

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Ministers of the Church

The People of St. Michael

Our Vestry & Staff

Zollie White II, **Senior Warden**
850-321-2817

Charlie Clark **Junior Warden, (Actg).**
850-631-0780

Renee Frazier

Cassandra J. Grayson

Lenin Mongerie

Henry Okafor

Lauren Sapp

Sheila Hickman, **Vestry Clerk**

Laureatte Scott, **Treasurer**

Kathleen Rodgers, **Financial Secretary**

Monique Alleyne, Ivana Kenny Carmola
and Debralee LaSeur-Helfand,
Organists

Chris White, **Drummer/Choral Director**

John Grayson, **LEMS Co-Ordinator**

Elizabeth Humes, **Admin .Assistant**

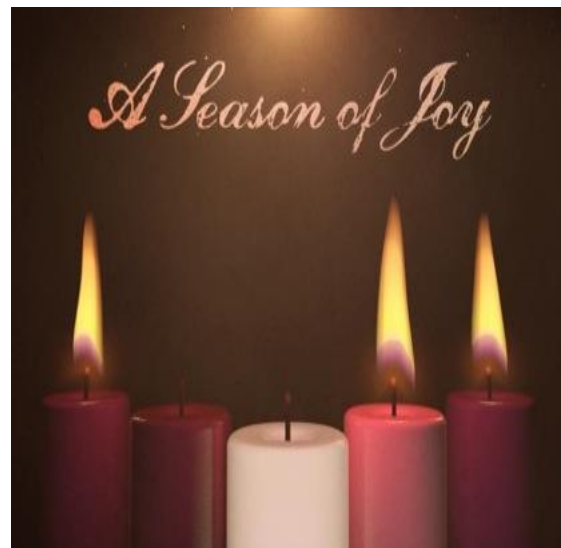
Our Clergy

The Right Reverend John Howard
Bishop – Diocese of Florida

The Reverend Hugh Chapman, **Rector**

340-513-1123

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HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE ONE

Choral Prelude

Ivana Kenny Carmola, Organist

O come, O come Emmanuel! Come to our hearts and in our presence dwell
We wait in hope for peace once again
Return to us the joy of Bethlehem
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come in love, our darkness to dispel

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn H481 vs 1 & 2, Rejoice! The Lord is King

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King: Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
2. Jesus, the Savior, reigns, The God of truth and love;
When He has purged our stains, He took his seat above;
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH

LIGHT OF JOY

Claire Wasson

Narrator: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, magi from the East came seeking Him and asked, “Where is the One Who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His Star in the East and have come to worship Him.

And the star they had seen went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, the magi were filled with joy.

In gratitude for wise men and seekers everywhere in search of Christ, we light this candle of joy.

Narrator: Hear the word of the Lord: "I will turn mourning into gladness; I will give you comfort and joy instead of sorrow. I will tell you the truth: You may weep and mourn while the world rejoices; you may grieve, but your grief will turn to joy."

For the magi of yesterday who crossed the expanse of nations, and for those today who bridge chasms of the heart, earnestly seeking the Source of everlasting joy, we give thanks.

THE WORD OF GOD

The people standing, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People: *His mercy endureth for ever.*

Amen.

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

Hear what our Lord Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it:

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: *Christ have mercy upon us.*

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: *The Lord be with you.*

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Stir up thy power, O lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

The people sit

THE LESSONS

A Reading from the Book of 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 Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah (Read responsively by whole verse)

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.

A Reading from the Epistle to the 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 Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: H59 vs 1 & 2, Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding Merton

1. Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!"
2. See, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiv'n;

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (3:7-18)

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord

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 Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee you, O Christ.

Sequence Hymn

H59 vs 3 & 4, Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

3. So, when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.

4. Honor, glory, might, dominion to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit while eternal ages run!

THE SERMON

The Rev. Fr. Rick Effinger

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: 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 FORM III (Responsively)

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Michael our presiding bishop, Samuel our Bishop, our Rector Hugh and all priests, and deacons.

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world.

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially those who are on our sick and homebound list as well as those who are in need of prayers and healing:

For those at Home:

Fr. Laughton Thomas, Rosalyn Greene, Ella Woodbury, Sam Oliver Sr., James Manning, Toni Jarmon, Rev. Leslie R. White, Rev. Ralph Griffith, Leonel Jones, Charles Walton, Joan Jackson Taylor, Howard Vincent Lewis, Franklyn Bramble, Christine Seymour, Mary Ann Nottage, Kove Lawson, Cynthia Holland, Genevie Vaughn, Harriet Bowen. Livy Hitchcock, Sheila Gonzales, Reubina Gomez, Scott Allen, Sam & Sharal Jugger and Allan Johnson.

For those in the care of the Doctor:

Joycelyn Stephens, Jo Ann Robinson, Williamae Jackson, Lauren Sapp, Dr. Derek Spencer, Marva Davis, Delores Brown, Hattie Olivia Scott, Alexis Shermise Brown, Jasmine Hartin, Shevette Newkirk, Rudolph & Marva Griffith, Delois Abraham, Stella Harris, Pamela Harris Williams, Klcey Scott, Erica Scott, Renrick Alleyne, Jeffery Adams, Mayleen Rosheuvel, Ena Mason, Darlene Sheppard, Merrick Winston Edwards, Devonia Sears, Landon Dyre, Brittany Lee, Fr. William Guthrie, Herma Watson Taylor, Fred and Sheila Hickman, Barbara Gruden, Carolyn Allen, Canon Nelson Pinder, Camilla Stapleton, Elijah Malone, Carl Maxwell, Fr. Ranfurly Brown, Al Lawson Jr., Bill Bush, Kendra Nixon, Nohemy Reid and Luann Hickman.

For those on the front lines in the fight against the Coronavirus Pandemic:

Especially all doctors, nurses, scientists, and our own, Dr. Shaun Laurie, Dr. Nwamaka Onyeozili, Dr. Ross Howard McMillan, Dr. Ciara Grayson, Dr. Alaine Sharpe, Zuri A. White and Cheston Williams.

For those in the Military:

Linzie Bogan II, Clark Bogan, Brianne Edwards, Vashti Thompson and Thandi Williams.

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs, and those of others.

Silence.

Collect for the Coronavirus Pandemic (Page 15)

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and people:

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.*

The Celebrant says

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ of Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are happy laden, and I will refresh you

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

A498, Let There Be Peace on Earth

Miller

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, family all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let us each other be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow; to take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally! Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

OFFERTORY

Organ Interlude

DOXOLOGY

A650, Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hatton

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING – prayer to be said

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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A (remain standing)

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 meet and right so to do.*

Celebrant: It is meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once satisfaction, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son and Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all benefits of his passion

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonably, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee, humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **Amen.**

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 Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep in everlasting life. **Amen**

Communion Hymn

A680 vs 1-3, Taste and See

Moore

Refrain:

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Oh, taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

2. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name.
I called the Lord, who answered me; from all my troubles I was set free. (Refrain)
3. Worship the Lord, all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that the Lord is good; in God we need put all our trust. (Refrain)

MEDITATION HYMN

Musical Interlude

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of god Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Our worship has ended.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ

People: Thanks be to God

Recessional Hymn H522 vs 1 & 2, Glorious things of thee are spoken Austria

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken formed thee for his own abode;
on the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2. See the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove;
who can faint while such a river ever flows their thirst t'assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.

Instrumental Postlude Soon and Very Soon

THE STEEPLE IS HERE!!!

Weather permitting, the new steeple could be in place soon! We are grateful for the efforts of the Junior Warden (ag) Charlie Clark and Oliver Sperry Associates our contractors.

A NEW LOOK

After the Men's Ministry completed the workday two Saturdays ago, the Rose Garden seems a whole lot different. Pass by the church and take a closer look.

STEWARDSHIP Offering

Those of us who are still to bring our stewardship contributions up to date, are asked to do so at our earliest opportunity, so we can finish the year with a flourish.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AT SMAA

Sunday December 19th – 10:00 a.m.

Service of Lessons & Music

Consecration of pledge cards

Stewardship luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following the Eucharist

Friday December 24th – 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve – Sung Eucharist

Saturday December 25th – 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day – Said Eucharist

Sunday December 26th – 10:00 a.m. Feast of St. Stephen – Said Eucharist

Please note that all of our services will be live streamed.

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

*We extend a warm welcome to our guests. Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are without a church home, we invite you to join our church family. Please sign the guest register, **include your home address, phone number and, if you would like to receive the monthly newsletter, news of special events and other happenings, please also add your e-mail address.***

***OUR VISION** is to be a cornerstone for serving the spiritual needs of the greater Tallahassee community, extending an eternal invitation to join our caring parish and to enrich the spiritual life of all people as we journey with Christ.*

***OUR MISSION** is to experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ by feeding the mind, body and spirit of our community in fellowship and service.*

HOLY COMMUNION: All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive the real and living presence of Christ in Holy Communion. To receive the Bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed. When receiving the Wine, please guide the chalice as it is offered. If you prefer, you may leave the Bread on your palm for the person administering the chalice to dip into the Wine and place on your tongue. All persons are welcome to give thanks for God's blessings at the altar rail, simply crossing your arms at the wrist with fingertips extending upward towards your shoulders.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY!



Joseph Sams III (12/18).

Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace, which passeth understanding, abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

Tired and all Done

(Another reflection shared with me). Our writer says: It does not matter how old you are, how wealthy you may be, how clever you appear to others, or even your zip code, there is sure to be moments in your life that ultimately cause you pain. For indeed, some days will prove to be more challenging than others. All of us without fail come to experience that particularly difficult trial that may cause us to throw up our hands and say, "I'm tired and done". Yes, I'm tired of heartache, pain, bitterness, betrayal, false friends, gossip, financial woes, family issues, and what passes for church these days. Don't be too hard on yourself, it is human to want to run away when our burdens are simply too heavy to bear. Sadly, for even some of us Christians, the pain, the darkness, the doubt becomes so deep seated, that we make that agonizing decision and end it all. Actually suicide is a permanent solution for a temporary problem. Will those who ultimately take their lives not see the face of God? We don't know, for God and God alone judges the hearts of his people. Here is the sad truth, those who before taking their lives, often find themselves in a dark place, thinking that there is no way out and perhaps, should seek the help from the One who cares deeply for everyone of us. I remind you that our God is a God love who truly cares for each and everyone of us, and He knows what we are going through. The psalmist David, says he is tender hearted – compassionate to those who are made to suffer in this life. The truth is, we are never alone – Joshua said – "Be strong, Be brave, Be fearless. You are never alone (Josh 1:9). When you are at your lowest, your self esteem almost gone, and the emptiness in your soul is choking the life out of you, dump those feelings. Here is what the Psalmist David did say – "weeping (sorrow, pain) may stay for a night, but rejoicing (joy) comes in the morning." Instead of feeling that you are done, trust God to hold your hand and then watch Him usher in a whole new era in your life. The apostle Paul had these comforting words for the believers at Philippi (4:5-7)" The Lord is near. Do not be anxious for nothing, but in every situation, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Fr. Hugh+

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Father, you have made all people with eyes to see you at work in the world, ears to hear you cry out when right suffers wrong, when justice is brought low. Give to the people of our nation courage to stand up for goodness and right-doing in the face of an oppressive spirit, and courage to believe we may restore, in accordance with your gracious will, a light to enlighten the nations and the people with your truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen*

Collect for the Coronavirus pandemic

Almighty God, Heavenly Healer, we bring to you all who are affected by our present pandemic; for the infirm and infected, the anxious and afraid. By your power defend us and heal us. Let us see one another not as vectors of infection, but as opportunities for love and service, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

Capital Campaign Prayer

Most gracious Lord Jesus Christ and generous source of all abundance, in gratitude we invite you to expand our hearts as we seek to increase and improve this place of worship, peace, healing, forgiveness, outreach, service and fellowship. May all who enter here be restored and strengthened on their journey of faith. Guide us Heavenly Father, that we may make manifest your vision of a beloved and enlightened church and community, and be a shining example of the living presence of the Holy Spirit. May we and our Capital Campaign be a channel of God's abundant grace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. *Amen*.

Suggested daily Readings for the Season of Advent: Dec. 13 to Dec.18.

Mon.	Isa. 8:16 – 9:1	Psalm 41, 52	Luke 22:39-53
Tue.	Isa. 9:1-7	Psalm 45	Luke 22:54-69
Wed.	Isa.9:8-17	Psalm 119:49-72	Mark 1:1-8
Thurs.	Isa. 9:18 – 10:4	Psalm 50	Matt. 3:1-12
Fri.	Isa. 10:5-19	Psalm 40, 45	Matt. 11:2-15
Sat.	Isa. 10:20-27	Psalm 55	Luke 3:1-9

Today Sunday December 12

Acolytes:

Colton Wasson, **Crucifer**

Claire Wasson, **Gospel Book Bearer**

Lectors: Margaret Edwards, Joseph Sams,
Leslie Warren.

Vestry: Charlie Clark

Organist: Ivana Kenny Carmola