

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

810 FAIRFAX STREET  
STEPHENS CITY, VA

[540] 869-4019  
9:30AM

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG  
DECEMBER 13, 2020 ADVENT 3

## PRELUDE

*In the Bleak Midwinter* Holst/Rossetti Bob Lowden, guitar

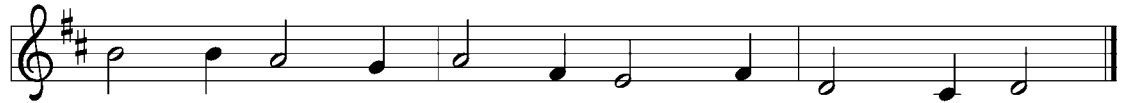
## GATHERING SONG *v. 1, 2, 3* *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

## GREETING

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Dan Painter

Reader: During Advent, we have lit the candle of hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, and we lit the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world.

Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy. In Advent, we are in a time of waiting. Like the Israelites who wandered through the Wilderness, waiting to come into the Promised Land, we wait for the coming of the Joy of

Ages. We wait for the day where we can join our voices with the angels to sing “Joy to the World, the Lord is come!” We wait for the day when everlasting joy will be on each of us.

We light this candle in Joy.

**Congregation: On this day, we remember the Spirit who breathes joy into our lives.**



**FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

Dan Painter

A reading from Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup>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;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>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.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>8</sup>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.  
<sup>9</sup>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.  
<sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>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.

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

## **PSALMODY Psalm 126**

Christine Cornwell

### **GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

The holy gospel according to John.

#### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

Pastor JMe Lowden

### **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. We prayer especially for Terry, Grant, Pauline, Charlotte, Louise, Rodney, Yvonne, Carroll, Edwin, Juanita and others we name in our hearts Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, in holy baptism you have gathered us together across all human divisions and reconciled us to yourself in one body through the cross. Strengthen us now by your presence, that our thoughts and actions in this morning's annual meeting may be rooted and grounded in your love for us. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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, forever and ever. Amen.**

**VIRTUAL OFFERING** *If you have not already prepared your offering to mail to the church, please take a moment now to do so. Please keep in mind the last day to make a donation to the church for 2020 is Sunday, December 27th. If you mail your donations, please mail in time for them to be received by Wednesday, December 23.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG *vs. 4, 5 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*



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2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
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4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
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way for God with - in, and let us all our  
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Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite  
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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Verset*

Léon Boellmann (1862-1897)

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Prelude ©2017 Bradford Werner, Postlude Public Domain



### Today

Lector Dan Painter  
Advent Reader Dan Painter

### Next Week

Jim Hall  
Sue Scheulen

# TRENDING @ TRINITY

Following worship this morning, at 10:30AM Trinity's Annual Congregational meeting will begin. The meeting has a different log in/address for Zoom, the direct link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87577847090?pwd=ZjNKVG1nQVF2WUdwVkVacUZTcVJYdz09>

(Those who log in to Zoom from their desktop use: Meeting ID: 875 7784 7090 Passcode: 117389).

**There will be no virtual coffee time this week because of the meeting.** So, when the service is complete, you will log out and, time permitting take a brief break for coffee, or whatever, then log back in with the new information at 10:30

**Those without internet access are strongly urged to phone in and be present as well.** Dial the same number you would for worship but use these log ins: Meeting ID: 875 7784 7090 Passcode: 117389

**Attendance for this will be recorded in order to establish a quorum. This process make take a moment or two, so please wait patiently to be let into the meeting.**

The congregational Council met on December 1st. Mark Greene presented the suggestion that Trinity apply for the Federal Employee Retention Credit. This is money that does not have to be repaid, and may not be used if the requestor applied/used the Payroll Protection funds. In the Spring, Trinity did not apply for any Federal assistance as the council felt the church was doing well enough and that the monies could be better used by others. At the December meeting, Trinity's bookkeeper, Bill Edmonson, reported that **offerings are down \$11,649.09 year to date** compared to 2019. The council voted to apply for the Employee Retention Credit. It will take some time to apply and then receive the check. These monies will only go toward staff salaries, wages and healthcare expenses.

**Special \$300 Deduction for Donations in 2020.** Ordinarily, you can only deduct charitable contributions on your tax return if you itemize your deductions, but under the CARES Act, **individuals can deduct \$300** in cash donations to a qualifying organization. This special deduction is an "above-the-line" deduction, which means that it reduces your taxable income, even before you apply the standard or itemized deduction. Cash donations of up to \$300 made before December 31, 2020, are now deductible when people file their taxes in 2021.

So a reminder, to those who are able, to give any additional year end gift to the church: it is most needed. Because of federal reporting requirements, church office and bank closures, all offerings to be credited to 2020 need to be into the church office by Wednesday, December 23.

**2021 offering envelopes have been mailed.** If you do not receive them by December 20th, please notify the church office. If you did not receive a set in 2020 and would like a 2021 set, please call the church office.

**Updated list for Christmas baskets.** Trinity members are asked to donate boxed cake or dessert mixes and, additionally, packs (not cups) of ramen noodles and cans of kid friendly soup. These donations may be placed in the bin outside the Narthex doors anytime.

**Plan your holiday:**

**4:00PM Christmas Eve Worship with Trinity:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86048031374?pwd=WUUXN1hTNIRBeGJGeHUzRWp3TFRiQT09>

Dial +1 646 876 9923 US (New York) *or* +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 860 4803 1374

Passcode: 444384



**The Northern Valley Conference** will offer a virtual **Blue Christmas** service which was filmed here at Trinity. This service is for everyone, but those who feel this time of year difficult because of grief, depression, anxiety or for any reason may find this service particularly helpful. The link will be available next week and we will send it out when we have it.

**Worship on December 27<sup>th</sup>** will be a special virtual presentation of Lessons and Carols from the Winchester Area Guild of Organists. Those who have no access to the internet may come at 9:30AM to the Parish Hall and enjoy the service on the monitors with Pastor JMe. Those with internet access visit <http://winchesterago.com>

**The church office will be closed** December 25<sup>th</sup>-January 3. Pastor JMe will be available for pastoral emergencies and worship.

**Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86180657165?pwd=RHBQNVJSR2daamVDWVDV1bm1vNXRqQT09>

Meeting ID number 861 8065 7165 **Password** 964979. You may, also, join by telephone (mobile or landline). To do this, dial the long-distance number 1-646-876-9923 and, at the prompt, enter the Meeting ID number 861 8065 7165 and password 964979

**Facebook page for Facebook Live** (you must have internet, but you do not need to have a Facebook account) <https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheran.church.96/>

**Call to Worship, Every Sunday 11AM** Phone # 1-712-832-8330 (Not toll-free) Participant PIN 3504615

Videos of the service are uploaded each week to Trinity's YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIYPLbYZ1RE\\_IZGJ9GDakIw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIYPLbYZ1RE_IZGJ9GDakIw)

Virtual Sunday School is also on Youtube [2020-12-13-TVSS#6-Mary Visits Martha - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2020-12-13-TVSS#6-MaryVisitsMartha)

