



## St. Francis Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025

9:30 am

**Welcome to St. Francis.** Your presence among us deepens and enriches our worship, and for that we are grateful. In this service leaflet, the people's responses are in **bold**. The time prior to the service is set aside for prayerful waiting and reflection. Please be respectful in observing silence at this time. Please silence all electronic devices. If you are a guest this morning and would like to know more about St. Francis, please fill out a visitor card in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate. The Rev. Toni Belhu would like to sit down with you for a visit. You may reach her at the church office at 828-287-3888 ext. 2 or her cell at 704-215-1882.

### PRELUDE

### THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

### Prepare the way, O Zion

Hymnal p.65



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

### Third Sunday of Advent

Leader: O Jesus Christ, Key of David, come and set your people free.  
Open the gates of heaven for us; come, deliver us from evil.

**All: King David was a mighty king who built a city long ago.  
He left a key that Jesus found in the manger hay.  
Key of David, Jesus Christ, open heaven's gates for us.**

*The first, second & third candles are lit.*

Leader: O God, as light comes from this candle, may the blessing of  
Jesus Christ come to us, warming our hearts and brightening our way.

**All: May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of this world,  
and to us, as we wait for his coming. Amen.**

#### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***People:* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, 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 Jesus 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.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

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.**

*All sit for the lessons*

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15

*The Song of Mary*

Book of Common Prayer p. 91

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

## SECOND LESSON

James 5: 7-10

A reading from the Letter of James.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

***People: Thanks be to God.***

(Verses 7-8)



(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.*

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

## THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11: 2-11

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to thee, O Christ.**

THE HOMILY

*Silence may be kept after the homily.*

The Rev. Toni Belhu

*All stand, as able*

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

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Jose our Bishop and Toni our Rector, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. Today we pray especially for **Virginia, James, Tina, Ginny, Cassandra, Bill, Lee, Kay, Erin, Rosemary, Reva, and all those on our long-term prayer list.** Are there others? (Please add the names of others either silently or aloud)

In thanksgiving we pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the coming week, especially **Mary Cox (16), Darlene Geffert (17), Missy Hughes (19), MaryAnn Joyce (20), Marshall McGowan (20), Chuck & Donna Sabolovic (16), Steve & Allison Ross (18).**

We pray for all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad especially those on our military prayer list, saying together, **Ben, Jeremiah, Daniel, David, Christopher, Daniel, Adam, Jeremy, Christian, Brendan, Will, Christopher, Nick, Chase, Hudson, Kim, Darron, Justus, Jason, Evan, Mark, and Sierra.** We pray also for their families, friends, and neighbors who await their safe return.

We pray for our sister church St. Gabriel's. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Thomas in Burnsville. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil.

We pray for our missionaries and their work in the world, for **Russ and Heidi Smith in Chile and John and Zsófi Wilson in Hungary.**

We pray for St. Francis Day School, and for its students and teachers and their families, that they may grow in stature and wisdom, and in the knowledge and love of your grace and truth.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Francis of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN  
*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Book of Common Prayer p. 330

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept.*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against thee  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in thy will,  
and walk in thy ways,  
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

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 our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

THE PEACE

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

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

*The ministers and people greet each other in the name of the Lord.*

***ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD.***

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*All stand, as able*

## THE OFFERTORY HYMN

Soon and very soon

LEVAS p. 14

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —  
2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —  
3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —  
4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —  
2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —  
3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —  
4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King,  
2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King,  
3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King,  
4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King,

— Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, — we're goin' to see the King!

1. 2. 3. 4.  
— Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu -

— jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

All stand, as able, as the offering is presented, singing together the Doxology.

## THE DOXOLOGY

**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.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – Eucharist Prayer I

*The people remain standing.*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

***People:* It is meet and right so to do.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is very 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.

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting 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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

## THE SANCTUS

Hymnal p. S-129

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. \_\_\_\_\_

*The people kneel or stand.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

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 offered, 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 in 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 my 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, of 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 our 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 other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, 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 hath 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*Celebrant:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People:* Therefore let us keep the feast.**

AGNUS DEI

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.**

*The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer*

**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.**

#### ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

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.

*To receive communion, come to the communion rail. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or, if you wish, you may hold one finger up to indicate to the priest you would prefer intinction.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please make your need known to the priest.*

*If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please join in the movement to the communion rail and cross your arms over the front of your chest. If you do not wish to receive the wine, after receiving the bread, please cross your arms over the front of your chest. This will alert the ministers of your wishes.*

1. I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - scen things a - bove,  
2. I love to tell the sto - ry, For those who know it best

1. Of Je - sus and His glo - ry, Of Je - sus and His love.  
2. Seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing To hear it, like the rest.

1. I love to tell the sto - ry, Be - cause I know it's true;  
2. And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

1. It sat - is - fies my long - ings As noth - ing else would do.  
2. 'Twill be the old, old sto - ry That I have loved so long.

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'Twill be my theme in glo - ry.

To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and His love.

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! — O what a  
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, — Vi - sions of  
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, — I in my

1. fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! — Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of  
 2. rap - ture now burst on my sight; — An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -  
 3. sav - ior am hap - py and blest; — Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

1. God, — Born of His spir - it, washed in His blood. —  
 2. bove — Ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. —  
 3. bove, — Filled with His good - ness, lost in His love. —

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, — Prais - ing my

sav - ior all the day long; — This is my sto - ry, this is my

song, — Prais - ing my sav - ior all the day long. —

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen  
 2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy  
 3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not  
 4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the  
 word of grace, in strength of which we  
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with  
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.  
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.  
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.  
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1845), alt. Music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876). Copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

THE BLESSING

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

## THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

**LONG TERM PRAYER LIST:**

John, Ruth, June, Lyn, Fran, Oscar, Kelly, Bruce, Bobby, Brannon, Walt, Gwen, Gary, Sharon, Keith, John, Roger, Jerri, the Bryant family, Megan, Buffy, Sydney, Jerry, Daniel, Linda, Justin, Brenda, Johnny, Lyn, Corinne, Charles, Randy, Sid, Paula, Annie, Veronica, Jenn, Shawn, Josephine, Barker, Jack, Andrea, Rebekah, Kim, Gary, Betty, Jim, Marsha, Wayne, Dasha, Malisha, Shawna, Deborah, Shaun, Jeff, Willa, John, Jenn, Cindy, Susie, Jacob, Wanda, Tony, Alex, the Hass family, Denise, Gary, Regina, Kerry, Richard, Bruce, Daniel.

**Worship Leaders  
9:30**

Usher – Allison Ross  
Greeter – Don Corry  
1<sup>st</sup> Lesson – Ben Hopkins  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson – Mary Ann Joyce  
Chalicerist – Nancy Bole  
Acolyte – Rebecca Melton  
Vestry Lock Up – Don Corry  
Camera – Kathy Demas  
Children’s Church – Linda Tribou,  
Anita Quinley  
Fellowship – Anne & Richard Stanley  
Safety – Ronnie Martin

**Worship Leaders for next Sunday  
9:30 am**

Usher – Steve Ross  
Greeter – Michael Hammond  
1<sup>st</sup> Lesson – Paula Hammond  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson – Barbara Locricchio  
Chalicerist – Ben Hopkins  
Acolyte – Walt Joyce  
Vestry Lock Up – Tim Turner  
Camera – Rob McDaniel  
Children’s Church – Linda Tribou,  
Allison Ross  
Fellowship – Liz Segers  
Safety – Stephen Williams

**Saint Francis Episcopal Church**

408 North Main Street  
Rutherfordton, NC 28139  
828-287-3888

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*Parish Administrator:* Kathryn McGowan  
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*Organist:* Steven Noll  
*Sexton:* Debbie Hamrick  
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