



# St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

December 17, 2017

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Called to Be... A Safe Place for All of God's People!

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All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at God's Table. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the Bread or Wine, you are welcome. Come forward and simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate your preference.

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PRELUDE                      O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Charles Callahan  
(1951- )

*Please stand as you are able until the Lessons.*

OPENING HYMN              #56 in *The Hymnal* (blue book)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel**

*Please sing stanzas 5 and 6 only*

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II** begins on page 355 in *The Book of Common Prayer* (red book).

## The Word of God

*Celebrant*                      Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People*                              **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

### THE THREE-FOLD KYRIE

*Celebrant*                      Lord, have mercy.  
*People*                              *Christ, have mercy.*  
*Celebrant*                      Lord, have mercy.

*Celebrant*                      Lord, have mercy.  
*People*                              *Christ, have mercy.*  
*Celebrant*                      Lord, have mercy.

*Celebrant*                      Lord, have mercy.  
*People*                              *Christ, have mercy.*  
*Celebrant*                      Lord, have mercy.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 LESSONS

*The people sit.*

#### **Old Testament: 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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 126**

*In convertendo*

- 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.

### **Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able for the hymn and the Gospel.*

GRADUAL HYMN            #76 in *The Hymnal* (blue book)  
**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry**

*Winchester New*

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

John 1:6-8, 19-28

*The Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John.

*People:* **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.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join in the coffee hour after the service in the Parish Hall. Exit the door on the front left of the church, the Parish Hall is the next building over.

### **HUB (*Helping Urban Bicyclists*)**

The HUB could use your financial support. Checks marked "HUB" may be mailed to the church office, 316 N El Dorado St., Stockton, CA 95202.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church**

316 N El Dorado Street  
Stockton, CA 95202

Stockton's historic Episcopal Church, founded in 1850 on land donated by Captain Weber, the founder of Stockton.

### **Part of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin**

The Rt. Rev. David C. Rice, Bishop  
The Rev. Linda Huggard, Priest  
The Rev. Steve Bentley, Deacon  
Brother Dunstan Townsend, OSB, Organist

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St. John the Evangelist on Facebook:  
www.facebook.com/stjohnstocktonca

The HUB (*Helping Urban Bicyclists*) on Facebook:  
www.facebook.com/STOCKTONHUB  
HUB Phone: (209) 663-9955  
Tues & Thurs 10:00-4:00, Wed 1:00-4:00

## Coming Events

### **Note**

Next Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 AM we will offer Morning Prayer for the Fourth Sunday in Advent.

### **Christmas Service**

At 5:00 PM on the 24<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist of Christmas Eve. Come early to join in singing carols. There will not be a service on Christmas Day.

