



*Order of Service for*  
**The Third Sunday of Advent — December 11, 2022 — 11:00am**

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**The Reverend Judy Ferguson, Guest Celebrant  
Brandon N. Beachamp, Organist & Choirmaster**

130 First Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960  
[www.gracechurchnyack.org/parishoffice@gracechurchnyack.org/845-358-1297](http://www.gracechurchnyack.org/parishoffice@gracechurchnyack.org/845-358-1297)

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Celebrant: Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

People: *And our spirits rejoice in you.*

Celebrant: We will praise you as long as we live.

People: *We will sing praises to you our whole lives long.*

Celebrant: We will not trust in the powerful of this world,

People: *But will trust in you—Creator of heaven and earth, the One who gives food to the hungry, the One who enacts justice for the oppressed.*

Celebrant: Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God

People: *As we worship you in this place, As we light this candle in hope, peace, and joy. Amen*

Reader: A reading from Paul’s epistle to the Romans: Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God. (The Candle is lit.)*

Celebrant: Lord grant us your light that we may come to the true light which is Christ.

**HYMN IN PROCESSION**  
66

*Stuttgart*

*(All Stand)*

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One. People: *You come to your people and set them free.*

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

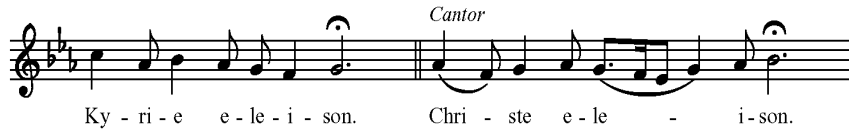
Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## KYRIE

*Frank Boles*



*All:*



## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: God be with you.

*People:*

*And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD *(Please be seated.)*

### THE FIRST READING

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.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

**CANTICLE 15**

**Antiphon**  
(sung before & after Canticle)

*Antiphon*

He that is might-y hath mag - ni-fied me: and ho-ly is his Name.

My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold from henceforth  
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me,  
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him  
throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm;  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat,  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Is-  
rael, as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.

**THE SECOND READING**

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.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL  
HYMN 272**

*The Truth  
From Above*

(Standing)

*Unison or harmony*

1 The great fore - run - ner of the morn, the  
2 With heaven - ly mes - sage Ga - briel came, that  
\*3 John, still un - born, yet gave a - right his  
4 His might - y deeds ex - alt his fame to  
\*5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and

1 her - ald of the Word, is born; and faith - ful hearts shall  
2 John should be that her - ald's name, and with pro - phet - ic  
3 wit - ness to the com - ing light; and Christ, the Sun of  
4 great - er than a pro - phet's name; of wo - man born shall  
5 God the Spi - rit, Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and

1 nev - er fail with thanks and praise his light to hail.  
2 ut - terance told his ac - tions great and man - i - fold.  
3 all the earth, ful - filled that wit - ness at his birth.  
4 nev - er be a great - er pro - phet than was he.  
5 glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: *Glory to you, O 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."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord. People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

## THE SERMON *The Rev. Judy Ferguson (Please be seated.)*

### NICENE CREED *(All stand)*

All: *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 and the Son. 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*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

Subdeacon: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for ourselves and for our ministries, and for all of our parish family as we prepare to welcome our new rector.

Lord, you have called us to serve you. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Subdeacon: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace;

That we may honor one another and serve the common good. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Subdeacon: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Subdeacon: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *Silence.*

Lord, in your mercy

*People: Hear our prayer.*

Subdeacon: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*People: Hear our prayer.*

Subdeacon: We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*People: Hear our prayer.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## CONFESSION

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. ***Silence may be kept.***

*All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.*

*We have not loved you with our whole heart;*

*we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.*

*We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.*

*For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;*

*that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

## ABSOLUTION

### THE PEACE

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you. *People: And also with you.*

***(The People are encouraged to exchange the greetings of peace with all around them.)***

### AT THE OFFERING *Sung by the Choir*

*Rorate caeli desuper et nubes pluant justum.*

*Aperiatur terra, et germinet Salvatorem:*

*Ostende nobis Domine misericordiam tuam*

*Et salutare tuum da nobis:*

*Veni Domine et noli tardare.*

Drop down ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness:

Let the earth open and bring forth a Savior.

Show us your mercy, O Lord,

And grant us your salvation:

Come, Lord, and do not delay.

Music: Francisco Guerrero (c.1527-1599)

**PRESENTATION  
HYMN  
393**



1 Praise our great and gra - cious Lord, call up - on his ho - ly Name;  
2 God has given the cloud by day, given the mov - ing fire by night;

*Maoz Zur*



raisi - ng hymns in glad ac - cord, all his might - y acts pro - claim:  
guides his Is - rael on their way from the dark - ness in - to light.

*Standing*



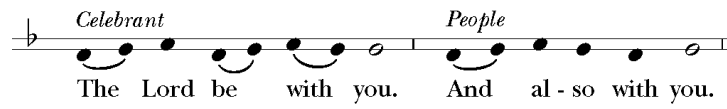
how he leads his cho - sen un - to Ca - naan's prom - ised land,  
God it is who grants us sure re - treat and re - fuge nigh;



how the word we have heard firm and change - less still shall stand.  
light of dawn leads us on: 'tis the Day - spring from on high.

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

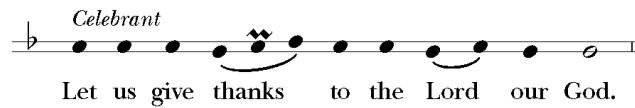
**THE GREAT  
THANKSGIVING**



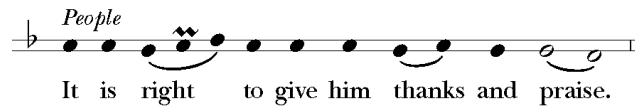
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him 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**

*F. Boles*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

*All:*



God of po - wer and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



- san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*All*

Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 - san - na in the high - est. Ho -  
 - san - na in the high - est.

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.

***The people stand or kneel.***

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,

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

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.* And now, *as* our Savior taught us to pray,



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

All:

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed  
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our  
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,  
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead  
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us  
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,  
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

*(The celebrant breaks the consecrated Host. All then sing:)*

## FRACTION ANTHEM

*F. Boles*

All:

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.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*(All who seek God are welcome to receive communion or a blessing. The congregation comes forward to receive communion while the choir sings an anthem. The choir receives after the congregation. All join in singing the hymns.)*

## ANTHEM AT THE COMMUNION *Sung by the Choir*

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green: the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile: under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

Text: From Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs, compiled by Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784

**COMMUNION  
HYMN  
640**

*Aberystwyth*

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise  
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high - er yet that star a -  
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to

are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -  
 scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its  
 dawn. Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray  
 course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone  
 are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it  
 gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav-eler, a - ges  
 hie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav-eler, lo! the

brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.  
 are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
 Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (All Stand.)**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

**All:** *Eternal God, heavenly Father,*

*you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
 and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.*

*Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with  
 gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## THE 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 for ever. Amen.

## HYMN IN PROCESSION 72

*Richmond*

*Descant*

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior  
 2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -  
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

**VOLUNTARY** Chorale Prelude on "Richmond"

Healey Willan

## DISMISSAL

Subdeacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

*The Liturgy has now ended. Let the service begin.*

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**The Rev. Judy Ferguson, Guest Celebrant**  
**Brandon N. Beachamp, Organist & Choirmaster**

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