



GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

Welcome to "Voices of Grace", our virtual worship experience that features parishioners leading worship from their own homes.

We hope you join us from yours! Wherever you are, we pray for your health and well-being. God bless you!

Jonathan+

**DECEMBER 13, 2020 ~ THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:
GAUDÉTE**

VOICES OF GRACE "VIRTUAL" WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen *from* 11 Chorale-vorspiele, Op. 122

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

HYMN 76

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: Winchester New, melody from Musicalisches Hand-Buch, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.; St. 5 harm. T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953); Descant: Vincent Edwards (b. 1968)

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Read by Angelo Yengbeh

THE ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS

Sung by the Choir

ADVENT III

*Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true:
 to you be praise and glory for ever!*

Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth
 as a burning and shining light.
 May we your servants rejoice in his light,
 and so be led to witness to him
 who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom,
 Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.
 Blessed be God for ever.

*Words: from The Promise of His Glory, 1990
 Music: Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)*

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Read by Anne Finelli

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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 126

Said by all

Led by Joseph Berryhill

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

ANTHEM

THIS IS THE RECORD OF JOHN, when the Jews sent priests and Levites
from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?
And he confessed, and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ.
And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
And he said, I am not. Art thou that Prophet? And he answered, No.
Then said they unto him, What art thou?
that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What say'st thou of thyself?
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Make straight the way of the Lord.

Words: John 1:19-23

Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

THE SECOND LESSON

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Read by Raymond Finelli

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

THE HOMILY

The Rector

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Led by Tim Fallon

Please join in responding to each petition saying:

Hear our prayer.

ANTHEM

THEN SHALL THE EYES OF THE BLIND BE OPENED, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Words: Isaiah 35:5-6; 40:11

Music: from Messiah, Part the First, HWV 56, George Frederic Händel (1685-1759)

THE BLESSING

The Rector

The music for this service was recorded by the Grace Church Quintet with guest soloist, Christopher Lowrey, Counter-tenor.



THE COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: GAUDÉTE

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.*

~ PRAYER LIST ~

This week, we pray for: *Miriam Ganache, Ricky Birkes, Yran, Amana, Jacqui, Hope Brothers, Eli, Michael Tonry, Sue and Kevin Farley, Barbara Salisbury, Nancy Ducharme, Pat, Linda, Nyree, Brian, Tony McKeown, Sarah, Diana, Ruby, Lola, Jennifer, Art McGovern, Rob Compagna, Sean, Claire, Amanda, Jerry, Nancy, Nick, Richard and Christine Pelletier, Bill, Jen & Marc, Sarah, Robert Cramer, for the repose of the souls of John and Anne Sullivan, and all those caring for the sick, those seeking treatments and vaccines for the virus, and all those whose work places them in harm's way. We also pray for those members of our church who are homebound.*



GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

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