

# TODAY'S LESSONS: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Collect: Page 212 BCP

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.**

## Isaiah 35:1-10

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.

## Canticle 15 Page 91, BCP

### The Song of Mary Magnificat

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.

## James 5:7-10

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.

## Matthew 11:2-11

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."

## Sunday Worship Leaders

### Today

Cross	Izabella Stanis
Lector	Nancy Lehnert
LEM	Isabelle Behm
Vestry	Michael Mroczyk
Prayer Room	Erin Biggs
Ushers	Team 2
LEV	B. Hall/M. Breil

### Next Week

Cross	Oliver Angel
Lector	Carolyn Blackmore
LEM	Matt Sallman
Vestry	Holly Schanz
Prayer Room	Pageant Rehearsal
Ushers	Team 3

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The Altar Flowers are given  
to the glory of God  
in honor of the Altar Guild.  
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## The Calendar

### Sunday, December 15

- 8am Holy Eucharist, Chapel
- 9am Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 10am Holy Eucharist, Church
- 10:05am Children's Worship, Prayer Room
- 11:15am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
- 11:15am Adult Forum, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30am Pageant Rehearsal
- 12:30pm Mother of the Savior (MotS)  
Eucharist, Church
- 1:30pm Mother of the Savior (Mots)  
Coffee Hour, Lounge
- 2pm Vestry, Room 213

### Monday, December 16

### Tuesday, December 17

### Wednesday, December 18

- 6pm CHI Healing, Lounge

### Thursday, December 19

- 4:30pm Sonneman Studio, Church

### Friday, December 20

### Saturday, December 21

- 9am Lessons & Carols Rehearsal, Church
- 1:00pm Sonneman Studio, Church

### Sunday, December 22

- 8am Holy Eucharist, Chapel
- 9am Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 10am Holy Eucharist, Church
- 10:05am Children's Worship, Prayer Room
- 11:15am Coffee Hour, Church
- 11:15am Greening of the Church
- 11:20am Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 11:30am Pageant Rehearsal
- 12:30pm MotS Eucharist, Church/Chapel
- 1:30pm MotS Coffee Hour, Lounge
- 7pm Lessons & Carols, Church

### Spiritual Offerings

Centering Prayer, Room 19  
Tuesday 6:15pm

Yoga, Room 213  
Tuesday 7:15pm

### AA meets

Monday, 8pm, Lounge  
Wednesday, 8pm, Room 213  
Thursday, 11:30am, Room 213  
Thursday, 6:30pm, Resource Room  
Saturday, Noon, Room 213

Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall  
Tuesday nights, 7pm

Bridge, Lounge  
Wednesday 1pm

Listening Group, Lounge  
1st & 3rd Monday 7pm

Martial Arts, Fellowship Hall  
Sunday 2pm  
Wednesday 7pm

Sonneman Voice & Piano, Choir Room  
Tuesday and Thursday 3pm-9pm  
Saturday 10am-4pm

Stretching, Fellowship Hall  
2nd & 4th Saturday 10:30am



## Christ Episcopal Church in Dearborn

Feeding People in Mind, Body, and Spirit for 150 years

(313) 565-8450 office@christchurchdearborn.org

### THE COMMUNICATOR: PLEASE TAKE THIS HOME WITH YOU

**For the churches** of Diocese of the Michigan (Christ Church [Grosse Pointe] and Canterbury House/UofM [Ann Arbor]; for the churches of our companion Diocese of the Dominican Republic; for Bishop Gibbs as he prepares to retire in December; for Bonnie A. Perry, Bishop-elect of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan.

**The Sick and Suffering:** For Christine (Blackmore) and Kaitlyn.

**Armed Forces:** For all those serving in harm's way.

**Concerns in the World:** For those who are suffering from natural disasters and extreme weather conditions.

### Departed:

**To place someone on the prayer list or request a pastoral visit** please contact the church office.

### Special Events and Announcements:

#### Sign Up Has Begun

#### Baptized For Life Dinners

A series of eight dinners focusing on deepening intercultural relationships and growing our faith as Christians will begin in January 2020. We will host two meals a month that will use the conversation guide, "Eating Together Faithfully". The schedule for this first series of dinners is January 16 & 30, February 6 & 20, March 5 & 19, and April 2 & 23 from 6-9pm. It is important to commit to all 8 dinners in the series and do your best to be there. Contact Erin in the church office if you would like to attend this first series. If you can't make this series, second series of 8 dinners will be offered in the summer.

#### Greening of the Church

This year's Greening of the Church will be December 22nd following the 10am service. Coffee hour that day will be in the church while we decorate.

#### Intentional About Money

The Social Justice implementation team of the Renaissance task force is offering a financial literacy course at Christ Church starting on Wednesday evening, January 15th, running every other week for 9 sessions. The course, Intentional About Money, is based on setting up a budget and deciding where every dollar should go and sticking with that to pay off debts and grow wealth. A brochure with the registration form is available in the church office and from Diana Brehob; the brochure will also be included in the next Courier. Contact the Office 313 565-8450 or Diana Brehob for more information.

#### Christmas for the Food Pantry

Once again our plan is to offer the families using our food pantry extra food for the Christmas holidays as well. We are in need of hams, butter, milk, eggs, boxes of instant mashed potatoes, prepared cookie dough and Kroger Cards in \$10 increments. You can drop off the food items at the office or in the first floor kitchen until December 16. Monetary donations are also helpful; checks should be made out to Christ Church with Christmas Pantry in the memo line.

#### A Concert of Lessons & Carols, December 22nd, 7 p.m.

Renaissance Voices, a 20-women choir out of Henry Ford College, will present a Lessons & Carols performance in the style of King's College, Cambridge.

### **Today's Anthem - "Mary, Did You Know?"**

"Mary, Did You Know?" has become a little bit controversial in the Church music world. Many people think it ignores the Annunciation, when the angel asked Mary to give birth to Jesus. Thus the argument states that Mary knew she was giving birth to the son of God who came to save us. To me, it seems a bit more like Mary believed that she was going to give birth to Jesus, the son of God. She believed the Angel Gabriel but didn't truly know what it meant. There can be a big difference between believing and knowing. Growing up outside Hartford, my mom often reminded me that I was growing up more fortunate than a lot of kids in the city. She told me that literacy rates in my school were almost triple that of Hartford. I believed her. I never thought she was lying, but I didn't truly know what it meant until I started volunteering in Hartford when I was 14. Many of the 4th graders I worked with weren't reading at the level I was at when I was in 3rd grade. I didn't know what it meant to come from a privileged school system until I saw it firsthand. Similarly, in my faith journey I believed in God from a young age. I went to Sunday school and learned from my parents and grandparents. It wasn't until I was at what I affectionately call Jesus camp praying during service that I personally knew God. I was praying, and I felt God with me, answering me and watching over me. As you listen to or reflect on this song, I encourage you to think not of believing, but of that moment of transformation between believing and knowing. Think about when it has happened in your life and reflect upon how it you felt or how it changed you.

~ Ally Barone

### **Holy Currencies Book Study**

The Holy Currencies book study will continue in January, starting January 12 with chapters 3 and 4.

### **Christmas Flowers & Decorations**

All thanksgivings and memorials will be listed in the Christmas service leaflets. Please contribute what ever you are able, \$20-\$35 is a typical contribution, but less is fine and more, if you are able, is appreciated. Return names to the office by Sunday, December 15.

### **Christmas Eve Dinner**

There will be a Christmas Eve Potluck Dinner with both Christ Church and Mother of the Savior at about 8:15pm. Join us for either the bi-lingual service before at 7pm or the Candlelight service after at 10pm.

### **Adult Forum Today – Sharing Parishioner Stories**

Today's Adult Forum, starting at 11.15am in the Fellowship Hall, is an unmissable opportunity to hear stories from five long standing Christ Episcopal Church members who combine for over two centuries of family and life experience in our Church. The 'Strengthening Community Relationships' Renaissance Team, is sharing stories from Bettina Caldwell, Virginia Ebling, Eunice Buzby, Phyllis Solberg and Barbara Brandenburg.

## **CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICES**

**December 22:** Advent 4 and the "Greening of the Church" follows the 10am service with Coffee Hour in the church.

**December 22:** Lessons and Carols with Renaissance Voices, 7pm. This is a performance of Lessons and Carols presented by Renaissance Voices, an all female chorus led by Kevin Dewey. Tickets are \$15 and available in the office.

### **December 24**

Three services of the Incarnation, the Christ-mas

**Christmas Eve Pageant at 5:00pm**, the children offer a Christmas play, Holy Eucharist follows

**Bi-lingual service at 7pm** followed by a festive Christmas Eve potluck dinner, for both Mother of the Savior and Christ Church and their family and friends. Please bring a simple dish to share. Stay after the 7pm service or come early for the 10pm service and share a meal.

**AND Candlelit Christmas Eve service at 10pm**

**December 25:** Christmas morning 10am

### **Sunday, December 29**

8am in the Chapel - Holy Eucharist

10am in the Church - Holy Eucharist with Carols

