

Calvary Episcopal Church

~ where everyone is welcome ~



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

8:00 A.M. Eucharist, Rite One

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 481 - Rejoice the Lord is King

1. *Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore!
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore.*

REFRAIN:

*Lift up your heart! lift up your voice!
Rejoice! again I say, rejoice!*

2. *The Lord the Savior reigns,
the God of truth and love:
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above.*

3. *His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
to Christ the Lord are given.*

4. *Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home.*

WELCOME AND ACCLAMATION

BCP 323

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

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

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

*Kyrie eleison Christe eleison Kyrie eleison
Kyrie eleison Christe eleison Kyrie eleison
Kyrie eleison Christe eleison Kyrie eleison*

Hymnal S-89

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. **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

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.

A READING FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Philippians 4:4-7

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 69 - What is the crying at Jordan

1. *What is the crying at Jordan?
Who hears, O God, the prophecy?
Dark is the season, dark our hearts
and shut to mystery.*
2. *Who then shall stir in this darkness,
prepare for joy in the winter night?
Mortal in darkness we lie down,
blind-hearted, seeing no light.*
3. *Lord, give us grace to awake us,
to see the branch that begins to bloom;
in great humility is hid
all heaven in a little room.*
4. *Now comes the day of salvation,
in joy and terror the Word is born!
God gives himself into our lives;
O let salvation dawn!*

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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 be to thee, O Christ.

SERMON - The Rev. Dr. John Graham

**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 humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY HYMN LEVAS 61 - The Right Hand of God

1. *The right hand of God
is writing in our land,
Writing with power and with love,
Our conflicts and our fears,
Our triumphs and our tears
Are recorded by the right hand of God.*
2. *The right hand of God
is pointing in our land,
Pointing the way we must go.
So clouded is the way,
so easily we stray,
But we're guided by the right hand of God.*
3. *The right hand of God
is striking in our land,
Striking out at envy, hate, and greed.
Our selfishness and lust,
our pride and deeds unjust
Are destroyed by the right hand of God.*
4. *The right hand of God
is healing in our land,
Healing broken bodies, minds, and souls,
So wondrous is its touch
with love that means so much,
When we're healed by the right hand of God.*
5. *The right hand of God
is planting in our land,
Planting seeds of freedom, hope, and love.
In these Caribbean lands,
let His people all join hands,
And be one by the right hand of God.*

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. Amen.*

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. [*Proper Preface is added*]

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

HYMN # S-114

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we

and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

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

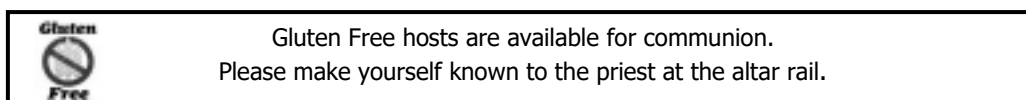
***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

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.



COMMUNION SONG - Grace Greater Than Our Sin

**1. *Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
There where the blood
of the Lamb was spilt.***

REFRAIN

***Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.***

**2. *Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,
What can avail to wash it away?
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide;
Whiter than snow you may be today.***

**3. *Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe;
All who are longing to see His face,
Will you this moment His grace receive?***

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth 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 Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** (these words may differ from time to time)

RECESSIONAL HYMN 68 - Rejoice, rejoice, believers

- 1. Rejoice! rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising,
and soon he will draw nigh;
up, watch in expectation!
at midnight comes the cry.***
- 2. See that your lamps are burning,
replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation,
the end of sin and toil.
The marriage-feast is waiting,
the gates wide open stand;
rise up, ye heirs of glory,
the Bridegroom is at hand!***
- 3. Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for,
above this darkened sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption,
and ever be with thee!***

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 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
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CALVARY STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

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