

# Calvary Episcopal Church

~ where everyone is welcome ~



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

December 14, 2025

8:00 A.M. Eucharist, Rite One

### *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

## PROCESSIONAL 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!

## 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.

## Hymnal S-89

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Christe eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

## 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 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 be to thee, 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 be to thee, Lord Christ.***

**SERMON - The Rev. Alex Montes-Vela**

## THE NICENE CREED (Standing as you are able.)

**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, 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** *(The people may kneel or stand.)*

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** (*Standing as you are able.*)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***And with thy spirit.***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM** - Gaudete Christus Est Natus

**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 GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Eucharistic Prayer II, BCP 340

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. (*the priest adds a Proper Preface*)

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.



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 HYMN 324 - Let all mortal flesh keep silent**

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| <p><b>1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,<br/>and with fear and trembling stand;<br/>ponder nothing earthly-minded,<br/>for with blessing in his hand<br/>Christ our God to earth descendeth,<br/>our full homage to demand.</b></p> <p><b>3. Rank on rank the host of heaven<br/>spreads its vanguard on the way,<br/>as the Light of Light descendeth<br/>from the realms of endless day,<br/>that the powers of hell may vanish<br/>as the darkness clears away.</b></p> | <p><b>2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,<br/>as of old on earth he stood,<br/>Lord of lords in human vesture,<br/>in the Body and the Blood<br/>he will give to all the faithful<br/>his own self for heavenly food.</b></p> <p><b>4. At his feet the six-winged seraph;<br/>cherubim with sleepless eye<br/>veil their faces to the Presence,<br/>as with ceaseless voice they cry,<br/>'Alleluia, alleluia!<br/>Alleluia, Lord Most High!'</b></p> |
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**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 436 - Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates (omit \* verse)**

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| <p>1. <i>Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;<br/>behold, the King of glory waits!<br/>The King of kings is drawing near;<br/>the Savior of the world is here.</i></p> <p>2. <i>O blest the land, the city blest,<br/>where Christ the ruler is confessed!<br/>O happy hearts and happy homes<br/>to whom this King of triumph comes!</i></p> | <p>3. <i>Fling wide the portals of your heart;<br/>make it a temple, set apart<br/>from earthly use for heaven's employ,<br/>adorned with prayer and love and joy.</i></p> <p>5. <i>So come, my Sovereign; enter in!<br/>Let new and nobler life begin;<br/>thy Holy Spirit guide us on,<br/>until the glorious crown be won.</i></p> |
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**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](https://Calvaryrichmond.org) under **Giving/Altar flowers**.

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

### **CALVARY WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES**

**8:00 AM Sunday – Traditional Service**

**10:30 AM Sunday – Contemporary Service**

### **CALVARY STAFF**

*The Rev. Ralph B. Morgan, Rector*

*The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, Deacon*

*Jamie Campbell, Interim Parish Administrator*

*Jamie Campbell, Newcomer Coordinator*

*William Soller, Communications/Children's Minister*

*Suzette Hillis, Administrative Assistant*

*Kathy Haley, Finance Administrator*

*Sterling Overshown, Organist/Choir Director*

*Ross Elkins, POGS Worship Leader*

*Jose Portillo, Campus Operations*

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

**The Rev. Nancy Wilkes**

**or**

**The Rev. Ralph Morgan**

**713-818-6323**

**281-797-5246**

**[nwilkes@ces-richmond.org](mailto:nwilkes@ces-richmond.org)**

**[rmorgan@ces-richmond.org](mailto:rmorgan@ces-richmond.org)**

### **CALVARY STEWARDSHIP CORNER:**

**Pledged Amount for 2025: \$561,310**

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