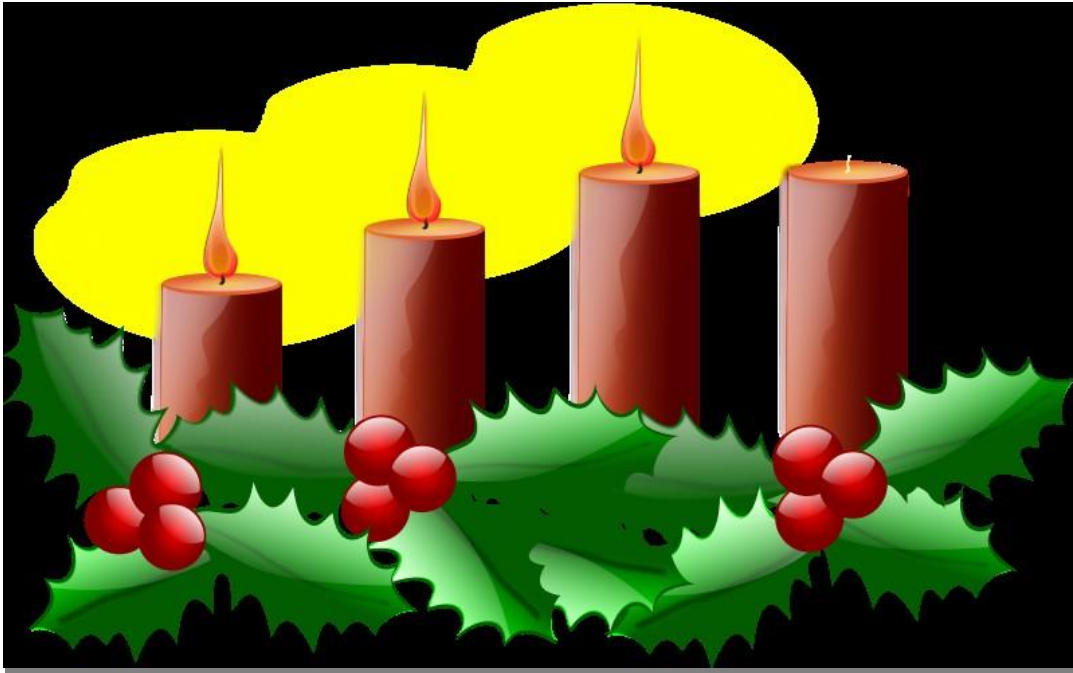


# The Third Sunday of Advent



**Lessons & Carols**  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
Glenside, Pennsylvania  
December 14, 2025  
10:00 A.M.

# Gathering In Joy

Prelude: Gabriel's Message

Anne Krentz Organ (1960-)

The Matin Responsory: Jesus Is Coming

South African traditional

Opening Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982*, #56 O come, O come, Emmanuel (vv. 1, 4 and 6)

The Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

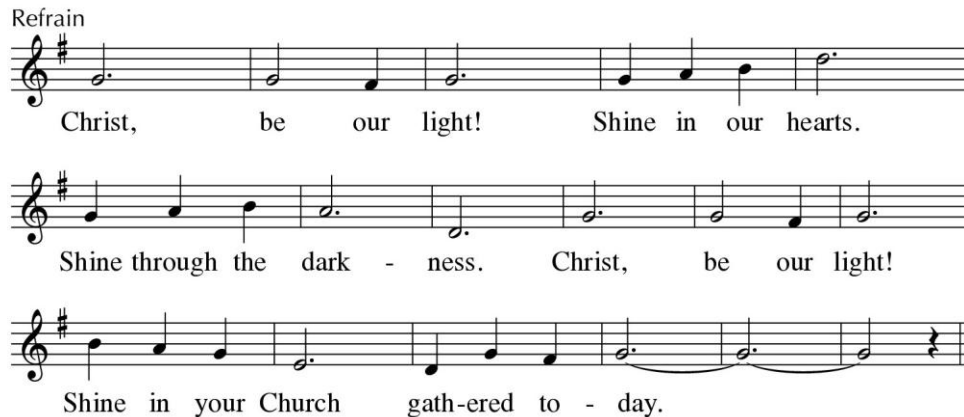
People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Christ be Our Light (*The choir will sing the verse, and the congregation will follow with the refrain.*)

REFRAIN:

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your Church gath-ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b.1957  
Tune: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, 9 8 9 6 with refrain; Bernadette Farrell, b.1957  
© 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP.

## Advent Prayer and Candle Lighting

This morning we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **second candle** is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **third candle** awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

REFRAIN

*The Presider says to the people*

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

### **Collect of the Day**

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.**

**Handbell Anthem:** Savior of the Nation, Come

arr: Cathy Moklebust  
St. Peter's Handbell Choir

## Listening for God's Word

### **The First Lesson - Isaiah 40:1-8**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low, the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** Toda la Tierra

Alberto Taulé (1932-2007)  
St. Peter's Choir

### **The Second Lesson - Jeremiah 23:5-6**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** *The Hymnal 1982, #76 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (vv. 1, 3 and 5)*

### **The Third Lesson - *Zechariah 9:9-10***

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Anthem: A Great and Mighty Wonder**

Hugo Distler (1908-1942)  
St. Peter's Choir

### **The Fourth Lesson - *Haggai 2:6-9***

For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts, and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982, #61 Sleepers Wake! (vv. 1 and 2)***

### **The Fifth Lesson - *Isaiah 35:1-6***

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Anthem: Ososŏ (Come now, O Prince of Peace)**

Kŏn-yong Yi (1947- )  
St. Peter's Choir

### **The Sixth Lesson - *Luke 1:26-35***

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But

she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born with be holy; he will be called Son of God.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Silence** (*In lieu of a sermon a brief period of silence will be kept for meditation.*)

**Hymn: The Hymnal 1982, #81 Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming (vv. 2 and 3)**

**The Prayers of the People**

*Adapted from “Glimpses of Glory” by David Adam*

The response to *Lord, you are our deliverer* is **You are our refuge and our strength.**

*The Presider concludes with this prayer.*

God of hope, enliven our hearts with hope during the dark times when we fail to see your presence. Help us listen to your still, small voice guiding and comforting us in the night. Open our eyes to your light in the love of Jesus and in our love for one another. May steadfast hope anchor us always in the safe harbor of your love, in Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

**The Confession of Sin and Absolution**

Presider: Let us confess our sins to God.

**People: God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love  
And serve only your will. Amen.**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

Presider: Let God's presence and peace in Christ Jesus keep a watch over your heart and mind and free you from being anxious. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: and also with you.**

## Celebrating Holy Communion

**Offertory Anthem: Now the heavens start to whisper** (Suo gan)  
(1953- )

Mary Louise Bringle  
St. Peter's Choir

**Presentation Hymn: *The Hymnal 1982*, #324 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

**The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer 2**

*from Enriching Our Worship 1*

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

**Sanctus: *The Hymnal 1982*, S-130 Holy, holy, holy Lord**

Franz Peter Schubert

*The Presider continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured

out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with Peter and Philip and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to you be honor, glory, and praise,  
for ever and ever. **AMEN**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**BCP 364**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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 those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

**Fraction Anthem: *The Hymnal* 1982, S-164 Jesus, Lamb of God**

Franz Peter Schubert

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### **The Communion of the People**

**Communion Music: My Lord, What a Morning**

Harry Thacker Burleigh (1866-1949)  
Tim Flaherty, bass solo

## The Post-Communion Prayer

*Presider and people together*

**Loving God, we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Sending Out

### The Blessing

Rejoice in the presence and power of God. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Know that the Lord is at hand. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### Eucharistic Visitor Commissioning *(occasionally)*

In the name of the congregation of St. Peter's, we send you, forth, bearing the gift of Holy Communion to....

**All: We who are many are one body, because we all share in one bread and one cup.**

### Vestry Reflection:

**Birthdays:** Missy Monserrat 12/14, Lou Darwin-Liedtka 12/17, Wes Michener-Wall 12/19, Jarrod Gibson 12/20

### Anniversaries:

*None this week.*

### Birthday & Anniversary Prayer

**BCP 830**

**O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace; and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Announcements:

- **Vestry Search:** The congregation will elect new Vestry members at the parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2026. If you are interested in joining Vestry, please contact Rev. Barb or a member of the search committee. *See the newsletter for details.*



- On Tuesday, Dec. 16th, all are welcome to join us for the Blue Christmas Taize service, a gentle prayer service of care and reflection for those experiencing mourning, loss, or emotional pain during this holiday season.
- Please submit your donations for Christmas poinsettias in memory of loved ones by Tuesday, December 16th. Altar flower forms are located outside of the chapel. *For more information, see Other Advent Activities further down in the leaflet.*
- Souper Sunday will be next week following morning worship on Dec. 21st. Soup is available for a freewill donation.

**Closing Hymn:** *WOW*, #626 People, look east

### **The Dismissal**

**Presider:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

**People:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Postlude:** People, Look East

Roberta Rowland-Raybold (1938- )

### **Worship Ministers**

**Presider:** *The Rev. Barbara Ballenger*

**Deacon:** *The Rev. Bob Smith*

**Acolyte:** *Nathan Clemens, Eamon Ivory, Alex Stevers-Radtke*

**First Reading:** *Bill Bacon*

**Second Reading:** *Debbie DeKalb*

**Third Reading:** *Rick DeKalb*

**Fourth Reading:** *Bob Hartung*

**Fifth Reading:** *Rev. Barb*

**Gospel:** *Deacon Bob*

**Intercessor:** *Carol Lorentz-Burnett*

**Eucharistic Ministers:** *Kristina Marchuk, Amy Michener-Wall*

**Ushers:** *Michael Colino, David Kipphut, Maureen Schaeffer, Jack Wilbur*

**Counter:** *Mike Reeve*

**Vestry Steward:** *Amy Huang*

**Bell Ringer:** *Bill Bacon*

**Altar Guild:** *Donna Kulp*

**Welcomer:** *Maurene Schaeffer*

**Music Director:** *Sam Faust*

**Tech Team:** *Mike Levin, P.J. Linke, James Moore*

## **A Meaningful 2024 Advent and Christmas at St. Peter's**

### **Blue Christmas - Tuesday, December 16th at 7 p.m.**

A gentle prayer service of care and reflection for those experiencing mourning, loss, or emotional pain during this holiday season with quiet Taizé chants.

### **Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24**

#### **Christmas Eve: Pageant and Eucharist 5 to 6:30 p.m.**

**Choral Eucharist:** begins with music at 8:30 p.m. followed by the service at 9 p.m.

### **Christmas Day: Wednesday, Dec. 25**

A quiet 10 a.m. service with pre-recorded music and Eucharist.

### **Other Advent Activities:**

#### **Christmas Poinsettias**

Poinsettias are given to the glory of God and offered in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones each year. After Christmas, the plants are distributed to homebound parishioners. If you would like to make a contribution for poinsettias, please fill out an altar flower form located outside of the chapel and place it in Charlese Freeman's mailbox by Tuesday, December 16th. The suggested donation is \$30.

#### **Christmas Card Box**

The Christmas Card Exchange box and tray will be across from the St. Philip's Chapel right outside the sanctuary this year. In this annual tradition, members drop off cards for one another to be picked up at church. By doing this, we are able to save on postage! All donations collected in the box will go toward the Guatemala Education Scholarship Fund. Cards will be available to pick up each week. Even if you choose not to participate in this exchange, please check the tray each week because you may receive cards.

**Use the QR code below to learn more about all our Advent and Christmas Programing.**



## **Vestry**

**Beth Carlin:** Elizabeth.mcdonald90@gmail.com

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**Mark Evans:** MarkCarverEvans@gmail.com

**Julia Guerrero:** juliaAguerrero@gmail.com

**Amy Huang:** amyh120@yahoo.com

**Audrey Kipphut:** ajkipphut@verizon.net (People's Warden)

**Dave Mosteller:** davemos2010@gmail.com (Rector's Warden)

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## **Staff**

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**Tim Valera** (Caretaker) timvalera@gmail.com

**Sam Faust** (Music Director) sfzpianolessons@outlook.com

**Kathy Flaherty** (Bell Choir Director) stpeter654music@gmail.com

**Kristina Marchuk** (Parish Nurse) Kmarchuk923@gmail.com

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ST.



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