



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER



Third Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist in the Celtic Tradition
December 12, 2021 • 5:00 pm

A note that while Hamilton County is an area of HIGH COVID-19 case transmission, we thank you for wearing a mask, maintaining a safe distance, refraining from singing, and sharing the peace at a distance without touch.

PRELUDE

THE KEEL ROW
THREE ANCIENT CAROLS:
Coventry Carol, Greensleeves, Es ist ein Ros

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

This liturgy is adapted from "A Celtic Liturgy for Every Season" by Elizabeth Grover.

Please stand.

OPENING WORDS

Celebrant The God of love is with us.

People **The Spirit of love is in us.**

Celebrant Blessed be the one God, whose prophets foretold the coming of the Light,

People **And blessed be the Son, whose coming we await.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE THREE LIGHTS

Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Maker

People **God who spoke in the silence and gave the gift of sound.**

Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Christ

People **Jesus, whose human ears heard the sounds of his Father's creation.**

Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Spirit

People **The Holy One who speaks to us with a still, small voice.**

OPENING PRAYER

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, to you our hearts are open and our inmost desires known. We cannot hide our most intimate secrets from you. We ask you to be present at all times in our thoughts and our hearts and to purify them, so that we may love you with the love of the Spirit and praise your name with humility and joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A HYMN OF PRAISE

Celebrant Let us praise the Holy One in the words of Mary.

All My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

A PRAYER OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you**

Celebrant 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**

FIRST LESSON

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will

change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

"ALL WILL BE WELL"

BY THE IONA COMMUNITY

Power stalks the earth, both by purpose and accident,
Filling with pride those it does not fill with fear.
Power may be hidden, or power may be evident,
Macro or micro, far off or very near.
Look to the one who has chosen to live without
Power to seduce or corrupt or to repel:
Learn from the one who refuses to scream and shout,
Yet can convince that with him all will be well.

Power of computer to file information may
Keep for the few what the many should be told.
Power of the party that governs the nation can
Seldom be challenged, and will not hear a scold.
Look to the one who embraces the frightened folk,
Those more aware of the wrong than of the right.
Learn from the one who will speak up for silenced ones,
Hear for the deaf and provide the blind with sight.

Power of the privileged in talent or in parentage
Discounts whoever it cannot understand.
Power of the bureaucrat, too busy to engage
People who find the rules hard to understand.
Look to the one who forgoes his advantages,
Sits on the ground with whoever cannot stand.
Learn from the one who has known our predicaments,
Challenged thoughtless systems and lived to mouth from hand.

Power of the press in controlling the media,
Kindling the fuse to a scandal, wounding lore;

Power of the keeper of sacred assurances,
Holds to the promises that in love he swore.
Look to the one who speaks peace unpretentiously,
Defuses hate and is antidote for fears.
Learn from the one who accepts unconditionally,
Those whom he summons to share his joy and tears.

SECOND LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL SONG

KYRIE

THE GOSPEL

LUKE 3:7-18

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the

wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

There will be a pause for silent reflection immediately following the homily.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Celebrant Let us join in affirming our faith in God.

People **We believe in God above us,
Maker and sustainer of all life,
Of sun and moon, of water and earth,
Of male and female
We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,
The Word made flesh,
Born of a woman, servant of the poor,
Tortured and nailed to a tree
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.

He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,
And his kingdom will come on earth .
We believe in God within us,
The Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
Life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
Source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One As we eagerly await the coming of our Lord and Savior who brings light into our weary world, we turn to you, O God, with our concerns and thanksgivings, responding, “Let your light shine in our hearts.”

We pray for the church throughout the world, and for all who serve the world in Christ’s name. Comfort your Church, O God.

All **Let your light shine in our hearts.**

One We pray for people everywhere, that division and hatred, poverty and ignorance may be cast out, and that where there is conflict, leaders may be strengthened and inspired to unite for peace. Comfort your Nations, O God.

All **Let your light shine in our hearts.**

One We pray that this Advent time of hopeful expectation may be for us a time of grace, reflection, and generosity. Open our hearts wide as we prepare for your coming. Comfort your World, O God.

All **Let your light shine in our hearts.**

One We pray for people and places that long for relief from suffering, for all affected by the coronavirus; for all struggling with mental health concerns and those we name now, silently or aloud. God remind us that we are not alone. Comfort your Children, O God.

All **Let your light shine in our hearts.**

One We pray for those who have died, remembering especially those we name now, silently or aloud. Comfort those who grieve, O God.

All **Let your light shine in our hearts.**

Celebrant Comfort, comfort your people, O God. Cause a new light to shine in our hearts, and keep us in hopeful expectation that you will make yourself known to us in small and generous ways as we await the coming of Jesus Christ, your son, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Celebrant As we await the coming of Jesus,
So we often wait for others to forgive us.
Our sin separates us from God and from one another.
Let us forgive our brothers and sisters
And confess our own sin together

All **God of all people, as we await once again
The birth of your love in our hearts,
We confess that we have lost sight of that love.**

In this busy season we turn away from pain and poverty,
We avoid the sick and the lonely,
And we ignore the outcast and the oppressed.
Have mercy on us and give us the strength
To truly welcome Christ into our hearts
And live our lives according to your will.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Celebrant The Lord enrich us with grace,
And further us with heavenly blessing.
The Lord defend us in adversity and keep us from all evil.
The Lord receive our prayers
And graciously absolve us from our offenses.
In God's name we pray. **Amen**

SHARING THE PEACE

Celebrant God makes peace within us.

People **Let us claim it.**

Celebrant God makes peace between us.

People **Let us share it.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

FIDDLER'S GREEN

We encourage you to give your offering electronically today. You may text "RedeemerCincy GIVE" to 73256. There are also two collection spots in the narthex (look for the Give Here signs) where you may deposit your offering safely.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant All things are yours, O God of creation,

People **And so we return our gifts of treasure to you.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, O God of creation, through whose goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made

People **May it become for us the bread of life.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, O God of creation, through whose goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands;

People **May it become for us the cup of blessing.**

Celebrant Receive these gifts, dear God, and accept in them the sacrifice of ourselves.

People **In life and in death may we be an offering to you for ever.**

Celebrant We offer you praise and hearts lifted high, O God, who is Father of all life and of all sound. Though our days vanish like mist, and the sound of the earth fade away in the distance, still your Spirit is within all life, and every human soul is born in your likeness. And so with the whole created order, with the stars that silently glisten with life's glory, with the wind that howls and the gentle breeze that whispers, with the trumpets of heaven's messengers and the echo of each of the saints, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

ST. ANNE'S SANCTUS

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant Blessed are you, O God, whose wisdom from above has inspired men and women through the ages to fulfill on earth your purposes - to hear the cry of the poor, to act with mercy, and to live together in gentleness and peace. We bless you for the coming of Christ, who in life and in death embodied the law of love. By his rising again, he has saved our souls from despair, and by the gift of the Holy Spirit, he has given us courage and hope to face the forces of evil and death that rage around and within us.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took wine, and having given thanks for it, he gave the cup to his disciples, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

People **Remembering his eternal self-giving, we proclaim the mystery of Christ among us.
Made one with him and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them
ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.**

Celebrant O God, whose generosity is unbounded and who wills that we should lack no good thing, bless this bread and this wine with your Holy Spirit, that in receiving them into ourselves we may be made whole again, strengthened not merely to hear the truth, but to do it, and be blessed in our doing; through Christ, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, world without end. **AMEN**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now say,

**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, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant The Spirit we await is with us in the bread.

People **The voice of the Holy One speaks to us in the cup.**

THE SHARING OF A HOLY MEAL

COMMUNION MUSIC

BY DUNDOS LOCH

CLOSING PRAYER

Celebrant Let us stand and join in thanking God for this holy meal

All **O God, we have heard your call to us,
And we have responded by gathering in your name
To await your voice.**

**Help us to listen to your presence
In silence and in sound - the voices of your people,
The noises of your animals, the music of creation -
That, reconnected with you and one another
Through this holy meal**

**We may hear the voice which calls us home to you
Our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen**

Celebrant Lord of all light, as we go forth into the world, we extinguish the lights that here represent the presence of the Holy in our midst.

People **But we will carry the light in our hearts and we pray that as we go about our work in the world, we will shine with the love of God. Amen**

THE CELTIC BENEDICTION

THE BLESSING

Celebrant May the Wonderful Counselor guide you,
The Mighty God protect you
The Everlasting Father be with you,
And the Prince of Peace comfort you.
And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Be upon you now and ever more. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

"ALL WILL BE WELL"

THE KEEL ROW

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth with joy to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

IN THANKSGIVING & MEMORY

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE CELEBRATING:

Birthdays in the next week: Quina Schmidlapp, George Nielsen, Melanie Schottelkotte, John McKernan, Andrew Sesler, Jana Riess, Bradley Herndon, Emily Rowe, Vic Walton, Mark Upson, Anne Lilly Cone, Nathan Carlson, Kathryn Ovelman, Brooke Kelly, James Baur, Harris Foad, Reese Kattman, William Theobald

Anniversaries in the coming week: Jon & Elise Allred, Andy & Pattie Jamison, Josephine & Frank Keenan, Jeff Shaffer & Mary Southworth Shaffer

The flowers that beautify our worship spaces are given to the glory of God in memory of Marita France McMillan Fischer by Anne & Philip Cone.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Celebrant & Preacher

Lector

Lay Reader

Intercessor

Celtic Guild

Celtic Musicians

Bread Guild

Altar Guild

Flower Guild

The Rev. Melanie Slane

Steve Carlton-Ford

Gale Sheldon

Pam Popp

Pam Popp

John Grover, Elizabeth Grover, John Calhoun

Hollis Bass

Kelli Wisecup, Amanda Rasche

Kathleen Stengel, Christine Bennett, Christy Bornemann,

Marcia Shortt



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