



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2019

8 am

ST. DUNSTAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to St Dunstan's! We are glad you are here!

*If you are new, or would like to update your information, please fill out a pew card.
And please join us for coffee and fellowship immediately following the service.*

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*The congregation is invited to observe silence during the prelude,
out of respect for those who are listening, and as an opportunity for prayer, meditation, and healing.*

Prelude Hymn preludes on *Winchester New* and *Merton*

*Flor Peeters, Healey Willan,
and Gerre Hancock*

Priest **B**lessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Priest **A**lmighty 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.**

People **H**oly God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

The Collect of the Day *The people stand or kneel.*

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest 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.**

Isaiah 35:1–10

The prophet envisions a time of abundance and healing for Israel. As when the people were led out of Egypt into the promised land, so this new return will be in the power of God. Retribution will fall upon the Lord's enemies, but there will be water in the wilderness for the redeemed. The prophet foretells an age when the blind and deaf, the lame and dumb will be healed.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9 *Lauda, anima mea*

A hymn of praise to the Lord, who forms the world and rules in justice, who heals and cares for the needy.

- 4 **H**appy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

James 5:7-10

An exhortation to patient expectation in preparation for the coming of the Lord. One may learn from the farmer, who must wait for the crop to ripen, or from the prophets who bore suffering with patience. Such endurance excludes a grumbling blaming of one another. The Lord will come soon.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 11:2–11

Jesus responds to a question from John the Baptist about his mission and then describes John's ministry. Jesus' answer to John's question suggests that people must make up their own minds about his role while observing the healings that are taking place in accordance with ancient prophecies. Those who hear Jesus are also to recognize that John is a prophet and more: he is the one who prepares for the Lord's coming.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Serenity Prayer

**God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.**

The Sermon

After the sermon a brief silence is kept.

The Rev. Marcia M. Lockwood

The Nicene Creed *All Stand.*

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 worshipped 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 *The people stand or kneel.*

Leader In joy at the nearness of the Christ, let us offer our prayers to God.

May the power of God's holy presence clear a path through the rubble of broken lives and hearts to make our world and each of us a new creation. We pray to the Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader May our gracious God always console and comfort us, nourish our deepest hungers, and guide us in ways of justice and peace. We pray to the Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader May we find in the deserts of our lives a new Jordan, a stream of blessing that bears forgiveness, refreshment and joy. We pray to the Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader For the people of St. Dunstan's and St. Andre's, for Mary our Bishop, Lucinda our Bishop-Elect, and all who do ministry near or far; may the God of John the Baptist raise up holy prophets in our midst, voices to challenge us to greater integrity and truthfulness. We pray to the Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader May the God who is our comfort hear the cries of all in need especially: We pray to the Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader May the God who is our future hold those who have died in the embrace of faithful love. Together may we see new heavens and a new earth. We pray to the Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for St. Dunstan's, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Priest We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

People **M**ost 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.

The Absolution

Priest 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 *All stand.*

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people exchange the peace with one another.

Announcements *All are seated.*

Prayer for a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant **N.** as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Offertory

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Priest All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Priest It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your 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 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:

People **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The people stand or kneel.

Priest 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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 Lord 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."

Priest After supper he 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory**

Priest And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 for ever. **AMEN.**

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

People **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 Priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Priest **A**lleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **T**herefore let us keep the feast. **A**lleluia!

Priest 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 the Holy Communion.

The bread is received in the open palm. The wine, if desired, may be taken from the cup by drinking (guide the chalice gently to your lips by the base) or by dipping the bread.

Those who do not wish to receive Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.

If you have a wheat sensitivity, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Priest Let us pray.

People **E**ternal God, heavenly Father,

you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Priest **L**ife is short.

Henri-Frédéric Amiel (1821-1881)

And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts
of those who travel the way with us.

So be swift to love.

Make haste to be kind.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Priest In the name of God and this congregation, I send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts, and pray that those to whom you go, may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many, are one because we share one Bread and one Cup. In Christ's name. **Amen.**

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant: The Rev. John Saville

Preacher: The Rev. Marcia M. Lockwood

Lay Server: Mac Moss

Lector: Anne Proctor



*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Julie & John Tomlin in thanksgiving for their four grandchildren*

*St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church celebrates
God's diverse creation and strives to build an inclusive community that welcomes everyone,
no matter age, gender, sexual identity, culture, ethnicity, economic status, or ability.*

Dedicate Christmas Flowers

Remember, celebrate, and give thanks while filling the church with flowers for Christmas. Suggested minimum donation is \$20.



Sign up on the Welcome Table

Help us know you by

Filling out a Pew Card

If you are visiting us, are new to Saint Dunstan's, or if your contact information has changed, please fill out a Pew Card and drop it in the collection plate. Thanks!

Sign up today to receive

St. Dunstan's weekly eNews

Getting weekly news, links to sermons, updates, and schedules is as simple as visiting stdcv.org/subscribe and entering your email address.

common thread

spirit, music, food, drink, community

Now the Second Friday each month,
6 pm in Carlyle Hall

**Friday,
January 10**



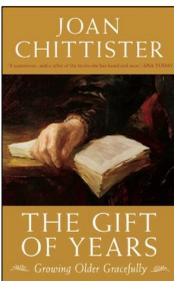
Attention Ministry Leaders 2019 Ministry Reports Due January 2

Our Annual Parish Meeting is Sunday, January 19. In order for your ministry report to be included, it must be submitted no later than Thurs, January 2. (No penalty for early submission!)

Please email your report as an editable document to [office\(at\)stdcv.org](mailto:office(at)stdcv.org).

The office can also email you a copy of your report from last year, if that would be helpful.

Sunday Morning Class 9 am in the Outer Office



The Sunday group has selected The Gift of Years: Growing Old Gracefully, by Joan Chittister, for our next book discussion.

We invite you to join us for discussion on Sunday mornings between services at 9 am in the rector's outer office.



*We've had pie! We've had cake!
Now it's time to Share your favorite
Christmas Cookie recipe!*

Bring a batch of cookies to the church Fri, Dec 20, 9 am-noon or Sat., Dec 21, 10– 2 pm. Cookies will be sold in mix and match dozens for \$10 that Sunday, just in time for Christmas day!

Proceeds benefit the kitchen remodel.
Sign up on the welcome table.

Miss Morning Prayer?

For the three Wednesday 10 am services during Advent (Dec. 4, 11, 18) we will be using Morning Prayer for the Liturgy of the Word before continuing with the Great Thanksgiving. We will also consider some of the great words for Advent; **WATCH, WAIT, PREPARE, EXPECT, HOPE**

Weekly Bulletins available electronically

Whether you want to save the environment by using less paper, like the idea of reading on your device, want to see what's coming up or what is past, our weekly worship bulletins are available as a PDF online at stdcv.org/bulletins



Youth & Family Programs

Nursery: (infant—early preschool)

Located inside the church hall, our Light and Love program is a space where infants and younger children can participate in creative activities while their parents experience the 10 am service.



Sunday School: (Preschool—5th Grade)



Using the Godly Play curriculum which is based on Montessori principles, Godly Play allows children to explore their own innate

spirituality through engagement with stories from the bible. The children rejoin their parents in church to participate in communion together. Sundays 10 am in Carlyle Hall.

Youth Group: (6th—12th Grade)

Saturday, Dec 21

Baking cookies at church; 10 - 2 pm

Sunday, Dec 22

Cookie Sale!; 11 am

Sunday, Jan 5

Epiphany potluck and service; 5 pm

For more information, contact our Family Ministry Coordinator at [elizabeth\(at\)stdcv.org](mailto:elizabeth(at)stdcv.org)



Epiphany Service & Potluck

Sunday January 5th

5 pm

Bring your favorite dish to share.
Drinks and Kings cake dessert provided

Deadline for eNews, Bulletin

Items for our eNews and Sunday Bulletin should be submitted to [office\(at\)stdcv.org](mailto:office(at)stdcv.org) by midnight Monday.

Any items to be published in the bulletin Dec 29 & Jan 5 are due Dec 16. There will be a special edition of the eNews on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Keeping our friends warm

The Women's I-HELP would like your help in keeping homeless women a little warmer this winter. We are asking for hats, gloves or scarves to be handed out as gifts at our December 21st dinner. There will a box marked I-HELP WOMEN outside of the office for donations. Thank you in advance.



Giftng Tree Update

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners the lower part of our "Giftng Tree" is already adorned with sparkling ornaments.

The tree will be on display through December 22nd and we hope by then the whole tree will be decorated.

The person receiving the card that indicates a \$50 donation has been made in her name as a Christmas, birthday, memorial, anniversary, or thank you remembrance will know that a St. Andre's student will receive a nutritious lunch throughout the school year

Christmas at St. Dunstan's

Christmas Eve 3 pm* • 5 pm • 8 pm
*especially child friendly

Christmas Day 10 am

All Christmas Eve services will feature favorite Christmas music by candlelight.
Come at 4:30 for carol singing.



Have Your Picture Taken Today

Rev. Marcia will be in the breezeway after church today to take pictures for our parish directory. If you are not already pictured there or if you need an updated picture, stop by for a quick snap.

In our prayers this week. . . .

Andrew, J.J., Richard, Cora, Ross, Ida, Victoria, David, Jan, Cecily, Brad, Jeanne, Yolette, Fran, Nancy, George, Chuck, Bill, Lawrence, Jack, Joanie, Sarah, Lauren, Michael, Clare, Mel, Bob, Roz, Maureen, Ann, Tom, Michael, Kent, Jim

For the repose of the souls

Barbara Hill, Dick Merrill

THIS WEEK AT ST DUNSTAN'S

PARISH OFFICE OPEN TUESDAY—FRIDAY, 9 AM—1 PM

Sunday, December 15

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
9:00 am Sunday Morning Class
10:00 am Sunday School & Holy Eucharist
11:30 am Finance Committee Meeting
7:00 pm AA

Monday, December 16

Tuesday, December 17

11:00 am Staff Meeting
5:00 pm St. Dunstan's Foundation Mtg
7:30 pm AA

Wednesday, December 18

10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Healing
11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
4:30 pm Haiti Team Meeting

Thursday, December 19

4:00 pm I-Help (meal by St. Dunstan's)
Vestry Meeting

Friday, December 20

6:00 pm Common Thread

Saturday, December 21

10:00 am Great Cookie Bake (kitchen)
4:00 pm I-Help Women (St. Dunstan's)

Sunday, December 22

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
9:00 am Sunday Morning Class
10:00 am Sunday School & Holy Eucharist
11:30 am Christmas Cookie Sale
7:00 pm AA

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Cindy Poole	16 Bob Young	24 Taylor Hawthorne
2 Gigi McWilliams	19 Chandler Clark	25 Joanie Webb
4 Mel Blevens	20 Linda Keill	28 Reed Cripe
4 Charlie Rose Talley	22 Jennifer Lama	30 Sylvia Shattuck
5 Nancy Green	22 Jeanne Polaschek	
10 Gus Hawthorne	22 Aleksander Simpson	



WE HOPE YOU FIND YOURS HERE

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

WHAT WE ARE FOR

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone’s own spiritual journey. God’s friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life’s rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life’s challenges. A “user-friendly” church experience. Children, youth and families. We believe that God is love, and we pray that God will use us to spread that love.

WHAT WE ARE AGAINST

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don’t always avoid these!)

WHAT WE VALUE

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God’s creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

WELCOME!

Originally written by the people of St. Bartholomew’s, New York, this statement has been modified for our use with their permission.

St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church

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