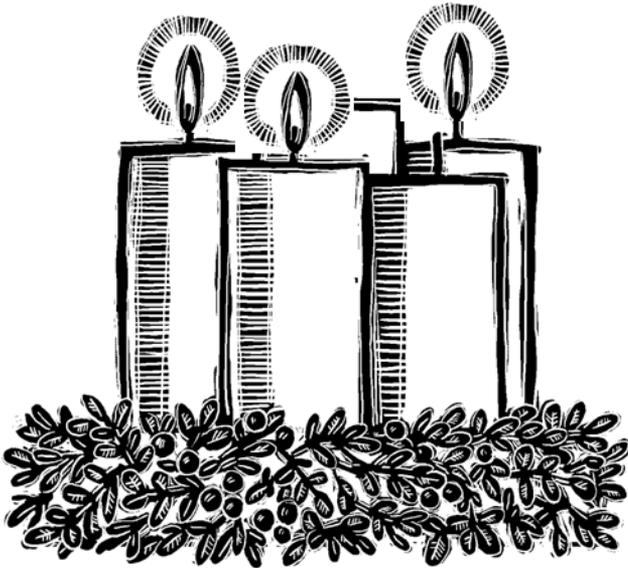


THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 11, 2022, 11AM



“When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.’” – Matthew 11:2-6

ST. PETER’S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

The Third Sunday in Advent, Year A

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.

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

Larry Saylor, guitar

Advent wreath candle lighting

Today we light the third candle of the Advent wreath.

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.” Philippians 4:4

God of hope, you call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing. Make us strong to join you in your holy work, as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Come, thou long expected Jesus

H 66

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Song of Praise

**The starry splendors of the night reveal creation's birthing light
when God first cleaved the night from day and formed us from the
earthen clay.**

**Though wounded by our thoughtless care, creation, burdened, yet will
share**

God's light of hope and healing power through those who heed the call this hour:

to bear that light which burns within, of Christ, whose birth we greet again,

and whose return we help prepare with every loving gesture shared. Through tender care that heals the earth, we praise the One who gave it birth:

**so may our lives, like stars above, bear witness to the Maker's love.
(Thomas Mousin)**

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.**

A reading from The Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 35, verses 1-10.

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 burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools,
shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15 - The Song of Mary *Magnificat* (in unison)

**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 forever. Amen.**

A Reading from James, Chapter 5, verses 7 to 10.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness

LEVAS 189

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
Glory to you Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Tom Hughes

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God, the source of love,
who created humanity in God's own image and likeness,
who blessed them and asked them to procreate, nurture and preserve
God's creation for posterity.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate,
who was born of a woman and was a carpenter,
who identified himself with women, men and children, transforming
them to have life abundantly.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit active before creation,

**who through the ages has inspired Christians without number,
who continues to inspire us to usher in the reign of God,
where no one is cast out, lonely or bereft.**

The Prayers of the People

Jesus said that the signs of God's dominion were to be seen in the healing of the sick, the raising of the dead to new life, and the preaching of good news to the poor. Let us pray that our lives may be the instruments of God's work in the world.

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation. Grant that we who bear your image may be faithful stewards of your gift and administer its bounty with wisdom for the good of all your creatures. **O God, most worthy of praise, hear our prayer.**

We thank you that you have called us to be your people. Give us patience as we await your coming, and grant us wisdom to discern your will in our daily lives, that each of us may serve others for the building up of our common life. **O God, most worthy of praise, hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the community of faith throughout the world. Strengthen your church as it witnesses to your love. We give thanks for the consecration of our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Mark Stevenson, and for the appointment of our Assistant Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Gayle Elizabeth Harris, and pray that they will serve our diocese with wisdom and compassion. **O God, most worthy of praise, hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the privilege of ministering to others. We pray for all who have lost a family member or friend to gun violence. We pray for all who are in prison. We remember before you all who are sick and in need, for those on our prayer list, and especially Claire Cole Curcio, Randall Clingenpeel, Lydia O'Neil and Toni Faibisy, as they continue to regain strength and self-sufficiency. We pray for Brad Volland and Helmut Linne von Berg, recovering from the flu, and for Ruby Barnes, sister of Laura Carey, who is hospitalized and fighting Covid. We pray for those who are worried, and for those who mourn. **O God, most worthy of praise, hear our prayer.**

Until your reign of peace comes on this earth, we thank you for those who serve in the armed forces and ask that you would protect them and bring them safely home when their work is done. **O God, most worthy of praise, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who are part of our journeys on this earth, and we pray for those who have died, especially Robert Walker and Jeremiah Williams, friends of the Pogues. Grant us the grace to accept suffering with patience and to be strengthened by our common life in the body of Christ. **O God, most worthy of praise, hear our prayer.**

We thank you for our countless gifts, for this season of joyful preparation and expectation, for our families and friends, for healing, and for the love which surrounds us on every side. **O God, most worthy of praise, hear our prayer.**

We offer our thanksgiving and prayers to you, the one God and the source of light and life, now and forever. Amen.

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

BCP 830 #51/431

Offertory **Lo, how a rose e'er blooming with Still, Still, Still**
arr. Simpson **Denise Gregory, piano; Mary Peterman, flute**

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer 2 from EOW

Enriching our Worship

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

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 say

Celebrant and People

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.**

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

**The Breaking of the Bread
The Communion of the People of God**

BCP 364

Communion Music Larry Saylor, Guitar

**Post-Communion Prayer
The Blessing**

BCP 365

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

Closing Hymn Prepare the way, O Zion

H 65

Dismissal

Resources:

Advent Wreath Lighting Prayer: [Revised Common Lectionary Prayers](#)

Song of Praise: Devotions by Merry Waters, Advent 2022, Thomas Mousin

Affirmation of Faith: [Daily Prayer for all Seasons](#), "A Woman's Creed," as found in [Lifting Voices, Prayers to Change the World.](#)"

Advent Blessing: [The Book of Occasional Services](#)

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>

Happy Birthday – Talia Feliciano (12/11), Nancy Long (12/12), Cherry Everett (12/14)

Brad has the flu and cannot be with us today. Many thanks to Denise Gregory, Mary Peterman, and Larry Saylor for providing today's music.

-Dec. 11, Worship on YouTube <https://youtu.be/ix1-reu7K5o>

-Dec. 12, Monday Morning meditation 6:30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87980716417?pwd=UHIxNE1JYlQ1TGh6N25oYTBxRURwQT09> Meeting ID: 879 8071 6417 Passcode: 790929

-Dec. 14. Village Dinner 4:30pm,-6 PM. Eat in or take out. Call Susan Linne von Berg to make your reservation. 804-742-5233

A Call to serve on the Vestry. The Vestry is made up of lay leaders who, along with the Rector, direct the ministries of St Peter's, based on input from the congregation. If you feel called to serve or have questions, please contact Catherine or any Vestry member.

The ECM (Episcopal Church Men) continues to work through County Department of Social Services to provide families with Christmas grocery gift cards. Donate with ECM in the memo line by TODAY.

Poinsettia forms are on the back pew, due TODAY. On the reverse side of the form, **A gift to The Endowment Fund** provides money for outreach ministries and ongoing care of the church buildings for years to come and is fully tax deductible. **Endowment gifts can be submitted by next Sunday, Dec. 18.**

Thank you!

- 1. Alice Hughes, Linda Kramer and Catherine Hicks who worked on the greening of the church this week.**
- 2. Giving Tuesday raised \$1,175 exceeding 2021's total of \$899.**
- 3. United Thank Offering (UTO) ingathering totaled \$484.73 in Nov., rolling past 2021's total of \$268.87. Thank you to all who contributed.**

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

Becky Fisher, Andrea Pogue (2023), Cookie Davis, Robert Bryan (2024)

Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025)

Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar

Becky Fisher, Senior Warden

Cookie Davis, Junior Warden

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**

Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Laura Carey, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Tommy Segar, John and Toni Faibisy, Linneth Feliciano, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Mike and Marilyn Newman, Bill Wick, Barbara and Boyd Wisdom

Ruby Barnes (Laura Carey's sister), **Claire Cole Curcio** (friend of Catherine Hicks), **Sandra Smith, Otis Felts** (friend of Johnny Davis), **The Glasgows** (friends of the Felicianos), **Randall Clingenpeel, Mrs. Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's mother), **Ann Pyle** (Carolyn Duke's mother), **J.T. Moriarty** (Hicks' friend), **Harvey Yarus** (friend of Tom Kramer), **Patty Reno** (cousin of Tom Kramer), **Joanne Wilkerson and Jimmy Davis, Julie Davis** (sister, brother and daughter of Johnny Davis), **Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Nathaniel Schakenberg, Martha Oldham** (Mike Newman's sister), **Jonathan Coleman** (Cleo Coleman's son), **Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear** (BJ's grandson), **Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith** (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), **Orville Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's brother), **Gloria Jewell, Kathryn, David and Bobby Hill** (Lydia O'Neil's family), **Lorena McElwain**, (friend of the Pogues), **Odessa Davis, Kelly Paterino, G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw** (Brad Volland's cousin), **Joan Pemberton** (Brad Volland's aunt), **Anna Haug, Albert Barnett** (Andrea's uncle), **Scott Crabtree** (Eunice Key's brother), **Louise Chapman** (Barbara Segar's cousin), **Dot Wright, Carolyn and Butch Delhagen** (Newman relatives), **Mary Lawrence Hicks** (Catherine and Ben Hicks' daughter), **Rodney C. Johnson** (Hicks' friend), **Charlene Schakenberg**, (Becky Fisher's mother)

Passed into eternal life: Robert Walker, Jeremiah Williams

Serving in the Armed Forces

PJ Koons

Scott Estes

Cliff Lance

Steven Lee

Greg Merkl

Grace Grimaldi

Alexis Rye

Michael Hobbs

Alex Long V