



The Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019
8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Welcome to Ascension!

For more information about our community, fill out a welcome card, found at either end of the pews, or take one of our welcome packets from a member of the Welcome Team or the table by the Church office door.

Please silence your audible devices.

Beginning ten minutes before the service, please help us create a contemplative space by refraining from cell phone use or loud conversation.

*Within the service, the people read the parts in **bold print**.*

The Entrance Rite

(10:00 Service only - the 8:00 service begins with the Opening Acclamation)

Opening Voluntary

" Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabelle "

Chappell Kingsland, Piano

French Carol

Introit

Song by the Choir

" Hear, O Hear the Word of God "

Paul Kelley

The people stand and remain standing through the Collect of the Day.

Processional Hymn (10:00 a.m.) *Sung by all.*

"Watchman, tell us of the night "

1982 Hymnal # 640

Aberystwyth

Opening Acclamation

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

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

The Collect for Purity

Priest and People

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.

Kyrie eleison (8:00 a.m.)

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Prayer for our Children and Teachers

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed Ascension with these children and these teachers: Give these children your gift of joy and wonder, and pour your blessings upon them. Give these teachers calm strength and patient wisdom so they may teach our children to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Kyrie eleison (10:00 a.m.)

Sung by all.

“Lord, have mercy”

Lift Every Voice and Sing # 237

Avon Gillespie

Lord, have___ mer - cy, Christ, have___ mer - cy.

Lord, have___ mer - cy, have mer - cy, O Lord.

The Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Let us pray.

Priest and People

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 people sit.

The Word of God

The First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:4-9 (*Read responsively*)

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger;
**he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

The Lord shall reign for ever,
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**

The Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Reader A reading from the Epistle of James.

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand.

Sequence Hymn (10:00 a.m.)

Sung by all.

“Hark the glad sound, the Savior comes” **1982 Hymnal # 72** *Richmond*
First three verses are sung before the Gospel; last verse is sung after the Gospel.

The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **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.”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

Sermon

The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

The Nicene Creed

Priest and People

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life, who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and
glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Form VI

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Mariann and Chilton, our Bishops, and Javier, Nan and Eugene, our clergy.

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

We pray for comfort, healing, courage, and hope for **Elizabeth** McLaughlin, **Samuel** Tellu, **Sciou** Broderick, **Marcia** Noble, **Eduardo** Rincon, **Warren** Porter, **Jim** Wilson, **Tim** Anderson, **Leslie** Sanya, **Sue** Jenkins, **Olive** Rivera, **Wadai** Dennis, **Judy** Conroy, **Doris** Chin, **Jean** Cohn, **Roxanne** Frank, **Lee** Silverman, **Johnetta** Mars-Gibson, **Clint** Miller, **Neville** Barr, **Phyllis** Kramer, **Norma** Falcon, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, as well as those on our extended healing prayer list.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We give thanks for the birthdays of **Margaret** Mirin, **Vincenzo** Fera-Rivera, **Jenny** Watson, **Cindi** Bonsib, **Kendall** Basier, **Jemima** Boakye, **Robert** Bonsib, **Osewe** Ogada, **Esther** Taylor, **Nora** Campos and **Maria** Rodriguez.

The altar flowers are given by Esther and Margaret Tellu in memory of their sister, Elizabeth Tellu.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

All say the prayer for Ascension:

God of all, we offer thanks to you for this our parish, Church of the Ascension, as we gather here together in your name. Bless us with remembrance of those who founded this parish, erected the walls, and provided the space we have today. We pray that we may continue their work with perseverance and faithfulness to become a truly One Ascension for this community. We pray for strength, steadfastness, and vision for Padre Javier on his journey as our Priest in Charge. Guide us as we walk the way with him. We pray that the path we take together and the light that shows us the way are your own. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence

Celebrant and people

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord and are then seated.

Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Anthem

Sung by the choir

" Springs in the Desert "

Chappell Kingsland, Organ

Arthur B. Jennings

Hymn at the Presentation

Sung by all, standing

" Blessed be the God of Israel "

1982 Hymnal # 444

Thornbury



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
2 He from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
3 On pri - son - ers of dark-ness the sun be - gins to rise,



he vis - its and re - deems us, he grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sa - vior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The pro - phets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes his her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
He guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill his prom - ise and bring his peo - ple peace.____
the pro - phet of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of Day.____
O bless our God and Sa - vior, with songs that nev - er cease.____

The Holy Communion

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 our thanks and praise**

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

(Spoken at 8:00 a.m.; Sung 10:00 a.m.)

“Holy, holy, holy Lord”

1982 Hymnal #S 129

Robert Powell

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

*The people kneel or stand.
Celebrant.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” 🕯

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” 🕯

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant and People

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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem (Spoken at 8:00 a.m., Sung at 10:00 a.m.)

“Lamb of God”

1982 Hymnal #S 163

Robert Powell

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace." The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) in the second, third, and fourth staves.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The people sit.

Administration of the Sacrament: All are welcome to the Lord's Table at Ascension. To receive communion, come to a communion station at the direction of the Welcome Team. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or you may hold the bread and dip it into the wine when the cup is offered to you.

Gluten-free wafers are also available. Make your need known to the Clergy by holding up three fingers. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please cross your arms on your chest – this will alert the Clergy of your desire to be blessed.

If you need communion brought to you please let a member of the Welcome Team know.

Healing Prayers: If you would like to receive the laying on of hands for healing for yourself or another, go to the prayer annex beside the pulpit after receiving communion. A healing minister will be there to pray with you.

Communion Hymn (10:00 a.m.)

" The desert shall rejoice "

Wonder, Love, and Praise #722

Sterling

Sending Forth of Eucharistic Visitor

When at this service

Celebrant We send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body because we all share one bread and one cup.**

The people kneel or stand

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Advent Blessing

Celebrant

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

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

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

The people stand.

Recessional Hymn

Sung by all.

" Prepare the way, O Zion "

1982 Hymnal # 65

Bereden vag for Herran

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary

" Prelude and Fugue in G major "

J.S. Bach

PERMISSIONS: Section:Service Music: Kyrie Title: Lord, Have Mercy Music: Avon Gillespie (1937-1989), Mass No. 1 in G Section: Jesus Christ our Lord Title: Blessed be the God of Israel Meter: 76. 76. D Words: Michael A. Perry (b. 1942), alt.; para. of The Song of Zechariah Music: Thornbury, Basil Harwood (1859-1949) Copyright: Words: © 1973 by Jubilate Hymns (admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188). All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: Published by permission of the Executors of the late Dr. Basil Harwood. Originally composed for the hymn, "Thy hand, O God, has guided."Section: The Holy Eucharist Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932 Section:Advent Title: Comfort, comfort ye my peopleMeter:87. 87. 77. 88Words:Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.Music:Psalm 42, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. Hymnal 1982) Copyright:Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing, Inc. Section: The Holy Eucharist Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God: Agnus Dei Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932) Copyright: Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing, Inc. b.The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two is from the Book of Common Prayer © 1979 Church Publishing, Inc. Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of The Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Worship Leaders

	Today	Next Sunday
Readers	8:00 am Peg Donnellon	David Burton
	10:00 am Susan Ahalt Ceda Ogada	David Mitchell Claire Morin
Prayers of the People	8:00 am Peg Donnellon	David Burton
	10:00 am Meredith Horan	Sue Snay
Chalicians	8:00 am Wadai Dennis David Burton	Sharon Hayden Edna Leake
	10:00 am Peg Ruppel Florence Chukwurah	Avin Lalmansingh Anika Lalmansingh
Healing Prayer Ministers	8:00 am Marcia Noble	Lisa Murdock
	10:00 am Alex Langley	Paul Whitmore
Acolytes	8:00 am Ray Chin Isa Noble	Ron Hayden Aidan Douglas
	10:00 am Monty Petersen Aaron Lalmansingh Elise Liberty	Roberta Taylor Pete Minderman Ethan Liberty
Welcome Team	8:00 am Florence Sirleaf <i>Volunteer needed</i>	Don Cohn Janet King
	10:00 am Bev Stennett Christine Kroma Josephine Clarke Sciou Broderick	Dorett Sutherland Jonathan Black James Black Emmanuel Chukwurah
Altar Guild	8:00 am Marcia Noble Danielle Allen	Mardia Dennis Hawa Clemens
	10:00 am Kristin Fitzpatrick Sarah Gallagher	Shirley Allen Georgana Maines
Hospitality Angels	8:00 a.m. David Burton	Hawa Clemens
	10:00 a.m. Georgana Maines Avin Lalmansingh	Jan Hauber Ron Hauber
Flower Delivery	Esther Sawyer Adoma Baffoe	Hawa Clemens Eliane Dunn Johnson
Eucharistic Visitor(s)	Janet King	Zadinga Ogada