



Welcome to

St. Michael's University Church

An inclusive and caring community
in the heart of Isla Vista

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent



*"I'm bursting with God-news;
I'm dancing the song of my Savior God.
God took one good look at me and look what happened—
I'm the most fortunate woman on earth!"*

Welcome back to Rev. John Draper, Deacon, at Trinity Church, S.B.

"Stir up" Sunday

PRELUDE

RINGING OF BELL

LIGHTING OF 3rd ADVENT CANDLE (PINK)

Please stand if you are able.

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

(The celebrant says the collect, to which the people respond **Amen.**)



Whoever you are,
whatever your story,
wherever you are on your journey,
you are welcome here.

SONG: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*O come, o come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear*

CHORUS:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

*O, come, our Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh,
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight*

CHORUS

*O, come, our Wisdom from on high,
Who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go*

CHORUS

Please sit for the Reading and Psalm.

READING: ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the Lord love justice
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being 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 with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God**

CANTICLE (let us read together)

THE SONG OF MARY MAGNIFICAT

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 forever.
Glory 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.*

Please stand if you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL HYMN: "Wait for the Lord"

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart! (X2)

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:6-8,19-28

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL HYMN *"Wait for the Lord"*

SERMON

DIALOGUE & MUSTARD SEED

SONG: *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*

Please stand if you are able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With wonder and compassion, we turn our hearts to God in prayer.

For all displaced people, victims of poverty, wars, and violence, for an end to all forms of oppression, suffering and discrimination, we pray.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.



For the expansive beauty of your creation and our renewed care for this planet, for the defenders of sacred lands and territories, we pray.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For leaders and nurturers, decision-makers, and those with influence, that they may lead, and guide with integrity, justice, and compassion.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For healthy bodies, minds, and spirits, for calm when anxious, and quiet when fearful.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For all of us on our different paths, from different faiths, yet united by a common Source of Love.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For the hopes and intentions of this community.

For our healing presence here and beyond.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For this community, as we strive to walk in love together this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For what and for whom else would we like to pray today?(Pause)

For all of these prayers and the silent prayers in our hearts, we pray

God of Love, hear the prayers of your people

Amen



PRAYER COLLECT

INVITATION *(the Deacon or Celebrant says)*

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. All that we are, have been, and will be is known to God. Still, we engage in confession, acknowledging to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God's love, let us make our confession now, first in silent prayer.

Silence

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (let us pray together):

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives—that which is beautiful and that which is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

We love with condition.

We destroy your creation.

We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone and keep the log in our own eye.

We do not always turn to you as the source of our healing.

We believe you have the power to turn us around to a more abundant way of life, so we ask that you do that. We ask that you give us the energy, empathy, patience, and imagination to be your people in all we say and do.

Amen

THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY: *Offerings are collected and all who are able stand, sing:*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to God.

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

Celebrant : It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Loving God. By water and the Holy Spirit, you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with every nameless and unremembered child of God, and with all the company of heaven, singing:

Celebrant and People sing "Santo, Santo, Santo"

Santo, santo, santo

Mi corazón te adora

Mi corazón te sabe decir:

"Santo eres, Señor"

Holy and gracious God: You made us in your infinite love, and when we turned away from that love, you sent Jesus Christ to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, and to draw us near to you.

On the night he was given over to suffering and death, Jesus took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues:

Recalling now Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, we gather at this table with bread and wine in celebration of life and love, work and rest, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and Her presence in our lives. Send your Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of Christ. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup

may be filled with your life and goodness. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ:

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. AMEN.

And now, as Christ has taught us, we pray:

**Our God, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name
Thy kindom 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 kindom, and the power, and the glory
For ever and ever.
Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

<i>Celebrant</i>	Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People	Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!
<i>Celebrant</i>	The Gifts of God for the People of God. Everyone is welcome at God's table.

Holy Eucharist

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. **Amen.**

"Everyone is welcome at God's table. Please join us in a circle on the other side of the altar. Our bread is gluten free. For bread only and not the wine, please raise your left hand. For a blessing rather than communion, place your arms across your chest. "

SILENCE

[God's first language is Silence. Everything else is a translation. – Thomas Keating]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand if you are able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

**Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

SONG: *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah*

*Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down*

*I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down*

*When I'm feeling tired and weary, help me lay my burden down
When I'm feeling tired and weary, help me lay my burden down*

SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve all God's people. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

**Please join us for coffee and fellowship
after the service.**

Joy and Sorrow

Your joy is your sorrow unmasked.

And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises was often times filled with your tears.

And how else can it be?

The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain.

Is not the cup that holds your wine the very cup that was burned in the potter's oven?

And is not the lute that soothes your spirit, the very wood that was hollowed with knives?

When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy.

When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.

Some of you say, "Joy is greater than sorrow," and others say, "Nay, sorrow is the greater."

But I say unto you, they are inseparable.

Together they come, and when one sits, alone with you at your board, remember that the other is asleep upon your bed.

Verily you are suspended like scales between your sorrow and your joy.

Only when you are empty are you at standstill and balanced.

When the treasure-keeper lifts you to weigh his gold and his silver, needs must your joy or your sorrow rise or fall.

– Khalil Gibran



ST. MICHAEL'S
UNIVERSITY CHURCH

*“Joy is prayer;
joy is strength;
joy is love;
joy is a net of love
by which you can catch souls.”*

Mother Theresa

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