



CHRIST CHURCH

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN VIENNA

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
11 DECEMBER 2022

ORGAN PRELUDE

'O Gott, du frommer Gott', Partita I and II
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

HYMN 38

- 1 **Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;**
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day.'
- 2 **Wakened by the solemn warning,**
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 **Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,**
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;
- 4 **That when next he comes with glory,**
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.
- 5 **Honour, glory, might, and blessing**
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

ADVENT PROSE

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness.

- 1 Be not wroth very sore, O Lord,
neither remember iniquity forever:
thy holy cities are a wilderness,
Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and our beautiful house,
where our fathers praised thee.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness.

- 2 We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,
and we all do fade as a leaf:
and our iniquities, like the wind,
have taken us away:
thou hast hid thy face from us:
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness.

- 3 Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen:
that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord,
and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness.

- 4 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,
my salvation shall not tarry:

I have blotted out as a thick cloud
thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee:
For I am the Lord thy God,
the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness.

GREETING

In the name of the living God: Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The celebrant welcomes those in attendance.

THE COMMANDMENTS

Hear these commandments which God has given to his people and examine
your hearts. God spake these words and said:

I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt have none other gods but me.
**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image,
nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above,
or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth.
Thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.
For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God,
and visit the sins of the fathers upon the children
unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,
and shew mercy unto thousands in them that love me
and keep my commandments.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain
for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.
Six days shalt thou labour, and do all that thou hast to do;
but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.
In it thou shalt do no manner of work,
thou, and thy son, and thy daughter,
thy manservant, and thy maidservant,
thy cattle, and the stranger that is within thy gates.
For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that in them is,
and rested the seventh day:
wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it.
**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Honour thy father and thy mother
that thy days may be long in the land
which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt do no murder.
**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not commit adultery.
**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not steal.
**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house,
thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his servant,
nor his maid, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is his.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

CONFESSION

The officiant uses an invitation to confession.

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COLLECT

The celebrant prays the collect set for the day.

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² 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.
³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ 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.' ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ 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; ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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 traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 146:4-10

For when their breath goes from them *

they return a-/-gain · to the / earth:

and on that day / all their / thoughts / perish.

Blessèd is the man whose help is the / God of / Jacob:

whose hope is / in the / Lord his / God,

The God who made / heaven · and / earth:

the sea and / all / that is / in them,

Who keeps / faith for / ever:

who deals justice to / those that / are op-/-pressed.

The Lord gives / food · to the / hungry:

and / sets the / captives / free.

The Lord gives / sight · to the / blind:

the Lord lifts up / those · that are / bowed / down.

† The Lord / loves the / righteous:

the Lord cares for the / stranger / in the / land.

Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son:

and / to the / Holy / Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and / ever / shall be:

world without / end./ A-/-men.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 5:7-10

A reading from the Letter of James:

⁷ 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. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 52 (VERSES 1-5)

1 **The people that in darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been.**

2 **To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,
the gathering nations come;
they joy as when the reapers bear
their harvest treasures home.**

- 3 **For thou their burden dost remove,
and break the tyrant's rod,
as in the day when Midian fell
before the sword of God.**
- 4 **For unto us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on his shoulder ever rests
all power in earth and heaven.**
- 5 **His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the God by all adored.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:
Glory to you, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the 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. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' ⁷As 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."
¹¹Truly 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Dr. Frank Sauer, Reader-In-Training

CREED

The Nicene Creed

**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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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 and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who 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.**

INTERCESSIONS

A member of the congregation offers prayers.

PEACE

The celebrant introduces the Peace with a suitable sentence:

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN 32

- 1 **Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin-birth:
let every age adoring fall;
such birth befits the God of all.**
- 2 **Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
the Saviour, now to us displayed.**
- 3 **From God the Father he proceeds,
to God the Father back he speeds,
runs out his course to death and hell,
returns on God's high throne to dwell.**
- 4 **O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.**

- 5 **Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness glow with new-born light,
no more shall night extinguish day,
where love's bright beams their power display.**

- 6 **O Jesu, virgin-born, to thee
eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.**

EUCCHARIST

Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day

when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven

to proclaim your glory,

for ever praising you and *singing*:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.]

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts

in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

INVITATION

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Amen.

The celebrant distributes communion.

ANTHEM

Andante Cantabile from Duet no. 2. in g minor, Op. 59

Ignaz Pleyel, (1757-1831)

Dorette and Philip Nolte

HYMN 34

1 **Earth was waiting, spent and restless,
with a mingled hope and fear,
faithful men and women praying,
'Surely, Lord, the day is near:
the Desire of all the nations —
it is time he should appear!'**

2 **Then the Spirit of the Highest
to a virgin meek came down,
and he burdened her with blessing,
and he pained her with renown;
for she bore the Lord's anointed
for his cross and for his crown.**

3 **Earth has groaned and laboured for him
since the ages first began,
for in him was hid the secret
which through all the ages ran —
Son of Mary, Son of David,
Son of God, and Son of Man.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

BLESSING

The celebrant may use a seasonal blessing, or another suitable blessing:

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,

and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
...and the blessing of God Almighty
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

HYMN 569 (TUNE I)

- 1 **The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**
- 2 **The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;
and hope is awakened in place of despair.**
- 3 **The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**
- 4 **God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

'O Gott, du frommer Gott', Partita IX
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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This liturgy is taken from The Archbishop's Council 2000, *Common Worship* (London: Church House Publishing, 2000). The hymns are taken from *Ancient & Modern* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2013). Scripture reference, unless otherwise noted, are from the NRSV translation of *The Holy Bible*.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We are taking a collection during all of the services in the church building through the offering plate and through a tap and pay card reading system at the back of the church. PayPal and standing orders are also possible through our website or by contacting the church Treasurer. More information is available on our website.

Your contributions make a difference, and we are thankful for them.