**Nativity Worships Advent 3**

**December 15, 2024**

**The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding, Presiding**

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| Prelude  | *Besancon carol* |  |
| Opening | Hark! the glad sound. the Savior comes | H 71 |
| Gradual | O come! o come, Emmanuel  [vv 6,7 before v. 8 after gospel] | H 56  |
| Offertory     | Rejoice, the Lord is King! | H 481 |
| Communion | Soon and very soon | See below |
| Closing | Comfort, comfort ye my people | H 67  |
| Postlude | *Veni redemptor gentium   -*plainsong, 12 C. |  |

**The Collect**

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.

**Old Testament: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

**The Response: Canticle 9   The First Song of Isaiah    *Ecce Deus***

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, \*
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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.

**The New Testament: Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**The Gospel: Luke 3:7-18**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**The Prayers**

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Commission on Ministry, diocesan Days of Discernment, local discernment committees, and all those discerning God’s call to ministry and service in their lives.

We pray for our parish members: Jamie, Nancy B., Nina A., Marian, Norma, Amanda, Duane, Ruth, Barbara, Dick, Steve, and our family and friends, Miles, Bill L, Justin W, David, John, Violet, Aaron, Hudson, Kyle, B.Y, Kathleen, John B., Laura, Nick, Phil and Greg, and the people of Palestine and Israel who are living in fear.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn remembering especially Jim Forsyth, and those who have died in the wars in Israel, Palestine, Ukraine and Sudan.

**Announcements**

This year’s giving tree supports Marin Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA serves foster children and youth from Marin County. If you have presents to contribute please bring them by today or tomorrow at the latest so that we can schedule a pickup. If you would like to make a donation so that Nativity can purchase presents, please put your contribution in our Charity of the Month box no later than December 8th.

Advent Formation Series—A Study of John the Baptist with Rev. Kirsten. Friday afternoons November 29, December 6, December 13 and December 20th at 1 p.m. in the Kitchen. All are welcome.

TODAY: 2-5 p.m. Gift Wrapping Party. Bring your presents and we’ll provide beautiful gift wrapping paper, ribbons and bows, handmade gift tags. $20 donation and we’ll help you wrap everything.

Advent Octave: This year we will celebrate the Advent days before Christmas with Evening Prayer on Facebook livestream and Youtube at 5:30 p.m. Beginning on December 17th and continuing through December 23rd.

Looking forward to Christmas. We will celebrate the Advent Octave from December 17 to 23rd with Evening Prayer on [Facebook livestream](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064414402745&sk=live_videos) and on our Youtube channel. Join us every night at 5:30 p.m. for a quiet moment of prayer with the O Antiphons.

Greening the Church. Join us in hanging the wreaths, making luminaria and getting ready for Christmas Eve (December 22, 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 5 p.m. (with an amazing Festival Choir). Christmas Morning Eucharist 10 a.m. Christmas Brunch. 11:30 a.m. on Christmas Day. Parish members, friends and family are welcome!

Christmas Lessons and Carols. December 29th at 10 a.m. (no 8 a.m. service that day).

Epiphany Evening Prayer January 6th 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and on our streaming platforms.

 The Street Chaplaincy. Nativity leads the Wellness dinner on January 7th. Join us to cook, serve, or clean-up 4:30-7:30.

Baptism of Dylan Hammond-Baldwin, January 12, 2025 at our 10 a.m. service.

We will with thanksgiving receive offerings of **Nativity pledges and plate** today. You can contribute by sending a check to the church or by using the “Give” button on our website, [www.nativityonthehill.org](http://www.nativityonthehill.org).

All who participate in this Holy Eucharist virtually receive the full benefits of the sacrament by coming with the intention of being united with Christ and one another.

**Soon and Very Soon:**

1. Soon and vey soon, we are going to see the King! (3X)

Refrain: Halleluia, Halleluia! We’re going to see the King.

2. No more cryin’ there; we are going to see the King! (3X) Refrain

3. No more dyin’ there; we are going to see the King! (3X) Refrain