

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023

Hymn of Invocation # 380

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



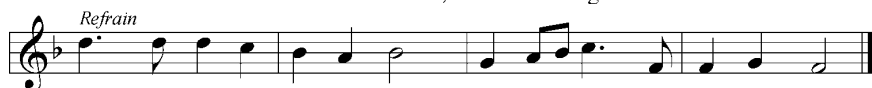
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be-hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47; Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Kyrie

To the tune New Britain ("Amazing Grace")

Look down in mercy on us, Lord.
Receive our prayers and praise,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word,
For your amazing grace.

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Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

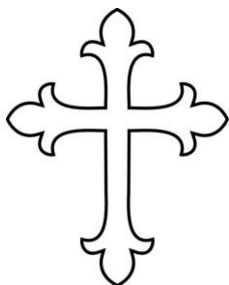
Confession and Absolution

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P** Upon this your confession, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Savior Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 40:1-3

- P** I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.
- C** He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,
- P** and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.
- C** He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
- P** Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.



Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 126

- P** When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
- C** Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- P** The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.
- C** Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!
- P** Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
- C** He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Gloria

To the tune Mendelssohn (“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”)

Angels, sing, and earth reply: "Glory be to God on high!"
God who flung the stars in space, God who formed the human race,
God the mind and God the cause, God the source of nature's laws,
God of wisdom, pow'r, and love, God of gods, all gods above.
Angels, sing, and earth reply: "Glory be to God on high!"

Angels, sing, and earth reply: "Glory be to God on high!"
God who saw your creatures fall, loved them still, and loved them all,
Gave your only Son to prove what is mercy, what is love;
And the Spirit, given free, recreates your family.
Angels, sing, and earth reply: "Glory be to God on high!"

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¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
 because the LORD has anointed me
 to bring good news to the poor;
 he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
 to proclaim liberty to the captives,
 and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
 and the day of vengeance of our God;
 to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
 to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
 the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
 the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
 that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
 the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
 they shall raise up the former devastations;
 they shall repair the ruined cities,
 the devastations of many generations. . . .
⁸For I the LORD love justice;
 I hate robbery and wrong;
 I will faithfully give them their recompense,
 and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
 and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
 all who see them shall acknowledge them,
 that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
 my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
 to sprout up before all the nations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit.

²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good.

²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn # 338

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.; Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven; Text and tune: Public domain

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Credo

To the tune St Denio (“Immortal, Invisible”)

Great God, our Creator, from whom all receive
Their being and blessing, in you we believe.
Almighty, all-knowing, all-gracious, all-true,
Provider and Father, our trust is in you.

And you, Jesus Christ, we affirm as our Lord,
True son of the Father, by angels adored;
Redeemer incarnate, you paid for our sins,
And, joined in your rising, our new life begins.

Free Spirit of wisdom and power and love,
On us, as on Christ, you descend from above;
You call us, you cleanse us, you open our eyes,
You keep us in peace, you restore paradise.

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Sermon

Offering

Please take a moment to sign and pass the “Record of Friendship” booklet or use the QR code located on the inside cover of the booklet.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Nicene Creed

- C** I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing...

Sanctus

To the tune Nicaea ("Holy, Holy, Holy")

"Holy, holy, holy!" all the saints in glory

Fill your temple with their song around your golden throne;

"Holy, holy, holy!" with them we adore Thee;

God in three persons, all in Christ as one.

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Lord's Prayer

C 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 forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei

To the tune Olivet ("My Faith Looks Up to Thee")

Meek, slaughtered lamb of God, Bearing the sinners' load To buy our peace: Now risen and enthroned, With life and glory crowned, To all the lost and found Please grant your peace.

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Distribution

Distribution Hymn # 394

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph - et, Priest, and King su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Sun and moon shall dark - ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God - head man - i - fest;
Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;

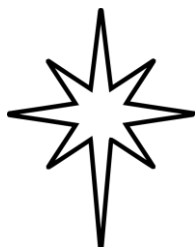


Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
Thou by all wilt be con - fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.; Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93; Text and tune: Public domain



Distribution Hymn

Ancient of Days



Though the na - tions rage, king - doms rise and fall, there is
 Though the dread of night o - ver - whelms my soul, He is
 Though I may not see what the fu - ture brings, I will



still one King reign - ing o - ver all. So, I will not
 here with me. I am not a - lone. O, His love is
 watch and wait for the Sav - iour King. Then, my joy com -



fear for this truth re - mains: that my God is the An - cient of Days.
 sure and He knows my name. For my God is the An - cient of Days.
 plete, stand - ing face to face in the pres - ence of the An - cient of Days.



None a - bove Him, none be - fore Him. All of time in His hands. For His



throne, it shall re - main and ev - er stand. All the pow - er, all the glo - ry, I will



trust in His name. For my God is the An - cient of Days.

Tune: Jesse Reeves; Michael Farren; Rich Thompson; Jonny Robinson; Tune: © 2018 CityAlight Music. Used by permission:
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Distribution Hymn # 699

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to Me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light.



Lay down, thou wea - ry one, lay down Thy head up - on My breast."
 The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, Stoop down and drink and live."
 Look un - to Me; thy morn shall rise And all thy day be bright."



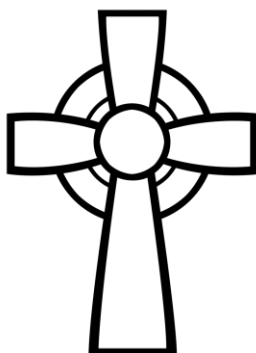
I came to Je - sus as I was, So wea - ry, worn, and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank Of that life - giv - ing stream;
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;



I found in Him a rest-ing place, And He has made me glad.
 My thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, And now I live in Him.
 And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt.; Tune: Amanda Husberg, 1940; Text: Public domain; Tune: © 1996 Amanda Husberg.
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The Dismissal



Closing Hymn # 849

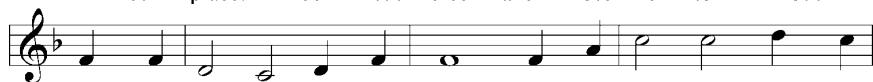
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



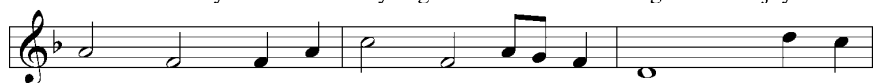
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 wa - ter, To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955; Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia; Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001220; Tune: Public domain

Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

This Week at-a-Glance

Today

- Worship Service – 9:00 AM
- Family Christmas Breakfast – 10:45 AM
- [Discovering Christianity](#)– 6:30 PM, Downstairs

Wednesday

- [Men's Bible Study](#) 6:30 – 7:30 AM
- Advent Worship Service – 6:30 PM

Sunday, December 24

- Worship Service - 9:00 AM
- Christmas Eve Worship Service – 11:30 PM

Monday, December 25

- Christmas Worship Service – 9:00 AM

Announcements

Family Christmas Breakfast – Join us today for a family Christmas Breakfast following the worship service.

Midweek Advent – Please join us for our Midweek Advent Service, this Wednesday, December 20th at 6:30 PM.

Women's Bible Study will not meet Saturday, December 23 or 30. We will resume on Saturday, January 6 at 9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. We will be studying 1 Samuel 1:1-20, Lesson 11 "Life."

Mercy Ministries

Glen-Ed Pantry is currently collecting Fixings for Christmas Dinner Baskets. Please consider donating instant potatoes, gravy mixes, yams, pineapple, canned mixed vegetables or carrots or canned fried onions. If you wish to donate toward the purchase of perishable items such as pies, hams and turkeys please visit www.glenedpantry.org/donors. Thank you.

December Ministry Spotlight: [St. James Prayer Team](#)– Did you know St. James has a prayer team? This team is devoted to continually praying for our church family, community, leaders and individual prayer requests. If you would like more information about becoming a part of our prayer team, or if you have an individual prayer request, please don't hesitate to reach out through the church office or at prayer-team@saintjamesglencarbon.org.

St. James Guiding Statement

Together we have found healing and hope in Jesus Christ and welcome others to experience these same Gospel promises.

St. James Mission Pillars

**Healing
Community
Restoration**



[St. James Attendance](#)



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