



A Liturgy of the Word - Third Sunday in Advent

12 December 2021



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Sharmain James



Rev. Margaret Place



Rev. Alison Thabethe

The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.

Processional Hymn

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free,
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Dayspring,
come and cheer our spirits
by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path of misery:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*





Call to Worship

Count it all joy, brothers and sisters, when you meet trials of various kinds
For you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness

And let steadfastness have its full effect
That you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing

Rejoice then in the Lord always
Again, I say, rejoice

For the Lord lifts up his people
The Lord lifts them up to give praise to his holy name



As we begin this time of worship, we are called to focus on the joy of God – not the fabricated happiness of the world, nor the fleeting whims of excitement we all feel from time to time but, instead, the deep and abiding joy of God. Soon we shall celebrate the birth of Jesus. We worship God with joy in our hearts as we are reminded of the words the angel said on that first Christmas Day:

“Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people!”

John 15:9-11 says:

Jesus said: *“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept God’s commandments and abide in God’s love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is joy, joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always. The colour of the candle is rose — the colour of the sky when dawn breaks through the night.

Let us pray:

O Holy One, as Christmas draws near, there is a sense of excitement in the air. We can feel a joy in our lives and see it in those around us.

Still, for some of us this is a sad time because of unhappy things that have happened in our lives. Help us to have that joy that does not depend on earthly happiness, but on you. Help us to be filled with your joy so that we may share it with a joyless world.

Amen

Introductory Rite

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Praise the Lord:
Praise God, you servants of the Lord.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God’s Name, now and forever.



Collect for Purity



**Almighty God,
to 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 your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

The Kyrie



Nkosi yiba nenceba
Krestu yiba nenceba
Nkosi yiba nenceba

The Penitence



You are the light of the world. No one lights a lamp to place it under a basket, but instead places it on a stand, that all in the house may see the light. Therefore, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

As we call to mind and confess our sins, let us say sorry for the times we have not borne the light of Christ within us:

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word, and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be.
That we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

Absolution



Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you: pardon your sins and set you free from them; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect



**God of hope and joy,
you sent John the Baptist
to announce the coming of your Son:**





**inspire all who serve in your Church
to prepare for his coming again
by turning us from disobedience to your loving service;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever
Amen**

The Word of God

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6 (In place of Psalm)

Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Let your hearts rejoice in the Lord
Let your word proclaim his deeds
Let your voice sing out to the world
That our God has come to save

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia



Gospel Reading

Luke 3:7-18

Sermon

by The Revd Sharmain James

Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;**



**he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

God of the ages, as we continue to prepare ourselves for the arrival of your Son this Christmas, we pray for the universal Church, and particularly for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. As we enter a new year, we ask that you would give us a vision and a mandate that is in line with your will, and which will enable us to carry out the work of spreading your Gospel and building your Kingdom in these challenging and changing times.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the joy of Christmas – there is the inevitable hype and excitement that comes with the festive season, as well as the happiness we enjoy in celebrating with family. We pray, this Advent and Christmas, that we would be a people of hope, peace and joy. While the world seems so often to be robbed of even simple joys, because of the joy you have placed in our hearts, we ask Father, that you help us to spread the light and warmth of that joy that others would be drawn to you and in turn experience that same joy.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

At times the world around us may seem joyless, and we are constantly looking for reasons to hold onto hope and joy. We also know, sadly, that there are countless thousands who do not have many reasons to be joyful. Due perhaps to what seem like changeless circumstances, perhaps due to the injustice and inequality they face, their lives consist in suffering and hardship. As we seek to be a joyful people, help us not to lose sight, or appreciation, of the suffering of our fellow brothers and sisters.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

While our world has changed so much in the last two years and we have also lost much, we know that we are still able to find joy in the smallest of things, and for this we give you thanks, Father – a walk in the park, laughing with a friend, seeing a new sunrise. Give us eyes to appreciate what we have and thereby to be filled with gratitude, joy and contentment.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Almighty Father, we heard in today's Gospel reading how Herod threw John into prison on account of his displeasure at John's message. May we never forget the sacrifice which accompanies the work of ministry and may we never be afraid to proclaim the truth of your Gospel in its entirety, even if at personal cost to ourselves.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Almighty God, we once more seek to commit ourselves and all our loved ones into your hands, asking for your protection and guidance with regard to the COVID pandemic. We have already sustained such significant loss, and so we pray for a containment of the virus and mitigation of the fourth wave. We pray that any lockdown measures imposed would not adversely affect our economy. We also pray for all doctors, medical staff and researchers who are working tirelessly to control the pandemic. May you uphold them by your mighty arm.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer



Gracious Father, as another year draws to a close, we bring before you again all those who have lost loved ones in the past year. While we may never be able to understand the loss we have suffered, we do thank you for the gift of grief, for we know that, by it, we achieve some degree of healing. May this be our path to peace this Advent, and indeed, if we may be so bold, even to attaining some measure of joy once more.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God of the downcast and weary, you bring joy to the heart of your lowliest servant. Lift up our countenance therefore, that we may ever sing of your praise and tell of your marvellous works. These prayers we make in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Prayer for Offerings

Just as my Word shall go forth and not return empty but achieve all that I purpose for it, so shall you go out into the world, as a living sacrament of God's goodness and grace, reaping harvests of righteousness. Father, may you bless now these our tithes and offerings, assigning them a purpose in you Kingdom that will not fail but, indeed, one which will bring glory and honour to your name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed by 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 for ever. Amen**



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father, we know that joy – true joy which comes from you – does not depend on our circumstances, but rather on how we approach and see our circumstances. Help us to realise that with you we always have enough, and in realising this, fill our hearts with joy and contentment, that we would even be able to share what we have with those around us this Advent. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen

Final Blessing

You shall go out with joy
And be led forth in peace

The mountains and hills before you shall break forth into singing
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands



We give thanks to God for this time of worship, rejoicing always in the name that is above all names. And now may God guide us safely through another week, and may God's blessing, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, bless preserve and keep us, this day and always.

Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen

Final Hymn

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.



Giving

Thank you for your continued financial contribution to the church at this time so as to enable St Michael's to meet its obligations in mission and ministry.

E.F.T

St Michael's Church Bank
Standard Bank (051001)
Account Number: 000 176 397
Account Name: Bryanston St Michael

SNAP SCAN





O Come O Come Emmanuel

Author: John Mason Neale (1851)

Artist: The St Michael's Singers, The Coventry Singers

Album: The Best Christmas Carols Album In The World... Ever!

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Kyrie

Nkosi yiba nenceba (Sung by Ven Moses Thabethe)

Gospel Acclamation

(sung by Ven Moses Thabethe)

Lord's Prayer (Swahili)

Title: Baba Yetu

Composed by: Christopher Tin

Performed by: Angel City Chorale

Soloists: Jimmer Bolden

Artistic Director: Sue Fink

<https://youtu.be/8d9xURuls5M>

Lord of All Hopefulness (Slane)

Author: Jan Struther

Artist: The Scottish Festival Singers

Album: Timeless Hymns, Vol. 2: Rock of Ages

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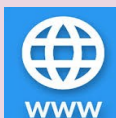
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