



Becoming a beloved community of God where all belong.

Third Sunday of Advent **December 15, 2024**

Prelude: *But the Lord Is Mindful of His Own* | Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Arr. by Joseph Gahm

Opening Hymn: H-76 | *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

Gospel Hymn: H-75 | *There's a voice in the wilderness crying*

Offertory Anthem: *People, Look East* | Words: Eleanor Farjeon | Music: Besancon carol melody, arr. Malcolm Archer

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Star is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Communion Hymn: LEVAS-11 | *Prepare ye the way of the Lord* (see bulletin insert)

Closing Hymn: H-65 | *Prepare the way, O Zion*

Postlude: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* | Tune: HYFRYDOL by Rowland H. Prichard | Arr. by Mark Hayes

The Collect/ Prayer 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.

Readings: https://www.lectionarypage.net/YearC_RCL/Advent/CAdv3_RCL.html

Canticle 9 [Isaiah 12:2-6] - Prayed responsively by **half verse**

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Station – You are invited to visit the prayer station during communion today to receive prayers for your prayer requests.

St Nicholas' Christmas Party – Please plan to come to St. Nicholas' Christmas Party today from 4:00 – 7:00 PM. We will have a potluck supper, a raffle auction and holiday singing. We hope everyone will be able to attend. Please sign up at church or on the SignUp Genius link.

Walk in Love: 2025 Stewardship Campaign – **Giving Estimates will be dedicated today;** however, you may still submit your 2025 Giving Estimates either electronically on our website or in the offering plate to help the Vestry plan for 2025. St. Nicholas' Annual Budget is \$225,000 with 80% of the funding from Giving Estimates and parishioner giving. Currently we have received 17 Giving Estimates totaling \$101,606.

Gracious God, we give thanks for these gifts, the promises of our members for giving in the year to come. We pray that you inspire us with the example of your freely-given love to serve our neighbors, heal the world, and strengthen our community. Bless these intentions, pledges, and promises of our wealth, works, and wisdom for the needs of our church. Amen.

Staff Holiday Appreciation – At this time of year we collect cash to give to our staff – Rev. Beth, Rev. Dawn and Carolyn - in appreciation for their hard work and dedication. You may put cash in the brown envelopes at church or **Venmo** Ruth Willbanks @Ruth-Willbanks. There's a photo of Ruth and her handsome dog, Bentley. Thank you.

St. Nicholas' Christmas Eve Services – 4:00 PM Family Service and 7:30 PM Festive Eucharist with carols beginning at 7:00 PM.

A Service of Lessons and Carols – 10:00 AM on Sunday, December 29.

Please take this Insert home. Return the Service Leaflet to the Welcome Table.