Holy Eucharist

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

11:15 AM
WELCOME

TO ST. ANN & THE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
PRO-CATHEDRAL OF THE Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church is a house of worship and community commons in Brooklyn Heights. We are a friendly and welcoming church that is deeply committed to sharing God’s love, caring for creation, and serving our neighbors in need. We remain steadfast in our prayers for the safety of all God’s people in our community, our nation and the world. We are so glad you have joined us for worship!

We remain committed to protecting ourselves and the members of our community at St. Ann & the Holy Trinity. In light of the current public health guidance, mask-wearing is optional, and we encourage the following:

- Please continue to wear a mask if you feel that is best for you and others.
- Those who have recently tested positive for Covid-19, have Covid-like symptoms, or have been in contact with someone who does, are asked not to attend in-person worship.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Celebrant
The Rev. Elise A. Hanley
Preacher
The Rev. Dr. Craig D. Townsend
Assisting Priest
The Rev. Canon John E. Denaro
Lay Eucharistic Minister
Scott Parker
Crucifer
Scott Parker
First Reader
Carol Stone
Second Reader
Joy Bogle-Taylor
Intercessor
Scott Parker
Ushers
Timothy Dwyer
Barbara Gonzo
Director of Music
Gregory D’Agostino
Cantor
Todd Frizzell
Altar Guild
Claudia Barber
Liz Chidder
Winifred Murdaugh
PRELUDE  Ave Maria (Arcadelt)  Franz Liszt

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The people stand and sing.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The Hymnal 1982, #72

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes, the Savior
2 He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's
3 He comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding
4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome

promised long; let every heart prepare
bondage held; the gates of brass be
soul to cure; and with the treasures
shall proclaim; and heaven's eternal

pare a throne, and every voice a song.
fore him burst, the iron fetters yield.
of his grace to enrich the humble poor.
arches ring with thy beloved Name.
The people stand.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Celebrant Our Savior now draws near:
People O come, let us adore him.
Celebrant Come and save us, God of mercy and peace:
People Show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

Celebrant Lord, grant us your light, that we, being free from the darkness of our hearts, may come to the true light which is Christ.

People Amen.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.
People And blessed be God’s reign, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

People Amen.

KYRIE

Enriching Our Music 1, #21

Lord, have mercy.
Kyri-eleison.

Christ, have mercy.
Christeleison.

Lord, have mercy.
Kyrieleison.
COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant  God be with you.
People  And also with you.
Celebrant  Let us pray.
Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
People  Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON  2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Reader  A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader  Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People  Thanks be to God.
PSALM 89:1–4, 19–26

Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
“I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
‘I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.’”
You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
“I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.
No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.
I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.
My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.
He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 16:25–27

Reader       A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the
proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was
kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is
made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to
bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to
whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader       Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People       Thanks be to God.
1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior’s praise!

2 To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows.

3 To Israel, your servant blest, your help is ever sure;

You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.
With mighty arm you dash the proud, their scheming hearts expose.
the promise to our parents made their children will secure.

Now every land and every age this blessing shall proclaim—
The ruthless you have cast aside, the lowly throned instead;
Sing glory to the Holy One, give honor to the Word,

great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.
the hungry filled with all good things, the rich sent off unfed.
and praise the Pow’r of the Most High, one God, by all adored.
THE HOLY GOSPEL  

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The preacher invites the people to be seated.

SERMON  

The Rev. Dr. Craig D. Townsend

The people stand.

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 of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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 worshiped 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.

ADVENT PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant As we prepare for Jesus to come among us, let us offer prayers to God.
Intercessor For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ, we pray to you, O Lord:
People Come, O Lord, and save us.
Intercessor For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place, we pray to you, O Lord:
People Come, O Lord, and save us.
Intercessor For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Lawrence, Geralyn and Daniel, our Bishops, and for all bishops, priests, deacons, and all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord:
People Come, O Lord, and save us.
Intercessor For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, we pray to you, O Lord:
People Come, O Lord, and save us.
Intercessor  For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord:

People  Come, O Lord, and save us.

Intercessor  For all we hold dear and all of life’s blessings, with thankful hearts, we pray to you, O Lord:

People  Come, O Lord, and save us.

Intercessor  For deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, we pray to you, O Lord:

People  Come, O Lord, and save us.

Intercessor  For refugees, for the sick and suffering, for the hungry and oppressed, and for those in prison, we pray to you, O Lord:

People  Come, O Lord, and save us.

Intercessor  For those who have died and dwell with the saints in heaven, we pray to you, O Lord:

People  Come, O Lord, and save us.

Intercessor  Joining our voices with Mary the Godbearer and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to Christ our Lord:

People  To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant  Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People  Amen.

THE CONFESSION

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

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.

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

THE PEACE

Celebrant  The peace of Christ be always with you.

People  And also with you.
WORD OF WELCOME
OFFERTORY SENTENCE
MUSIC MEDITATION
OFFERTORY HYMN

**Wonder, Love, and Praise, #724**

1. People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look East and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.
2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow’r may flourish. People, look East and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledgling time has come. People, look East and sing today: Love the bird is on the way.
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look East and sing today: Love the star is on the way.
5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look East and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.
THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant God be with you.
People And also with you.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs of everlasting life; that when Christ 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

Enriching Our Music 1, #23

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory; Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the
The Celebrant continues

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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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 Jesus 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 Christ’s death,
    We proclaim Christ’s resurrection,
    We await Christ’s coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 Mary the Godbearer, St. Ann and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing,

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 for ever. Amen. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. At St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church, our common practice is to receive the bread in outstretched hands and drink from the cup. Intinction (dipping the bread into the cup) is not permitted. Please indicate to the Celebrant if you would like gluten-free communion bread. If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are invited to come forward and cross your arms over your chest and a priest will offer a blessing. When a priest is available, prayers for healing will also be offered.

MUSIC MEDITATION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER
(Adapted from the Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of New Zealand)

Celebrant  Let us pray.

People  God of new beginnings, you draw near to us in word and sacrament to strengthen and renew us; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit, may your light so shine through us that all may welcome your Son at his coming. We ask this in the name of Jesus Emmanuel. Amen.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Celebrant  May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People  Amen.

Celebrant  Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People  Thanks be to God.
RECESSIONAL HYMN

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and with your people always dwell
who mourn in mortal exile here
until the Lord of Life appear.
   Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
   shall come again and with us ever dwell.

2. O come, O God’s revealing Word,
your voice the Hebrew prophets heard.
They saw that one day war will cease,
and all creation be at peace.
   Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
   shall come again and with us ever dwell.

3. O come, O Wisdom from on high
who brings the truth of Adonai.
To us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in your ways to go.
   Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
   shall come again and with us ever dwell.

Your people you both taught and healed.
You trusted Abba’s love would save
and so were raised up from the grave.
   Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
   shall come again and with us ever dwell.

POSTLUDE

Variations on Freu dich sehr, O meine Seele

All are invited to the Parish Hall for coffee hour and fellowship.