



A Liturgy of the Word - Third Sunday of Advent

Date : 13 December 2020



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Allie Josseph



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Margaret Place



Rev. Alison Thabethe

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

Processional Hymn

Christ is the world's Light, he and no other;
born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
glory to God on high.

Christ is the world's Peace, he and no other;
no man can serve him and despise his brother
who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high.

Christ is the world's Life, he and no other;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our Brother -
he who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:
Glory to God on high.

Give God the glory, God and no other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;
give God the glory, God in man my brother:
glory to God on high.

Fred Pratt Green (1969)

Call to Worship

In this time of worship, we remember that God is with us.
God is with us in joy and in sorrow.

In Jesus Christ, God reshapes the past, the present and our future.
We wait with God for something new to emerge.

In this time of worship, we await the birth of Jesus.
We wait with hope, preparing to rejoice in Jesus' name.



Lighting of the Advent Candle



Introduction

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 into 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

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.**

The Kyrie

**Hosi, Hosi hi tsetselele
Hosi, Hosi hi tsetselele
Kriste, Kriste hi tsetselele
Kriste, Kriste hi tsetselele
Hosi, Hosi hi tsetselele
Hosi, Hosi hi tsetselele**



By Ven Moses Thabethe

The Penitence

The Psalmist tells us that "happy are those whose help is in God." Ps. 146:5
Therefore, with trusting and open hearts, let us approach God and confess our sins together.

**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.**



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
through the same Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen

The Word of God

First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

**Hymn: Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord
Luke 1: 46b-55 The Magnificat (In place of the Psalm)**

Tell Out, My Soul, The Greatness Of The Lord!
Unnumbered Blessings Give My Spirit Voice;
Tender To Me The Promise Of His Word;
In God My Saviour Shall My Heart Rejoice.

Tell Out, My Soul, The Greatness Of The Lord!
Make Known His Might, The Deeds His Arm Has Done;
His Mercy Sure, From Age To Age To Same;
His Holy Name – The Lord, The Mighty One.

Tell Out, My Soul, The Greatness Of His Might!
Powers And Dominions Lay Their Glory By.
Proud Hearts And Stubborn Wills Are Put To Flight,
The Hungry Fed, The Humble Lifted High.

Tell Out, My Soul, The Glories Of His Word!
Firm Is His Promise, And His Mercy Sure.
Tell Out, My Soul, The Greatness Of The Lord!
To Children's Children And For Evermore!



Timothy Dudley-Smith (1961)

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel Reading

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Sermon

by Rev. Matthew Wright



Children's Nativity - Part 2

By our Children's Ministry

Affirmation of Faith

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

God of love, source of all that is pure and good in all of us, we bring before you these our prayers and petitions:

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, priests, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, parish ministers, servers and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Write your Word on their hearts that they may continue to serve you faithfully and with humility.

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

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favour for all of creation. We pray that you would extend your love and compassion upon women and children who suffer scourge of gender-based violence. Enthuse our men to become champions of freedom and dignity for those whose lives are in constant danger of abuse and death.

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

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern, especially our own president and his cabinet. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions.

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



God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by political instability, war and natural disasters. Give success to all people of good will and relief organizations in their recovery efforts.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon St Michael's Parish and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Bring healing and comfort to those who are exposed to COVID-19 and make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness, that they may experience your healing and restorative power.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Merciful father, accept these our prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, the prince of peace
Amen

Prayer for Offerings

God of justice and joy,
we bring our gifts to you in gratitude for your unfailing goodness to us.
Bless these gifts and use them to create justice
and bring joy into the world
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

As Christ has taught, we are bold to sing:

**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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you joyful thanks at all times, O God,
for you have turned our grief into songs of joy,
and clothed us in salvation and victory.



You planted the earth and all life,
and called a people to be your light in the world.
When they were taken weeping into exile,
you promised through your prophets
to bring them home to Zion, singing and laughing.

Therefore, with our hearts lifted high,
we offer you thanks and praise at all times
For all the many blessings you bestow on us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Final Blessing



May the Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
May the long-expected Saviour fill you with love,
May the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,

And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.



Dismissal



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

Recessional Hymn



Thou whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray
Let There Be Light!

Saviour who came to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
Let There Be Light!



Spirit of truth and love,
lifegiving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move o'er the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
Let There Be Light!

Blessed and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world, far and wide,
Let There Be Light!

John Marriott (1813)



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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