

Church of the Holy Apostles

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2023



Flake

Welcome to Holy Apostles!

This bulletin is your guide to worship and it has all that you need. Our worship is taken from the Book of Common Prayer. If you have any questions during the Liturgy, don't hesitate to ask an usher or a neighbor. If you are new or visiting, please make sure to introduce yourself to one of the priests after the service. Instructions on when to stand (as able) and sit are in italics and the prayers and songs that we all sing or say together will be in bold. We hope that you find it easy to follow along and we encourage you to sing out for our congregational hymns. Citations that begin with an "H" are found in the blue book, The Hymnal 1982. Those that begin with an "L" are found in the red book, Lift Every Voice and Sing.

The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude & Introit

Welcome & Announcements

All stand

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

—John 3:16

Lord, we thank you for your great gift of love to us. Help us, through Jesus, to love you more. Amen.

Please remain standing and sing

Processional Hymn: H-56

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

**O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.**

(Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high
Who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. (Refrain)**

**O come, Desire of nations bind
In one the hearts of humankind
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,
And be thyself our King of Peace. (Refrain)**

Opening Sentences

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.**

Hymn of Praise

The Holly and the Ivy

**It's rounded like an orange
this earth on which we stand;
and we praise the God who holds it
in the hollow of his hand.**

**A candle, burning brightly,
can cheer the darkest night,
and these candles tell how Jesus
came to bring a dark world light.**

**So Father, we would thank you
for all that you have done,
and for all that you have given us
through the coming of your Son.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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.**

Please be seated

The First Lesson

read by Jennifer Helminski

A reading from the book of 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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Magnificat

sung by a soloist

The Second Lesson

read Peter Saghir

A reading from Paul's first letter to the 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

Sequence Hymn

Kingsfold

**When out of poverty is born a dream that will not die,
And landless, weary folk find strength to stand with heads held high.
It's then we learn from those who wait to greet the promised day,
‘The Lord is coming; don't lose heart. Be blest; prepare the way!’**

**When people wander far from God, forget to share their bread,
They find their wealth an empty thing, their spirits are not fed.
For only just and tender love the hungry soul will stay.
And so God's prophets echo still “Be blest; prepare the way!”**

**When God took flesh and came to earth the world turned upside down,
And in the strength of woman's faith the Word of Life was born.
She knew that God would raise the low, it pleased her to obey.
Rejoice with Mary in the call, “Be blest; prepare the way!”**

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 Sermon

The Rev. Sarah Kooperkamp

All stand and say

The 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: 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.

Please remain standing

The Prayers of the People

led by Thomas Rigney

God of mystery and miracles, your Word brings light into the dark places of our lives;
Your presence gives us strength to endure when we are pushed beyond our own strength.

You find us in our lostness and, with love beyond our imagining, you lead us home. All this you offer in and through Jesus Christ...

...Hold us all in the fullness of your love. Then, be born in us, that we may find our home, our life, our joy in You, Lord of light and love.

Dear people of God, I invite you to offer your prayers and thanksgivings.

At this moment you are invited to offer your prayers of thanksgiving or intercession aloud.

The presider offers a concluding collect.

The Confession of Sin & Absolution:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

All **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**

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

The Peace

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

The Holy Communion

This is God's Table: all are welcome

The Offertory

*A collection for the church is taken up during the offertory anthem. You can give online via our website,
this QR code or use the offertory plate that is passed during the offertory.*



Offertory Anthem

All stand and sing

Doxology

Old Hundredth

**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 Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God 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...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus: L-255

G. W. Brown

**Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord.
Hosanna, in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

The Presider continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

The Lord's Prayer: L-264

A.H. Malotte

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Please remain standing

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

S. Shull

We who are many, are one body,

For we all share in the one bread,

we all share in the one bread.

Invitation to Communion

These are the gifts for God for all of us, the people of God. Let us take them in remembrance that Christ died for us and feed on him in our hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Please come forward for communion following the invitation of the ushers. Extend your hands to receive the consecrated bread. To receive the consecrated wine, please sip directly from the chalice, or if you prefer intinction, please leave the wafer in your hand to allow the minister to dip it.

If you wish to receive a prayer or blessing, one of the clergy will be available by the Mary statue.

Please join in singing this congregational hymn

Communion Hymn

Holy Manna

**For your generous providing which sustains us all our days,
for your Spirit here residing, we proclaim our heartfelt praise.
Through the depths of joy and sorrow, though the road be smooth or rough,
fearless, we can face tomorrow for your grace will be enough.**

**Hush our world's seductive noises tempting us to stand alone;
save us from the siren voices calling us to trust our own.
For those snared by earthly treasure, lured by false security,
Jesus, true and only measure, spring the trap to set folk free.**

**Round your table, through your giving, show us how to live and pray
till your kingdom's way of living is the bread we share each day:
bread for us and for our neighbor, bread for body, mind, and soul,
bread of heaven and human labour—broken bread that makes us whole.**

Communion Anthem

All stand and say

Post Communion 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

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn: H-437

Birmingham

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of God's word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy Name—the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!**

Holiday Singalong

We Need A Little Christmas

**Haul out the holly
Put up the tree before my spirit falls again
Fill up the stocking
I may be rushing things, but deck the halls again now**

**For we need a little Christmas, right this very minute
Candles in the window, carols at the spinet
Yes, we need a little Christmas, right this very minute
Hasn't snowed a single flurry, but Santa dear we're in a hurry**

**Climb down the chimney
Turn on the brightest string of lights I've ever seen
Slice up the fruit cake
It's time we've hung some tinsel on the evergreen bough**

**For I've grown a little leaner, grown a little colder
Grown a little sadder, grown a little older
And I need a little angel sitting on my shoulder
Need a little Christmas now**

**For we need a little music, need a little laughter
Need a little singing ringing through the rafter
And we need a little snappy, happy ever after
We need a little Christmas now**

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Join us for coffee half-hour after the service.
Christmas Caroling this Friday @ 5pm!**

Church of the Holy Apostles

An Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Long Island

*Holy Apostles exists as God's house for all people,
by fulfilling the spiritual yearning of our souls, teaching
us how to live as Christians in a broken world
by serving the needs of the greater community.*

The Rev. Kimberlee Auletta & The Rev. Sarah Kooperkamp
Co-Rectors

Kevin Devine
Director of Music

Max Thorn
Ministry Associate

Geoff Kurtz, Zach Parkman, Peter Saghir, Kallen Tsikalas
Lay Eucharist Ministers

Glenn Jussen
Usher

Phillip Hunter & Asa Campbell Kurtz
Acolytes

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