

Sherwood Episcopal Church

Five Sherwood Road
Cockeysville-Hunt Valley, MD 21030

410-666-2180

sherwoodcockeysville.org

Third Sunday of Advent
10 AM

December 13, 2020
Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Watch live on our Facebook page and our website at 10 am, and on our YouTube channel after 2 pm

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Mr. Greg Seseck, Music Director

Welcome and Announcements

The Reverend Nancy H. Hennessey, Rector

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Celebrant:

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

The candles are lit.

Lector:

Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Prayer by The Rev. Matthew Kolowski:

<https://buildfaith.org/advent-wreath-prayers-liturgy-church-home/>

THE OPENING SENTENCES

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom now and forever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

Arranged by Edmund Brownless

p Lord, have mer-cy u-pon us. Christ, have mer-cy u-pon us.

Slow

The musical score consists of a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The piano accompaniment is in two staves, with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The tempo is marked 'Slow'. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer-cy u-pon us. Christ, have mer-cy u-pon us.'

Lord, have mer-cy u-pon us. *f*

The musical score consists of a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The piano accompaniment is in two staves, with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer-cy u-pon us.' The final note of the vocal line is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126

Said in unison

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

ALLELUIA



THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then

they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Nancy H. Hennessey

Following the sermon, let us pause for a period of silent reflection on God's holy word.

HYMN - 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

THE NICENE CREED

BCP pg. 358

**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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form IV, BCP, p. 388

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.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

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.
Hear our prayer.

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.

Hear our prayer.

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.

Hear our prayer.

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. We pray for all those impacted by COVID-19, and especially for those on our parish prayer list: Sally, Debbie, Shannon, Jeff & Kim, Norma, Sharon, Margaret, Ed, Laura, Joyce, Christine, Mike and his family, Kendall, Jean, Marge, Sarah, Joe, Gail, Mark, Steve W., Pam, Michelle, Joe G., Jay, Stan, Rick; David C., Ella Mae, Steve & Debbie, Jeanetta, Christina, Khalil, Charles, Samantha, Courtney, Bud, Steve S., Debbie H., Chris D., Patti and the Banister family, Danny, Allison, and Pam N.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We thank you for the blessings of this life; especially for those celebrating birthdays including Courtney and Mary.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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.

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant concludes

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. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP pg. 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept

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.

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The people greet one another virtually with a sign of God's peace.

A Special Note: Stewardship 2020-2021

Our annual Stewardship Campaign has begun. The theme this year is "Faith-Filled Generosity." Through prayer and reflection, how will you use the gifts you have been given to help our church this coming year? How will you hear the Gospel call to seek and serve Christ in all people, and respond with generosity?

You may now make your pledge online. <https://sherwoodcokeysville.org/2021-stewardship-pledge-form/>

If you are not on our mailing list and would like to pledge support to Sherwood for 2021—in time, talent and treasure, please contact Carey Mednick at sherwoodparish@gmail.com. Thank you.

We continue to do God's work and your contributions of any size make a huge difference. You may now contribute online via our website. Go here to check it out. (sherwoodcokeysville.org/give) Or if you would prefer, mail in your contribution to 5 Sherwood Road, Cokeysville, 21030. We are checking the mail regularly and depositing any checks. Thank you!

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN

Light the candle – Carl Schalk

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A – BCP pg. 361

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

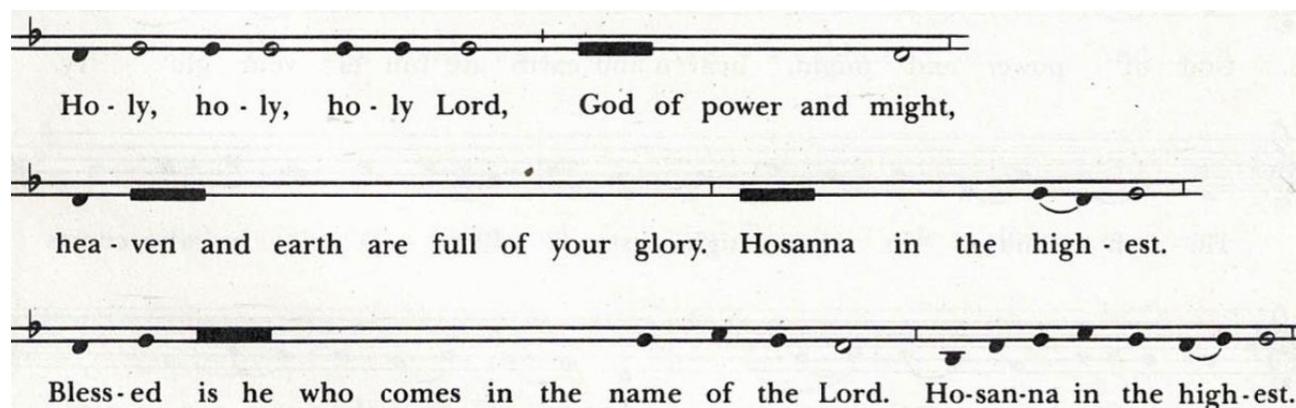
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant offers thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available in Christ, and in response the people sing:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS – S123

Setting by Howard E. Galley



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
hea - ven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The Celebrant gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's passion and resurrection and prayers over the bread and wine.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic prayer and at the conclusion says

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 forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP pg. 364

The Celebrant says

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

People and Celebrant

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Episcopal Prayer Book for the Armed Forces (1988)

Celebrant:

Let us say together the prayer for spiritual communion.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces a blessing over the People, and the People respond, Amen.

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.

3 Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain:
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken.

DISMISSAL

As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission as a congregation:

God commands us to enthusiastically cast open our doors to embrace all, impacting lives through bold service, no exceptions!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Reprise (Reflections on *E'en so, Lord Jesus*) - Paul Manz

Worship Participants from Studio Sherwood

Officiant: The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey

Music Director & Organist: Greg Sesek

Cantor: Cassidy Dixon

Lector: Greg Szymaszek

Broadcast Engineer: Anne Wismer

Thank you for joining us for our virtual worship this morning. Please be sure to check out our Facebook page for updates and also remember to subscribe to our YouTube channel. If you are interested in receiving our e-newsletter, please contact Carey Mednick at sherwoodparish@gmail.com.

This Week @ Sherwood

Saturday

Advent Bible Study via Zoom @ 9 am

Sunday

11:15 AM Walk-thru for Christmas Eve Service team

Monday

Office closed

Tuesday

Advent Bible Study via Zoom @ 1:30 pm

Wednesday

Pre-marital Counseling Parker/Carson via Zoom @ 4:30 pm

Christmas Trivia with family and friends via Zoom @ 6:30 pm

Thursday

Truth and Reconciliation Commission via Zoom @ 6 pm

Announcements

Christmas Trivia on Wednesday Night @ 6:30 pm!

Bronwyn invites you to join her and the entire Strong family for fun Christmas-themed trivia—aka Reindeer Games. All are welcome. Young and the young at heart. Invite your family and friends that are nearby or far away. Geography is no boundary when we have fellowship online!

Join Zoom Meeting for Trivia

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85438767925?pwd=MG83dE5peDJlQ2dhaW1XeExFbl dGZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 3876 7925

Passcode: 618625

Student Support Network in *The Baltimore Sun*:

Laurie Taylor-Mitchell, president of SSN, had an editorial in Thursday's *Sun*. You may [read it here](#) or [e-mail Carey](#) for a PDF. (sherwoodparish@gmail.com)

Virtual Giving Tree Donations Piling Up!

Thank you for the wonderful response we've had so far to our Virtual Giving Tree. Donations of socks, scarves, hats, gloves, mittens, and ear warmers are still needed and may be left in the bin outside of the office. If you are leaving a donation in the bin, please [email Joyce Mann](#) for pick up. All donations will go to Loaves and Fishes.

If you wish to make a monetary contribution, the check should be made out to Sherwood with "Giving Tree" in the notation line. The deadline for donations is Sunday, December 27. Please [contact Joyce Mann](#) if you have any questions.

Extra Advent Book Available:

If you're interested in reading, *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, and aren't participating in the book study, we have an extra copy in the blue bin on the parish office porch. We simply ask that you leave a \$12 donation if you choose to take it.

Flowers for Christmas:

Even though we are unable to gather in person this Christmas, we will still continue the tradition of flowers given for loved ones—in memory of or in thanksgiving for. Names will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. There are four ways to send us your names; whichever method you chose, you may mail in your check or drop it off in the blue bin on the parish office porch. Please make a note of *Christmas Flowers* on the memo line.

- 1) Mail to Sherwood @ 5 Sherwood Road, Cockeysville 21030 (Please print legibly!)
- 2) E-mail your list to [Carey Mednick](#) (sherwoodparish@gmail.com)
- 3) [Fill out this form](#) on our website (sherwoodcookeysville.org/christmas-2020-flowers/)
- 4) Leave a message on the office voicemail (Please spell out names!) @ 410-666-2180

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NAMES AND PAYMENT BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18.

Flowers may be picked up after the service on December 27.

Receiving Communion on Christmas Eve:

If you would like to participate in receiving communion on Christmas Eve, Mother Nancy will be consecrating wafers at our virtual service on December 20 to distribute to you and your family prior to our virtual Christmas Eve service. This will allow you to take in the body of Christ on Christmas Eve from your home. See pick-up dates under the Christmas bags announcement.

Christmas Bags for Our Christmas Eve Service:

In order to bring a bit of our Sherwood Christmas to your home this year, we will be distributing Christmas bags for our Christmas Eve service. The bags will include the Christmas bulletin, candle tapers for Silent Night, consecrated wafers for communion, and more. All you need to make our virtual Christmas Eve worship sacred and holy. There will be two distribution opportunities:

1. **Sunday, December 20 (11:15 am-12:15 pm)** Come for *Communion by the Red Door* and pick up your Christmas Eve bag at the same time.
2. **Wednesday, December 23 (10-11 am)** Come to Sherwood and pick up your Christmas Eve bag from Mother Nancy. Sign up is required for the 12/23 pick-up. Please call the church office and leave a message or email Carey Mednick. (sherwoodparish@gmail.com)

For those who are unable to leave their home, please speak to or email Carey and arrangements will be made to get a Christmas Eve bag to you.
(sherwoodparish@gmail.com)

Our Christmas Day Service:

Each year at Sherwood, there is a small group that gathers on Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a contemplative service in comparison to our Christmas Eve worship in all its splendor, but it is equally as moving. This year, Mother Nancy will be offering a quiet and reflective Christmas Morning service from her home to yours. Whichever Christmas 2020 service you attend (and you are welcome to attend both) may you catch the spirit of God's love that transcends all generations as we rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Creating Sacred Space at Home:

For the past several months, we have been worshipping virtually from our homes. This Christmas we will be doing the same. If you haven't done so already, prepare a space where you and your family can be a part of our community of faith for our virtual Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service. Make the space comfortable with enough chairs or space for everyone—even the family pet(s). Light candles, dim the lights, turn off the television, put away your cell phones, and create a holy and sacred area to welcome the birth of Jesus. It will be different and may feel a bit strange in comparison to Christmases past, but it is important that we keep our focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Creating a peaceful and contemplative space to help quiet our minds and open our hearts will allow us to focus on the true importance of Christmas—God's enduring love brought to us in the gift of a newborn child.