

## Third Sunday in Advent - Theme....

Date: 11 December 2022



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Sharmain James



Rev. Alison Thabethe



Rev. Margaret Place

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

### Processional Hymn

1 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 you, O Israel.**

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in its ways to go.

3 O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times did give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,  
unto your own and rescue them!  
From depths of hell your people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.

5 O come, O Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home.  
Make safe for us the heavenward road  
and bar the way to death's abode.

6 O come, O Bright and Morning Star,  
and bring us comfort from afar!  
Dispel the shadows of the night  
and turn our darkness into light.

7 O come, O King of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease  
and be yourself our King of Peace.

Author: John Mason Neale (1851)

### The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also, with you.**



## Call to Worship

Come once more, with eager longing, to receive the promises of God.

**Out of the desert places of our lives we gather with joy and gladness.**

May all the earth delight; rejoice with joy and singing.

**All is new by God's might.**

*Let us pray.*

God of Advent joy, look with favour upon us as we gather to worship you. We come to you with adoration and praise, as well as thanksgiving. Our anticipation grows as we come nearer the day we will celebrate the birth of your Son, whom we know as the Christ. Open our hearts that we may truly receive that gift and know the true joy of life with you. **Amen.**

## Lighting the Advent Candle

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 3rd 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!**

## Collect for Purity

*Let us pray.*

**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.**

## Kyrie

**Hosi, Hosi hi tsetselele x2**

**Kriste, Kriste hi tsetselelele x2**

**Hosi, Hosi hi tsetselele x2**

## Confession

*The prophet Isaiah says, Let the desert rejoice and let the dry lands be glad for God has come to save us. Let us confess our sins.*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father  
in penitence we confess  
that we have sinned against you  
through our own fault in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your Name.**

## 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.**

## 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**

## Word of God

Isaiah 35: 1-10  
Psalm 146: 5-12  
James 5: 7-10

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Open our hearts of Lord  
To listen to the words of your Son

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,



## Gospel Reading

Matthew 11: 2-11

## Sermon

Venerable Moses Thabethe

## The Creed

*Let us declare our faith in God.*

**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

Holy God, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Christ our Saviour, we ask that you answer our prayers and make us a holy people, fit to greet him with eager hearts.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

God, giver of inexplicable joy, we pray for your church here on earth in this Advent season. May our Church leaders be blessed with wisdom and holiness to guide us through this season of Advent despite a confusing and troubled world to a holy, peaceful, and joyful Christmas. We raise before you particularly the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and ask that with eager longing for the return of Christ, our Advent celebrations may help all who join with us to prepare a place in their hearts and homes for you and your son Jesus Christ our Lord

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray, Lord for our work and witness for you here at St Michaels. We ask your special blessing on all the activities leading up to Christmas that in all the enjoyment the amazing message of you coming to dwell with us in love will shine through to all who come. We pray for all those who travel at Christmas to be with their families. May this journey be safe and may it be a special time expressed through love and generosity to one another.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Loving God, we pray for our world; for those countries that are struggling because of climate change, for those torn apart by war, sickness, and disease. We pray for the wisdom of world leaders, to know how to deal with these situations. Inspire them to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by fostering harmony and sincere concern for their people. We also pray for people in our country who are struggling due to the increases in the cost of living. Please show us how best to help people in need in our local community.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Comforting God, we lift to you all those known to us who are sick; we pray that they may receive your healing and wholeness in this time of adversity. May they have the grace to lean on You through the comforting care of those around them

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Loving God, receive into your Kingdom all those who have died. Bring comfort to all who mourn and all who watch and wait today at the side of those near to death. We thank you for the work of hospices and other agencies who offer palliative care to the dying and comfort to their families.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Faithful God, as we continue this Advent journey, teach us to turn to you in times of joy and pleasure as well as when we are faced with fear and sorrow. Help us to put our differences behind us and to unite behind the great commission of Jesus to make disciples of all nations and all people.

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birth of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *Prayer for Offerings*

God of Advent joy, you sent us your messenger, John the Baptist, to prepare our hearts and souls for the coming of Christ. Multiply these gifts to echo his message of your greatness and glory. Use our voices to tell your stories and to lead others into the community of Christian fellowship. Let our actions of faithful giving be a beacon of our complete devotion to your guidance in our lives. We pray to your glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

### *Lord's Prayer*

*Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us:*

**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 them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

### *Final Prayer*

In this season of Advent, let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet. Share joy by seeing the good in each other. Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

## Final Hymn

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.**

**He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy and hope, like flowers,  
spring in His path to birth.  
before Him on the mountains  
shall peace, the herald, go  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.**

**Kings shall bow down before Him  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore Him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to Him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.**

**O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest;  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest.  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever,  
his changeless name of love.**

*Author: James Montgomery (1821)*



## 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

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**Acknowledgements:**

An Anglican Prayer Book 1989 Provincial Trustees of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

<https://www.faithandworship.com/>

Stephen Fearing Liturgy Advent 3A: [3rd Sunday of Advent \(Year A\) — Rev. Stephen M. Fearing, M.Div., M.A.P.T. \(stephenmfearing.com\)](#)

Prayers of intercessions adapted from West Hereford Team Ministry. <https://westherefordteam.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/3rd-Sunday-of-Advent.pdf>

Hymns Ancient and Modern New Standard.