



Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

9:00 a.m.: Virtual Worship

GATHERING

Preparing for Virtual Worship

Set up a space in your home for worship and prayer. Light a candle, set out a cross or icon to help you focus; set your phone on Do Not Disturb, wash your hands. Take a few deep breaths and say a short prayer to prepare your heart to “enter” a different kind of space. We recommend the 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. Amen.

Prelude: *Four Settings of “Lo, How a Rose”*

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

John Barr (b. 1938)

John Ferguson (b. 1941)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” is a beloved Advent hymn whose origins may be traced back to a late 16th century manuscript found in St. Alban’s monastery in Trier, Germany. An apocryphal legend to explain the rose imagery says that on Christmas Eve a monk found a blooming rose while walking in the woods, and then placed the rose in a vase on an altar to the Virgin Mary. Scriptural references include Song of Solomon 2:1: “I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys,” and Isaiah 35:1, “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” The famous composer Michael Praetorius helped popularize the tune by harmonizing it in 1609.

Es ist ein Ros, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Barr: Copyright © 2009 by Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc., Colfax, North Carolina

Ferguson: Copyright © 1992 by MorningStar Music Publishers, St. Louis, Missouri

Brahms: This Edition Copyright © 1995 Oxford University Press, London

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

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

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

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy,** Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Priest 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 First Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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 Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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.

Priest The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. Zac Koons

Music for Reflection: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn 56 (vs. 5-6)

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*
O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain.*

This year, we will hear two verses of this hymn each Sunday during the season of Advent.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Form II, BCP 385

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop(s); for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed especially _____. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those in our community _____.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored especially whom we remember today. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The celebrant concludes with prayers and a collect

The Lord's Prayer

Priest and People

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 Offertory Hymn: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

Hymn 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings. Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come. For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward; without thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand; shine forth, and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more. All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent doth thy people free; whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

Eric Panter, soloist

This hymn is one of the few to focus on John the Baptist, and is sung across denominational lines during Advent. The original text comes from an 18th-century French breviary and was translated to English for a 19th-century Anglican hymnal. This version was paired with a rousing tune that has been a favorite of the English church ever since.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles W. Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.
Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

Announcements

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Postlude: *Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"*

Adolphus Hailstork

One of America's leading composers, Hailstork (b. 1941) has written in nearly all genres, from musical comedy to solo piano and choral music. His compositions have been performed by major orchestras and he has been the recipient of several prizes, among them the Ernest Bloch Award for Choral Music in 1995. Hailstork grew up in Albany, New York, where he took lessons in voice, violin, piano and organ. He studied composition at Howard University and the Manhattan School of Music, and, after service in the U.S. Armed Forces, earned his doctorate at Michigan State University. He is currently a Professor of Music at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angel Tree gifts are due back December 14th to St. Mark's. Contact Mother Mary with questions.: mary@stmarksaustin.org

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications: As in years past, this year we are accepting dedications in memory of, or thanksgiving for, anyone you would like to remember - poinsettias will decorate the church during Christmas services; dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. To submit your dedication: [click here](#). Suggested donation: \$25. Questions? office@stmarksaustin.org.

Mission - St. Mark's has given to the following organizations this week:

- \$1000 to Magdalene House of Austin, founded by Episcopal women in Austin and based on the ministries started by Becca Stevens, is a survivor-led community for adult women who have survived sex trafficking.
- \$1000 to Austin Sunshine Camp, which empowers low-income youth through education and outdoor experiences - and completely revamped their services to meet needs during the pandemic.

Online Giving Platform: St. Mark's has moved to a new online giving service, Vanco. PayPal will continue to be supported, and which ever way you set up gifts, St. Mark's appreciates your faithful contributions. **To use online giving on our website go [here](#).**

ONGOING

Morning Prayer, Mondays - Fridays, 8:30 a.m. Access links: www.stmarksaustin.org.

Sunday Schedule: Outdoor in-person Sunday eucharist services reservations (*required*) open each Monday prior to the Sunday service. RSVP here: www.stmarksaustin.org.

- **8:00 a.m.** - Parking lot Eucharist, Rite I
- **9:00 a.m.** - *Virtual* Worship Livestream (links accessible through our website)
- **9:45 a.m.** - Sunday School series with Rev. Nathan Jennings: Advent 3 & 4. Link on our website.
- **10:00 a.m.** - Family Service on the front lawn (*note: No family services on Dec. 27, 2020, or Jan. 3, 2021*)
- **11:15 a.m.** - Parking Lot Eucharist, Rite II

Christmas Service Schedule: RSVPs open Monday, December 14th

Christmas Eve In-Person (parking lot)

- Holy Eucharist: 3:00 p.m.
- Holy Eucharist: 5:00 p.m. (with neighborhood candlelit procession following the service).

Christmas Eve Virtual Service of Lessons & Carols

- Noon
- 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day In-Person (parking lot)

- Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m.

PARISH INTERCESSION LIST

You are invited to use this Intercession List to pray for those listed below.

For healthcare workers and teachers: Heather, Michael B., Christine, Eric, Joan, Beth, Mac, Jodi, Courtney, Russ, Nicole, Jewellyn, Jana Kay, Steven, Pam, Marcille, Jesse, Laurie, Charles, Cilla, Jonea, Jennifer R., Jennifer S., Samuel, Mary, Jordan, Jeffrey, Kim, Michael T., Amber, Aaron, Sarah, Laurie, Carolyn, Jennifer, Chez, James., Cindy.

For those celebrating birthdays: Paul Berndt, Sue Borel, Ryder Denniston, Yvette Webb, Brian Crozier, Ashely Dennison, Samantha Linderman, Sam Dunn, Ralph Yargo, Anne Allensworth, Kay Brown, Rachel Jackson, David Kurak, Kerrisa, Orr, Ella Blanding, Clara Bogard, Zachary Mayor, Genevieve Vande Streek, Jack Considine, Terry Dempsey, William Pugsley, Beverly Crozier, Olivia Lull.

For those celebrating anniversaries: Tracy & Matthew Cain, Sloan & David Kurak, Amy Newman & Sandy Harwood, Phyllis & Dennis Millirons.

For those whom the Daughters of the King pray.

Lector: Rex White



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St. Mark's Staff

The Rev. Zac Koons, *Rector*

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Jennings, *Theologian-in-Residence*

Casey Bushman, *Director of Christian Formation*

Barbara Gausewitz, *Seminarian*

Brandon Haynes, *Seminarian*

The Rev. Mary Keenan, *Curate*

Mark Reed, *Organist/Director of Music and Bookkeeper*

Joanne Foote, *Parish Administrator*

Karon Hammond, *Head of St. Mark's Day School*

Irma Glover, *Sexton*

The Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle, *Bishop of Texas*