



Church of the Ascension

December 13th, 2020

The Rev. Heather Wenrick, Rector
Diane Lemcio, Music Director
2330 Viewmont Way W
Seattle, WA 98199
(206) 283-3967

Third Sunday of Advent

Episcopal Church of the Ascension



Follow Christ + Develop and Deepen Faith + Love and Serve

Church of the Ascension rests on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, Duwamish people. We acknowledge the land itself and the ancestors of this place, understanding that we are here because of the sacrifices forced upon them. By recognizing the Duwamish peoples, we honor their legacy, their lives, and their descendants.

Prelude

Of The Father's Love Begotten - arr. Wilbur Held

Welcome to Ascension! & Announcements

Christmas Giving, Curbside Donation Sunday today, 11am-noon

- New Beginnings, \$25 Gift Cards from Fred Meyer, Target, gas stations
- Interbay Village, \$15 Gift Card from Fred Meyer
- Ballard Food Bank, bag of food

Advent Schedule

Please stand when the bell is rung, signaling the beginning of worship.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

Light candles.

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)

Let us pray. **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.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*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. Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

Collect of the day

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.

Opening Hymn # 59 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding, vv. 1, 3, 5

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the

near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -

works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies,
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

The Liturgy of the Word

All are seated for the reading.

The First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 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 Psalm is read responsively.

Psalm 126

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, ***
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, ***
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears ***
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

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.

All stand for the Gospel reading.

Gospel Acclamation

on the tune Puer Nobis - Thomas Pavlechko

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel:

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

People **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. 8He 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.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel Acclamation

on the tune Puer Nobis - Thomas Pavlechko

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

All are seated for the preaching,

The Sermon

The Rev. Heather Wenrick, Rector

Silence and stillness follow.

Prayers of the People

In this season of expectation for the dawning of God's new world, let us pray in hope, saying, "Light of God, **shine within us.**"

In the darkness of our world, in famine, war, and disaster; kindle our hearts with your compassion, that we may see our shared humanity and extend our hands with your love, Light of God, **shine within us.**

In the darkness of your church, in places where your Word is used to wound and divide; kindle our hearts with your truth and reconciliation, that we all may live as One, Light of God, **shine within us.**

In the darkness of our nation, where greed and ignorance can rise to power; kindle our hearts with your justice, that we may belong to your reign of peace, Light of God, **shine within us.**

In the darkness of sickness and isolation, poverty and imprisonment; kindle our hearts with your care for all humanity, that we may be of your service to those in any need, Light of God, **shine within us.**

In the darkness of loss, and grief, and death; kindle our hearts with faith in your advent among us, that we may live in the hope of our eternal life with you, Light of God, **shine within us.**

For what else shall we pray?

Healing Prayers: Tom Kildall, Tom and Nancy Reeder, LaShon, Dave Stockert, Arta Lee, Nan, John Hereth

Kelly's friend, Greg DeRitis and Marie Cain's relative, Maurice Hunter both hospitalized with COVID

For what do we give thanks?

The celebrations of those with birthdays, (Nan Nalder) let us pray:

Watch over thy child(ren), O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God, you shape our dreams. As we put our trust in you may your hopes and desires be ours, and we your expectant people. **Amen.**

The Confession

And now let us repent the wrongs we have done.

Silence may be kept.

We have wounded your love.

O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.

Light of the world, transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home.

Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God, in whom we live and move and have our being: all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you, to the very secret of our hearts and all that rises to trouble us. Living flame, burn into us; cleansing wind, blow through us; fountain of water, well up within us; that we may love and praise you in deed and truth. **Amen.**

The Peace

Offertory Sentence

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.

(1 Chronicles 20:11)

Offertory

Shepherds, Rejoice - French carol

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Thanksgiving (Prayer for Spiritual Communion)

**We are the gathered body of Christ walking in this world in Love.
We are the miracle of Love made Flesh.**

Three-Fold Advent Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of blessing and set you free. **Amen.**

May the One whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. May you stir things up to make the path straight and live in peace, and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Response **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

The King Shall Come - arr. David Johnson

*The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord!
Thy people pray, come quickly, King of Kings.*

Coffee Hour is on break. Instead join us in front of Ascension to give a gift to one of our partner organizations: New Beginnings, Interbay Village and the Ballard Food Bank. Donations occur from 11am-noon today.

Music Permissions



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