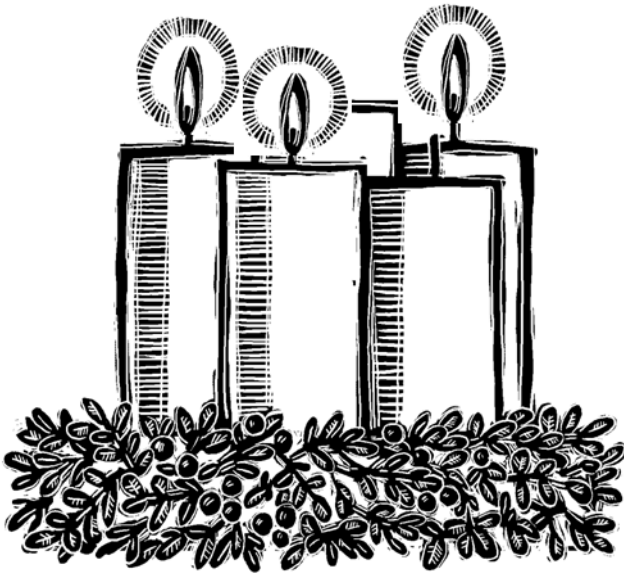


**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
YEAR B**

DEC. 17, 2023, 11AM



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

I Thessalonians 5:16-22

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

**Third Sunday in Advent, Year B
Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks
The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982; S Numbers are the service music found in the front of The Hymnal 1982; WLP-Wonder, Love and Praise) LEVAS-Lift Every Voice and Sing II)

In the name of Christ, we welcome you to this Church. May those who sorrow find comfort; the weary, rest; the unhappy, joy; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; and to all the sense of God's Presence in this holy place. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Port Royal, the Nandtaughtacund, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe.

The Ringing of the Bell

Lighting the Advent Candle

Candle Glowing (Verse 1,2,3)

Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. The first candle is HOPE; the second candle is PEACE; and the third candle is JOY.

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Isaiah 55:12

Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light in the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

Opening Hymn

People, look East

WLP 724

The Word of God

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God forever and ever.

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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from The Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 61, verses 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15 (Read in Unison)

The Song of Mary *Magnificat* Luke 1:46-55

**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 for ever.**

**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 First Letter to the Thessalonians, Chapter 5,
verses 16-24.**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Tell out, my soul

H 438

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

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Catherine Hicks

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People

Brothers and sisters, as we joyfully await the glorious coming of our Lord and Savior, let us pray without ceasing for the needs of the church, our community, and the world.

We pray for your church around the world. God of peace, sanctify us, so that we may be your people of peace on this earth. **Clothe us with the garments of salvation, and cover us with your robe of righteousness.**

We pray for all the nations. May the leaders of every country test everything, hold fast to what is good and abstain from every form of evil. We pray for an end to all violence, for the mending of hearts in the Holy Land so that hatred and war may cease, and for an end to the war in Ukraine. **May your justice, righteousness, and praise spring up before all the nations, so that the devastations of many generations may be repaired.**

We pray for the earth. **May we honor and care for it as your own beloved creation, so that the earth may bring forth its shoots, and the mighty trees display your glory.**

We pray for all who suffer, that we may feed the hungry, lift up the lowly, and be your merciful presence in this world. We pray in particular for those on our prayer list, and especially for Anne Pyle, Carolyn Duke's mother, for Jimmy Davis, brother of Johnny Davis, for Boyd and Barbara Wisdom, for Ruthie Smith, Laura Carey's sister-in-law, for Ralph and Diane Powell, for Enid and Albert Barnett, Andrea's aunt and uncle, for Dot Wright, for Pinkie Mayfield, for the Felicianos and the Glasgows, for Stanley and Cindy Fields, and for Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg. Sustain them, open their hearts to your healing presence with them, and comfort and give courage to those who care for them, **for you have come to our help and remembered your promise of mercy.**

Provide for those who mourn, give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. **May we bind up the broken hearted.**

We remember before you all who have died, especially Brooklen Burruss, that they may rest with you eternally in your kingdom where there is no end.

May we rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and witness to the light of Christ so that all might believe through him. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

BCP 830 #51/431

Offertory

Music offered by St Peter's Youth

The Holy Communion

Eucharist Prayer 2, Enriching our Worship

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

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

Celebrant and People

(Service music S 130)

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

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant

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 and proclaimed your dream of peace.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and spoke out the good news of hope.

He gave himself for our weary world,
Accepting death so that we might live,
And held our darkness deep within
until through the cross and grave and empty tomb
he set us free for love.

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."

And so we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

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 our lives in thanks and praise.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, a people of grace and truth, carrying your good news of joy into every season.

And bring us at the last with Mary and Joseph, 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**

The Breaking of the Bread **BCP 364**

The Communion of the People of God

Communion Hymn **I come with joy to meet my Lord** **H 304**

Post-Communion Prayer **BCP 365**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn **Love came down at Christmas** **H 84**

Dismissal

Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Resources:

Prayers of the People:

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, and Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year B, Vol 1, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.

Announcements

Welcome to St Peter's. May you find God's love present with you in this place and return here often to worship. The communion bread is gluten free. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

The offering plates are in the back next to the doors. Your gifts help support God's work through this church. Mail - PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. online - <https://news.churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

Thank you, everyone, for the wonderful job of presenting the story of the birth of Jesus for the Port Royal community last night!

Thank you, youth, for sharing your music with us today. Arthur Duke, piano; Chester Duke, French horn; Hamilton Duke, trumpet; Marie Duke, voice; Evan Davis, ukulele.

Dec 17, Worship, On YouTube at 11am or afterward.

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepiscopalchurchpo677/streams>

Today is the last Sunday to make a donation to the Endowment Fund for an acknowledgement in the bulletin. Think of your gift as a contribution to an IRA investment for the Church- an account invested for the church by professionals for future maintenance of the buildings or new outreach projects that may require startup funds.

Living Compass Advent devotional booklets are on the back pews.

Bible Study, Weds, Dec. 20, 10am-12pm. Parish House, reading the lectionary for Advent 4

https://lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Advent/BAdv4_RCL.html

Village Harvest Wed, Dec. 20, 3pm,-5PM. Please email Andrea to volunteer at wakepogue.public@gmail.com, or (540) 847-9002. Pack bags 1-3PM, Deliver food to clients' cars 3-5PM

Wed., Dec. 20, 5PM–Caroling in Port Royal, Portobago Bay. Meet at St. Peter's Parish House

Advent Compline, Thursday Dec. 21, 7PM on Zoom, 20 minutes. "The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night."

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86334877905?pwd=T0FsSEpvUmRlMmkyR09DL2NBWnnpnUT09> Meeting ID: 863 3487 7905 Pass 868383

Next Sunday. No 11am service. Plan to come to the

*****Christmas Eve Service at 4PM.*****

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535

Website: www.news.churchsp.org Parish Office: (804) 742-5908

The Vestry

Cookie Davis, Larry Saylor (2024)

Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025)

Linda Upshaw (2026)

Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar

Senior Warden, Elizabeth Heimbach

Junior Warden, Cookie Davis

Brad Volland – Music Director & Organist

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector

The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(540) 809-7489, (540) 898-1586, stpetersrev@gmail.com

Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring

Prayer List

Stanley and Cindy Fields, Marion Mahoney, The Wisdoms, The Pogues, Laura Carey, The Pannells, The Linne von Bergs, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, The Segars, The Faibisys, The Felicianos, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Bill Wick, Jim Heimbach

Ralph and Diane Powell, Enid and Albert Barnett (Pogue relatives), Pinkie Mayfield (Laura Carey's friend), Kristina Childs, Cy and The Rev Deacon Linda Murphy (Saylor friends), Joe Parker, Dot Wright, Gordon Flesher, Beryl Harrison, Larry Saylor's family, Jesse Clarke's family, Daryl Potter (Hughes friend), Joanne and Herbert Wilkerson, Jimmy and Nancy Davis, Julie Davis, Otis Felts (family and friends of Johnny Davis), Dale Brittle, Ruth Smith (Laura Carey's sister-in-law), Lisa Herbert, John Ryan Kirwin (Jean Devitt's son), Max and Rita Jensen (Duke friends), Barbara Deal, Roberta Rutledge, (Pogue friend), Patterson family, Valerie Leitch, Liz Ruthven, Charlene Schnakenberg, Nathaniel Schnakenberg, (Fisher family), Wayne Cohen (Pogue family), , Mrs. Watson, Hyacinth Wallace, Orville Watson, The Glasgows (Feliciano family and friends), Sylvia and Jonathan Coleman (Cleo's daughter and son), Ann Pyle (Carolyn Duke's mother), Harvey Yarus (friend of Tom Kramer), Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear (BJ's grandson), Gloria Jewell, The Hill family (Lydia O'Neil's family), G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat , Joan Pemberton (Brad's family), Louise Chapman (Barbara Segar's cousin)

Passed into eternal life: Brooklen Burrus (2 year old daughter of friend of the Pogue family)

Serving in the Armed Forces

PJ Koons

Scott Estes

Cliff Lance

Steven Lee

Greg Merkl

Grace Grimaldi

Alexis Rye

Michael Hobbs

Alex Long V