

# Calvary Episcopal Church

~ where everyone is welcome ~



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

10:30 A.M. Eucharist, Rite Two

### *Joy*

*“Clap your hands, all peoples!  
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!”*

*Psalm 47:1*

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

#### Introduction: Week Three

The first candle we lit was to help us remember that we always need to watch for Christ’s coming. The second candle was to remind us that we are to prepare ourselves spiritually by turning from our sin.

#### Readers Week Three

As we light the third candle let us remember that the birth of Jesus was a miracle. A virgin conceived and gave birth to a son. But not just any son, He was the Son of God. God still works miracles. He can take a heart of cold stone and change it to a heart of flesh. In Luke 1:26-38 we find these words:

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women.”

But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of

God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.”

Then Mary said, “Behold the maid-servant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Let us pray: Father of lights, you are the light of the world. You have come to strengthen the weary, to guide the lost, to walk with the lonely. You are the hope of all people. Teach us to realize your presence in our lives, and continue to do miracles in our world daily. **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### OPENING SONG - Blessed Be Your Name

1. **Blessed be Your name**  
*In the land that is plentiful*  
*Where Your streams of abundance flow*  
*Blessed be Your name*

2. **Blessed be Your name**  
*When I'm found in the desert place*  
*Though I walk through the wilderness*  
*Blessed be Your name*

3. **Blessed be Your name**  
*When the sun's shining down on me*  
*When the world's all as it should be*  
*Blessed be Your name*

4. **Blessed be Your name**  
*On the road marked with suffering*  
*Though there's pain in the offering*  
*Blessed be Your name*

**CHORUS:**  
*Every blessing You pour out*  
*I'll turn back to praise*  
*When the darkness closes in*  
*Lord still I will say*  
*Blessed be the name of the Lord*  
*Blessed be Your name*  
*Blessed be the name of the Lord*  
*Blessed be Your glorious name*

*You give and take away*  
*You give and take away*  
*My heart will choose to say*  
*Lord blessed be Your name*

### WELCOME AND ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

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

***And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. 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.**

**KYRIE ELEISON** (Chris Tomlin)

1. **Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Hear our cry and heal our land  
Let kindness lead us to repentance  
Bring us back again**

2. **Who is this God who pardons all our sin  
So ready to forgive  
You delight to show your mercy (Repeat)**

**CHORUS:**

**For your name is great and your heart is grace  
Kyrie Eleison  
Over all you reign you alone can save  
Kyrie Eleison  
Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy on us now**

**THE COLLECT**

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 LESSONS**

**A READING FROM THE PROPHET ZEPHANIAH**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**CANTICLE 9 – THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH: Isaiah 12:2-6**

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.  
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.  
And on that day you shall say, \*  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;  
Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.  
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**SEQUENCE HYMN 56 - O Come O Come Emmanuel (v. 4-6)**

**4. O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
free them from Satan's tyranny  
that trust thy mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.**

**6. O come, thou Dayspring from on high,  
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.**

**5. O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.**

**THE GOSPEL**

**Luke 3:7-18**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON** - The Rev. Dr. John Graham

**SERMON RESPONSE**

**THE NICENE CREED** (*standing*)

BCP 358

***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.***

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

As we keep awake for the coming of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who prepares a light for our path.

For the coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory.

***Come, O Lord, and save us.***

For the coming of Wisdom to teach and guide us.

***Come, O Lord, and save us.***

For the coming of Emmanuel, the hope of all people.

***Come, O Lord, and save us.***

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.

**Hear us, Lord.**

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place.

**Hear us, Lord.**

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai, and Héctor, our Bishops; Ralph, our Priest; Nancy, our Deacon, and for all the holy people of God.

**Hear us, Lord.**

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.

**Hear us, Lord.**

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth.

**Hear us, Lord.**

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, and for those we name now, either silently or aloud.

**Hear us, Lord.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially \_\_\_\_\_.

*(You may offer prayers either silently or aloud)*

In your mercy.

**Hear us, Lord.**

For those who rest in Christ, especially \_\_\_\_\_. In your mercy.

**Hear us, Lord.**

For our deliverance from all afflictions, strife, and need.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Joining our voices with the blessed Virgin Mary and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

**To you, O Lord our God.**

*Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all our 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.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## THE OFFERTORY

## THE DOXOLOGY

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

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP 367

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. [*Proper Preface is added*]

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

HYMN # S-125

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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us



worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 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, according to his command, O Father,

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

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

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

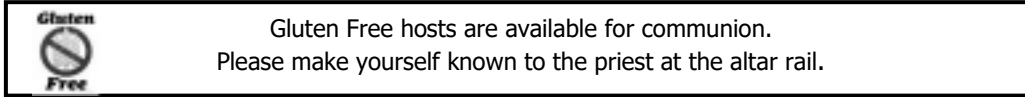
***Our Father in Heaven  
Hallowed be Your name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are Yours  
now and forever. Amen.***

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

These are 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.



*If you have a special prayer need, step into the side chapel after you receive communion, and a member of the Prayer Team will pray with you.*

### COMMUNION SONG 1 - Holy is His Name

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord<br/>And my spirit exalts in God my Savior<br/>For He has looked with mercy on my lowliness<br/>And my name will be forever exalted<br/>For the mighty God has done great things for me<br/>And His mercy will reach from age to age<br/><br/>And holy, holy, holy is His name</p> | <p>2. He has mercy in every generation<br/>He has revealed His power and His glory<br/>He has cast down the mighty in their arrogance<br/>And has lifted up the meek and the lowly<br/>He has come to help His servant Israel<br/>He remembered His promise to our fathers<br/><br/>And holy, holy, holy is His name<br/>Holy, holy, holy is His name</p> |
|---|---|

### COMMUNION SONG 2 - Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. <i>What hope we hold this starlit night<br/>A King is born in Bethlehem<br/>Our journey long, we seek the light<br/>That leads to the hallowed manger ground</i></p>                                      | <p><i>Emmanuel, Emmanuel<br/>God incarnate, here to dwell<br/>Emmanuel, Emmanuel<br/>Praise His name Emmanuel</i></p>                              |
| <p>2. <i>What fear we felt in the silent age<br/>Four-hundred years can He be found<br/>But broken by a baby's cry<br/>Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground</i></p>  | <p><i>Emmanuel, Emmanuel<br/>God incarnate, here to dwell<br/>Emmanuel, Emmanuel<br/>Praise His name Emmanuel<br/>Praise His name Emmanuel</i></p> |
| <p>3. <i>The son of God, here born to bleed<br/>A crown of thorns would pierce His brow<br/>And we beheld this offering<br/>Exalted now the King of kings<br/>Praise God for the hallowed manger ground</i></p> |  |

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.***

## BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** (these words may differ from time to time)

## CLOSING SONG - **God is Good All the Time**

- 1. If you're walkin' through the valley  
And there are shadows all around  
Do not fear He will guide you  
He will keep you safe and sound  
'Cause He has promised to never leave you  
Nor forsake you and His Word is true***
- 2. We were sinners so unworthy  
Still for us He chose to die  
Filled us with His Holy Spirit  
Now we can stand and testify  
That His love is everlasting  
And His mercies they will never end***

**CHORUS:**  
***God is good all the time  
He put a song of praise  
In this heart of mine  
God is good all the time  
Through the darkest night  
His light will shine  
God is good God is good  
All the time***

**BRIDGE:**  
***Though I may not understand  
All the plans You have for me  
My life is in Your hands  
And through the eyes of faith  
I can clearly see***

## THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. (these words may differ from time to time)  
***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.***

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
Max E. Zollner in thanksgiving for grandchildren and great-grandchildren  
Jack, Max, Phoebe, Cheyanne, Claire and Carson.

**Please Sign Up To Donate Altar Flowers**  
Enhance Our Worship + Thank God + Remember A Loved One  
The notebook to sign up for flower offerings for **December** is in the Parish Hall.  
Please stop by and sign up or contact the church office. The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.  
Flower offerings for 2025 will be done **online** at [calvaryrichmond.org](http://calvaryrichmond.org) under  
**giving/altar flowers** or use the QR code found inside of the announcement insert

**Calvary Worship Service Times**  
8:00 AM Sunday – Traditional Service  
10:30 AM Sunday – Contemporary Service  
5:00 PM Sunday – Sunday Night Alive Informal Service

**Calvary Staff**  
*The Rev. Ralph B. Morgan, Rector*  
*The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, Deacon*

<i>John Brun, Parish Administrator</i>	<i>Kathy Haley, Finance Administrator</i>
<i>Anne Scarborough, Newcomer Coordinator</i>	<i>Sterling Overshown, Organist/Choir Director</i>
<i>William Soller, Communications/Children's Minister</i>	<i>Will Mason, POGS Worship Coordinator</i>
<i>Suzette Hillis, Administrative Assistant</i>	<i>Ross Elkins, SNL Worship Leader</i>
	<i>Jose Portillo, Campus Operations</i>

**IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND NEED TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE, PLEASE CONTACT:**

<i>The Rev. Nancy Wilkes</i>	or	<i>The Rev. Ralph Morgan</i>
713-818-6323		281-797-5246
<a href="mailto:nwilkes@ces-richmond.org">nwilkes@ces-richmond.org</a>		<a href="mailto:rmorgan@ces-richmond.org">rmorgan@ces-richmond.org</a>

**CALVARY STEWARDSHIP CORNER:**

2024 Pledged: \$555,925  
2024 Given: \$511,263