

Calvary Episcopal Church

~ where everyone is welcome ~



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

10:30 A.M. Eucharist, Rite Two

Joy

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

Psalms 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, filled with hope. The second candle was to remind us that we are to prepare ourselves spiritually by turning from our sin - for Christ is coming and he will bring us peace. This third candle that we will light today reminds us that Christ has set us free, filled us with joy, and called us to carry his message to the world. This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means rejoice. Pink is the liturgical color of joy, and so we have a pink candle to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, the son of God.

Reading Week Three

Now as we light the third candle on our Advent wreath let us reflect on the prophet Isaiah's promise that, as ransomed children of the Lord, we will have everlasting joy and gladness. Before Jesus came to the earth messengers were sent to tell of his coming. We, too, are God's messengers to the world around us. As we prepare for Christ's coming in our own homes and hearts, we need to remember to tell others of Christ's coming so that they also can be prepared and rejoice. In her song, the Blessed Mother Mary rejoices as her soul magnifies the Lord. Let us go and do likewise - Jesus will come again.

Let us Pray: Father of lights, this is a time of caring and sharing. A time for smiling and singing. A time for rejoicing in life itself. Let us open our hearts fully to others. Let our faces radiate the joy of your coming so that everyone we meet will know of you and the gift of life you bring. Help us to care for others and to share the good news. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING SONG - Light the Fire Again

1. *Don't let my love grow cold
I'm calling out - Light the fire again
Don't let my vision die
I'm calling out - Light the fire again*
2. *You know my heart, my deeds
I'm calling out - Light the fire again
I need your discipline
I'm calling out - Light the fire again*

CHORUS:
*I am here to buy gold
Refined in the fire
Naked and poor
Wretched and blind I come
Clothe me in white
So I won't be ashamed
Lord light the fire again*

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.

Together, 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 ISAIAH

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 146:4-9

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 56 - O come, o come Emmanuel (verses 1, 6-7)

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

**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.**

REFRAIN:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace.**

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

*'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'*

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON - The Rev. Alex Montes-Vela

SERMON RESPONSE - I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

**1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.**

**2. I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness shine on my path
and show me the way to the Father.**

**REFRAIN:
In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race
we shall know the joy of Jesus.**

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, Héctor, and Brian, our Bishops; Ralph, our Priest; Nancy, our Deacon, and for all the holy people of God, especially this Calvary family.

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 _____ and those we name now, either silently or aloud. In your mercy.

Hear us, Lord.

For those who rest in Christ, especially _____ and those we name now, either silently or aloud. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY - Mary Did You Know

1. *Mary did you know that your baby boy
Would one day walk on water
Mary did you know that your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new
This Child that you delivered
Will soon deliver you*
2. *Mary did you know that your baby boy
Would give sight to the blind man
Mary did you know that your baby boy
Would calm a storm with His hand
Did you know that your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod
And when you kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God
Oh Mary did you know*

3. *Oh Mary did you know that your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation
Mary did you know that your baby boy
Will one day rule the nations
Did you know that your baby boy
Is heaven's perfect Lamb
And the sleeping Child you're holding
Is the great I Am
Oh Mary oh*

*Ooh Mary did you know
Ooh ooh The blind will see
The deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb*

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. Amen.*

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, of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory (repeat)

Hosanna in the highest,

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord (repeat)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, of power and might;

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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, and the power, and the glory
Are Yours now and forever. Amen.***

Canterbury Version

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.



Gluten Free hosts are available for communion.
Please make yourself known to the priest at the altar rail.

*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 - Psalm 19 (Words of my Mouth)

*May the words of my mouth
and the meditations of my heart
Be pleasing to you. Pleasing to you.
May the words of my mouth
and the meditations of my heart
Be pleasing to you, my God.*

*You're my rock and my redeemer.
You're the reason that I sing.
I desire to be a blessing in your eyes.
Every hour, every moment,
Lord, I want to be your servant.
I desire to be a blessing in your eyes, in your eyes.*

COMMUNION SONG 2 - How Deep the Father's Love for Us

*1. How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure.
That he should give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns his face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.*

*3. I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom.*

*2. Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon his shoulders.
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.*

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 - Shout to the North

1. *Men of faith, rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness complete.*

2. *Rise up, women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing power
Of our awesome King of Love?*

3. *Rise up, church, with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high
By His grace again we'll fly.*

CHORUS:

*Shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and west
Jesus is Savior to all
Lord of Heaven and Earth*

*We've been through fire
We've been through rain
We've been refined by the power of His name
We've fallen deeper in love with You
You've burned the truth on our lips.*

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 THIS ADVENT ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN THANKSGIVING
FOR THE GIFT OF CHRIST AND THE HOPE HIS COMING BRINGS TO THE WORLD.**

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Enhance Our Worship + Thank God + Remember A Loved One

Flower offerings may be done **online** at Calvaryrichmond.org under **Giving/Altar flowers**.

The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance. Please call the church office with questions.

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

The Rev. Nancy Wilkes
713-818-6323
nwilkes@ces-richmond.org

or

The Rev. Ralph Morgan
281-797-5246
rmorgan@ces-richmond.org

CALVARY STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

Pledged Amount for 2025: \$561,310

Year-To-Date Giving: \$508,283