

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
The Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021 **10:00 AM – Rite II**

*We, at St. Philip's Church,
strive to love God and love others in all we do.*

If you would like social distance seating, please tell the usher.

Celebrant: Father Eric Mills
Preacher: Mother Lisa Erdeljon

Call to Worship - "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place"
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel His mighty power
and His grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Opening Hymn – "Prepare the Way, O Zion" (#65)

Opening Acclamation

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

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Opening Acclamation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: Our King and Savior now draws near.

People: Come, Let us adore Him.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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.

People: Amen.

Kyrie (S96)

Lord have Mercy (3x), Christ have Mercy (3x), Lord have Mercy(3x)

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

People: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah (3:14-20)

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *

and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians (4:4-7)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn – “Surely it is God Who Saves Me” (#679 vs 1)

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (3:7-18)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn - "Surely it is God Who Saves Me" (#679 vs 2)

Sermon

Mother Lisa Erdeljon

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People Form I

Deacon: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

Deacon: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: In the communion of saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

People: To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

Celebrant: Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

People: Amen

The Confession

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Absolution

Officiant: 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.

People: Amen.

The Peace:

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

*The Welcoming
Ministry Minute*

Offertory

(Congregation stands and sings the following with the presentation of gifts.) (#380 v.3)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly hosts: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People (S130) (Sung)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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 Father, now and for ever.

People: AMEN.

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.**

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion

All baptized Christians are invited to receive Communion.

Please follow the ushers' instructions to receive. If you are seated in the balcony or acolyte area (social distance areas) please remain in place and Communion will be delivered to you.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

***Celebrant and People:* Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord; To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Blessing

Deacon: Dismissal

People: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn – “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers” (#68)



*The Flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God
In Honor of Their Wedding Anniversary*

By Jim and Jane Hawley

AND

In Loving Memory of Alvin J. Banker Sr.

By Deborah and Harold Gross

Lay Readers: Bill Wheeler

Frank Darzano

Aedan Barnes

Ushers: Dennis Courtnage

Cathie Courtnage

Craig Elliott

Pat Elliott

Vestry Person of the Day: Bob Wright

Greeter: Jane Mitchell

St. Philip's Contacts

The Rt. Rev. Rob Skirving – Bishop of East Carolina
Father Eric Mills – Rector – freric@stphilipschurch.org
Mother Lisa Erdeljon – Assistant to the Rector – mthrlisa@stphilipschurch.org
Deacon Pam Hayes – pthayes825@gmail.com
Debbie Skillman (Music Director) – dskillman@ec.rr.com
Lorraine Beamer (Parish Administrator) – info@stphilipschurch.org
Janet Fox – (External Communicator) – janetfox@mindspring.com
Karla Platt (Sexton)

Vestry

Senior Warden – Dana Richardson — jdr-lar@atmc.net – (2021-2023)

Junior Warden – Dave Ham – dham109@carolina.rr.com (2019-2022)

2019 – 2021 – Vestry

Deborah Jordan – jordans4@ec.rr.com

Debbie Evans - dshallin@hotmail.com

Liz Halbert – lizbert5@gmail.com

Tom Griffin – tgriffin@ec.rr.com

2020 – 2022 – Vestry

Rich Alt – richalt@verizon.net

Holly Meiners – hollykm@atmc.net

Steve Russell – sruss7676@outlook.com

2021-2023 – Vestry

Bill Bittenbender – billbitt42@gmail.com

Bob Wright – rwright7@ec.rr.com

Treasurer - Bob Fuchs – bobfuchs@atmc.net

Clerk -Margaret Bearden – margaretbearden@sbcglobal.net

Ministry Board Chairs

Facilities & Finance Board: Don Halbert - dnhalbert@gmail.com

Faith Formation Board: Nan Bush - nanbush5@gmail.com

Outreach Board: Bob Fuchs – bobfuchs@atmc.net

Parish Life Board: Steve Moore – stevenam70@gmail.com

Pastoral Care Board: Deacon Pam Hayes - pthayes825@gmail.com

Worship Board: Ricky Evans – ricky@rickyevansgallery.com

December Service Schedule

December 5 – 1 service at 9:00 am – Annual Meeting immediately following the 9:00 am service.

December 12 – 8:00am and 10:00 am
- Special Advent service at 5:00 PM

December 19 – 8:00 am and 10:00 am

December 21 – 7:00 PM - Longest Night Service (Blue Christmas)

December 24 – Christmas Eve – 4:00 PM (Blessing of the Creche)
and 9:00 PM (Candle Light)

December 25 – Christmas Day – 1 Service – 9:00 AM

December 26 – 1 service 9:00 AM– Lessons and Carols

