ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH

Holetown, St. James, Barbados

TO BE A BEACON RADIATING GOD'S LOVE AMONG ALL PEOPLE

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024



Thy kingdom come, O God, thy rule, O Christ, begin;



<u>Sunday, December 12</u> 7:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon 9:15 a.m. Sung Holy Eucharist and Sermon

Rector: The Reverend Canon Beverley Sealy-Knight

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 - NOREEN COWARD
 - SHIRLEY FIELDS
 - JEREMY FORBES
 - ENA GOODING JUDITH GRAZETTE
 - SHEILA HATCH
- CHARLIE HEATH 0 YVONNE INNISS RAYN JOHNSON
- 2 MILDRED PAYNE MURA PAYNE
- 3 IOTHA RILEY
- FRANCIS ROCK 5 THELMA ROCK
- VIOLA ROCK 6
- JENNY ROUSE 6 MONA ROUSE
 - **RALPH SHEPHERD**
- 8 MICHAEL SMITH
- 8 DAISY STUART
- 9 SHARON TROTMAN
- FRANCISCA WILKIE 9
- 0 2
- 2 The St. James' Church Family would like to 3
- extend a blessed 3 welcome to all today.
- A special welcome is 4 given to our visitors.
- May this service be an 5
- inspiration to all. 6

ORGAN PRELUDE

ORGANIST: DR. PHILIP FORDE, FRCO

THE ADVENT WREATH

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

(Child lights the first two candles again)

- **CELEBRANT**: We have lit again the first two candles in our Advent wreath, to remind us of God's gifts of hope and peace. Today we will light the third candle, the candle of joy.
- **CHILD 1**: As we wait for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, we look forward to the joyful celebrations we will share with those we love. The prophet Zephaniah calls us to shout for joy, because God will transform the people. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angel told the shepherds not to be afraid. The angels brought "Good news of a great joy, which shall be to all people." The good news of Jesus' birth and the promise of Shalom are still "tidings of great joy" for us today.

CHILD 2: Light the third candle.

- **CHILD 1**: Paul tells us to rejoice in God always. The third candle reminds us of our joy in Jesus Christ.
- ALL: God of Joy, thank you for the excitement and delight we experience at this joyful time of year. Help us to share your joy with others, so that they too will be filled with your spirit. Amen

OPENING SENTENCE: ADVENT

Jesus says, "Surely I am coming soon!" Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22: 20

HYMN FOR THE INTROIT: 40

- Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long: let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.
- He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held; the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.
- He comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to bless the humble poor.
- Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim; and heaven's eternal arches ring with thy beloved name.

PRESIDENT:

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL:

And blessed be His Kingdom, now and forever. Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The following may be said by the President and people:

THE PRAYER OF INTENT

ALL:

Blessed Lord and Father, we have assembled in your name and in fellowship with one another. Enable us by your grace to offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; to proclaim and respond to your holy word. Teach us to pray for your world and your Church. Grant that we, confessing our sins, may worthily offer to you our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice and eat and drink of your spiritual food in this Holy Sacrament. *Amen*.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

ALL:

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*.

THE KYRIES

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

6

THE COLLECT: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON - ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Earlier in the chapter, the author has spoken of the failure of Jerusalem and her inhabitants to behave properly towards God. He has destroyed other nations as a warning to them. In spite of this, God will cause Gentiles to turn to his ways: they will serve him by permitting the Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem.

A Reading from the Word of God, found in the book of the prophet Zephaniah, Chapter 3, beginning at the fourteenth verse.

> 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 Word of the Lord

The people: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 9: ISAIAH 12:2-6

The First Song of Isaiah

A song of confidence and hope in God the Saviour, for the Holy One is in the midst of the people who joyfully proclaim the Lord's deeds.

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 shall be forever. Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Paul tried to finish his letter earlier, but certain concerns about the community and its members intruded. In the Greek world, rejoice was used much as we say goodbye today, but here Paul means rejoice literally.

A reading from the Word of God, written in the Epistle to the Philippians, Chapter 4, beginning at the fourth verse.

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 Word of the Lord

The people:. Thanks be to God.

HYMN FOR THE GRADUAL: 42

- On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake, and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.
- Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within; prepare we in our hearts a home, where such a mighty guest may come.

- For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward; without thy grace we waste away, like flowers that wither and decay.
- To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand; shine forth, and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.
- All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent doth thy people free, whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore.

THE GOSPEL - LUKE 3:7-18

John the Baptist travels throughout the Jordan Valley, preaching return to God's ways and adoption of an ethical way of life under God. Now he warns against being baptised without the intention to carry out its obligations. Those who behave in this way will be condemned at the end of the age.

Gospeler:	The Lord be with you
All:	And also with you
Gospeler:	A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All:	Glory to Christ Our Saviour.

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.

This is the Gospel of Christ

The people: Praise to Christ our Lord.

(NRSV)

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. of all that is seen or 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, one in 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 was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: He suffered, died and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfilment of 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 worshipped 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 INTERCESSION: FORM F

LEADER: Let us pray for the Church and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, in your love,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

LEADER: Bless and inspire all members of the clergy, especially Howard, our Archbishop; Michael, Rufus, Wilfred and John, our Bishops; Rev. Beverley, our Priest.

ALL: That their lives may be examples of their teaching, and that they may rightly and faithfully

administer your Holy Sacraments.

LEADER: Guide and protect all Heads of State and all who bear rule, especially those in this land: Sandra our (President), Mia Amor, our Prime Minister, all members of Parliament, and all persons serving in Local Government.

ALL: That our people may be godly and peacefully governed.

LEADER: Direct those who administer justice; and strengthen those who guard and protect the land.

ALL: That our people may dwell in peace.

LEADER: Reveal the common good to those in positions of public trust and to decision-makers in industry and commerce.

ALL: That freedom and dignity may prevail among us.

LEADER: Enlighten with your Spirit all places of education and learning.

ALL: That the whole world may be filled with the knowledge of your truth.

LEADER: Comfort and help all persons who are in any trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those specially listed on our Prayer List.

ALL: Help us to help them, O Lord.

LEADER: Remember our brothers and sisters, and all others who have died in your faith and fear.

ALL: Grant them peace and eternal life.

LEADER: We thank you, heavenly Father, for the witness of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour; for the holy Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles and Martyrs; and all the Saints who have been good examples in their several generations.

PRESIDENT: And finally let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

A period of silence may be kept.

ALL: Accept our prayers and intercessions, Father, according to your wisdom, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

THE ACT OF PENITENCE

PRESIDENT:

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(1 John 1: 8 - 9)

PRESIDENT:

Let us therefore confess our sins.

ALL: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and one another, in thought, word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are sorry and repent of all our sins. For your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

THE ABSOLUTION

PRESIDENT:

Almighty God, 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.

ALL: Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

PRESIDENT:

We are the Body of Christ. By the one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, and have all been made to drink of the one Spirit.

ALL:

Let us then pursue the things that make for peace and build up the common life.

PRESIDENT

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

ALL: And also with you.

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me. Let there be peace on earth The peace that was meant to be. With God as our Father Brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me Let this be the moment now. With every step I take Let this be my solemn vow. To take each moment And live each moment With peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me.

OFFERTORY HYMN: 41

- 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!'
- Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earth-bound soul arise; Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.
- 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;

- 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.
- Honour, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son, with the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS

PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE:

Father, we offer you these gifts which you have given us: this bread, this wine, this money. With them we offer ourselves, our lives, and our work, to become through your Holy Spirit a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice. As this bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, so may we and all your people become channels of your love; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

PRESIDENT: The Lord be with you

ALL: And also with you

PRESIDENT: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

PRESIDENT: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PRESIDENT:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father almighty, everlasting God:

Advent

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in Him of eternal 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

ALL:

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!

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: FORM C:

PRESIDENT:

e give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling 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 Saviour 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.

For, on the night that He was betrayed He took bread, and when He had given thanks to you, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take this, and eat it: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And 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."

PRESIDENT:

Therefore, Father, according to His command:

ALL:

We remember His death; We proclaim His resurrection; We await His coming in glory.

PRESIDENT:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, 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, made acceptable in Him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all 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 whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and ever.

ALL: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESIDENT:

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name; your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

PRESIDENT:

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

All:

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

THE 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.

THE INVITATION

PRESIDENT: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

ALL: Our souls will feast and be satisfied, and we will sing glad songs of praise to Him.

COMMUNION HYMN: 593

- I am not worthy, Holy Lord, that thou shouldst come to me; speak but the word, one gracious word can set the sinner free.
- I am not worthy; cold and bare the lodging of my soul; how canst thou deign to enter there? Lord, speak, and make me whole.

- I am not worthy; yet, my God, how can I say thee nay; thee, who didst give thy flesh and blood my ransom-price to pay?
- O come! in this sweet morning hour feed me with food divine; and fill with all thy love and power this worthless heart of mine.

HYMN FOR THE BLESSING: 652

- Jesus bids us shine with a clear pure light, like a little candle burning in the night; in this world of darkness we must shine you in your small corner, and I in mine.
- Jesus bids us shine, first of all for him; well he sees and knows it, if our light is dim; he looks down from heaven, to see us shine you in your small corner, and I in mine.
- Jesus bids us shine then; for all around many kinds of darkness in this world abound: sin and want and sorrow; so we must shine you in your small corner, and I in mine.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God and Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you and all persons in you, with gladness and singleness of heart, through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE BLESSING: ADVENT

The Son of Righteousness shine upon you, gladden your hearts, and scatter the darkness from before you; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

HYMN FOR THE RECESSION: 46

- Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for favoured sinners slain; thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ appears on earth to reign.
- Every eye shall now behold him robed in dreadful majesty; those who set at naught and sold him pierced and nailed him to the tree, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.
- Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears, cause of endless exultation

to his ransomed worshippers: with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture, gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne; Saviour, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for thine own: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

THE DISMISSAL

PRESIDENT: Go in peace and serve the Lord **ALL**: In the name of Christ. Amen

Organ Postlude

Please feel free to depart during the postlude, mindful of those who remain to listen.

OUR BIRTHDAY LIST

Our records indicate that the following members are celebrating their birthdays this week. Special greetings are extended to them.

Headley, Monica (Miss) Jordan, Branca (Miss)

Cumberbatch, Mary (Mrs.) December 19

December 18 December 21



Griffith, Jordan (Miss December 12



Sealy-Knight, Beverley (Rev.) December 16

ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH



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