for check-in at 1:45. We will begin singing at 2:00 p.m.

Friends are welcome. Dress in your "best" Christmas attire! All those participating on the day should sign up no later than Wednesday, December 13 in the parish hall or online.

December Youth Night

Wednesday, December 20 - Dinner at 6:00 p.m. - Program 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The program this evening will focus on the Christmas story, including traditions and myths.

Epiphany Celebration

A Redeemer Parish Event

Saturday, January 6 - Beginning at 5:00 p.m.

The evening will begin with Evensong and an Epiphany Liturgy of Lights lead by the youth. The celebration will continue with a Persian feast of food and fun in the parish hall.

January PRAY Event

MLK Day of Service

Monday, January 15 - Time to be Determined

An interfaith day of serving the least among us in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. We will gather at National Hebrew Congregation on Massachusetts Avenue for a few hours of giving back.

January Youth Night

Wednesday, January 17

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Program 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Program to be determined.

SNACKS NEEDED

The youth room is always in need of snacks and any contributions are welcome. Sweet or salty - healthy or unhealthy. Packaged in individual sized containers is helpful. Cricket and Sue have been keeping this stocked - either of us is happy to shop if you want to contribute funds rather than shop yourself.

Christmas Flowers: Please use the envelopes in the pews to contribute to Christmas Flowers. We need your contributions by Wednesday, December 20. Thank you!

Epiphany Evensong, the Feast of Lights and Magi-themed party!

Saturday, January 6, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, when we commemorate the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus and the coming of the light of Christ into the world. This year we are introducing a new event to mark this special day in our lives as Christians. Our choirs will lead us in an Evensong service, which will include a special liturgy of the Feast of Lights, followed by a party in the parish hall. You are all invited to help decorate the parish hall for the party by bringing your own nativity/manger scene from home to join in a display of many nativities. Joelle Moris is coordinating the nativity sets, so please contact her at robotsofsaturn@yahoo.com if you can bring yours. In honor of the Magi we will serve special Persian-themed food, in addition to our usual wonderful reception refreshments. If you have Persian food that you can bring (savory or sweet) we'd love you to!

Sign up for Coffee Hour & Flowers!

The January sign-up sheets are up in the Parish Hall.

Taize Service in January

Because of the New Year's Day holiday, our Taize service in January will be on Monday, January 8.

New choir members always welcome - adults and youth

If you or someone you know would like to be in our choirs, contact Chris Betts <u>music@redeemerbethesda.org</u>. New members are always welcome. Right now we are particularly looking for youth choristers (any grade school age), tenors and basses, but we'll welcome sopranos and altos too!

■ PRAYER REQUESTS

For healing:

Rick Abramson, Barbara Alterowitz, Ellen Boyle, Allison Chow, Joan Eisenstodt, Kiki Garo, Lucien Garo, Jr., Susan Ingraham, Olivier Jeanne, Peter & Beate Kendall, Rosalie Kerr, Clarice Leslie, Catherine Moore, Hal Palmer, Evelyn Paparelli, Mary Potter, Marylin Raisch, Rich Randa, Charlotte Ripa, Tom Rogers, Bill Ryon, Lynda Shepard, Anne Southard, Karen Stewart, Patricia Snowden, Ann Taylor, Carter Taylor, Beth Warner, Edward, Greg, Jerry, Jim, Katherine, Katie, Mollie, Logan, Jay, and James.

In thanksgiving for birthdays: Susan Cinkala, Jorge Guzman, Ayesha Court

■ LITURGICAL ASSISTANTS

Today, Sunday, December 17

Lector 8:00 Dean Cinkala; Chalice 8:00 Marie France Ushers: Jefferson Arrington, Rick Tyler, Mary K Young

Crucifer: Sam Nickerson Acolyte: Thad Arrington

Lectors 10:30: Jo Barclay-Beard (Old Testament); Judy Austin (Epistle)

Intercessor: Cathy Arrington

Chalice 10:30: Patricia Snowden, Peggy Tucker, Helen Zitomer

Next week, Sunday, December 24 - one service only 10:30 a.m.

Ushers: Jefferson Arrington, Meredith Griggs

Acolyte: TBD

Lectors: John Harbeson (Old Testament); Dawn Fairbanks (Epistle)

Intercessor: Randolph Court

Chalice: Ben Ivins, Judy James, Chrissy de Fontenay

Counters: Brooke Anthony, Cathy Arrington

Altar Guild: Tami McMinn, Helen Zitomer, Judy James

Coffee Hour: none

Next week, Sunday, December 24 - Family Service 5:00 p.m.

Ushers: Jefferson Arrington, Ben Ivins, TBD

Acolyte: Olivia Tyler Crucifer: Thad Arrington

Lectors: Judy James (Old Testament); John Judge (Epistle)

Intercessor: Randolph Court

Chalice: Ben Ivins, Judy James, Chrissy de Fontenay

Counters: Jane Dealy, Clark Downs

Coffee Hour: none

Next week, Sunday, December 24 - Festival Eucharist 10:00 p.m.

Ushers: Jefferson Arrington, Rick Tyler, John Smallwood

Acolyte: TBD

Crucifer: Cara Price

Lectors: Tom McNaugher (Old Testament); Lisa MacBain (Epistle)

Intercessor: Dawn Fairbanks

Chalice: Michael Hart, Jenny Nachbar, Justin Hess

Counters: Ben Ivins, Mary K Young

Altar Guild: Patricia Snowden, Helen Zitomer

Coffee Hour: none

Monday, December 25 - Holy Eucharist with music 10:00 a.m.

Ushers: Jefferson Arrington, TBD

Acolyte: Helen Zitomer

Crucifer: TBD

Lectors: Michael Mershon (Old Testament); Nathan Price (Epistle)

Intercessor: Patrick Fitzgerald

Chalice: Michael Hart

Counters: Brooke Anthony, Cathy Arrington

Coffee Hour: none

Sign-up sheets for Coffee Hour and Altar Flowers are on the bulletin board in the Parish

Hall.

We're counting on you for these ministries of hospitality. Thank you!

■ Next Week's Lectionary - www.lectionarypage.net

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

■ PARISH CALENDAR

Today, December 17, Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Pageant at 10:30 a.m. service Holy Eucharist, 8:00 a.m. Advent Adult Forum, 9:15 p.m. Childcare begins 9:15 a.m.. Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:45 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:45 a.m. Book Group meets at 3:00 p.m.

Monday, December 18, Office closed

AA Meeting, Noon

Tuesday, December 19 Education for Ministry, 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20

Morning Prayer, 9:00 a.m. Education for Ministry, 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Noon - "Blue Christmas Service" AA Meeting, Noon Youth Choir Rehearsal, 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 21 Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.

Balkan Dancers, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 22 AA Meditation Meeting, Noon AA Meeting, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 23 Yoga, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Childcare, 9:15 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall Family Christmas Service 5:00 p.m. Music Prelude, 10:00 p.m.

Festival Eucharist at Christmas, 10:30 p.m.

Looking ahead:

Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6 Taize Service, January 8

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Wearing your name tag prevents memory loss in other people. Please wear your name tag.



O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

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The Rev'd Cricket Park, Rector The Rev'd Dr. David Schlafer, Assisting Priest Christopher Betts, Director of Music