



Welcome to Christ Church

December 13, 2015

Advent 3: Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath



*All Service Notes: The 10:15 Service is in the leaflet. Hymns are in the larger blue books. Prayer List is on the stand. **Welcome materials** are on the back table. Each Sunday we light one more candle on the **Advent Wreath** marking the four Sundays.*

10:15 a.m. Family Eucharist, Rite II

Prelude

59 Processional Hymn (in the Blue Hymnal Book)

Leader: (Welcome) Blessed be God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier

People: **And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

(and together) 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.

S96 Kyrie (sung together)

Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy, have mercy.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: 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**

A Reading (Lesson) from the Book of Zephaniah 3:14-20 *(the congregation may be seated)*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



Ring out your joy, in-hab-i-tants of Zi-on; the Ho-ly One of Is-ra-el is in the midst of you.

Canticle 9

Surely, it is God who saves me; * *I will trust in him and not be afraid.*

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, * *and he will be my Savior.* [antiphon]

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing * *from the springs of salvation.*

And on that day you shall say, * *Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;* [antiphon]

Make his deeds known among the peoples; * *see that they remember that his Name is exalted.*

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, * *and this is known in all the world.* [antiphon]

A Reading (Lesson) from Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people **People: Thanks be to God.**

609 Gradual Hymn (*Before Gospel vss. 1 & 2, after 3 & 4*) (*please all stand*)

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke 3:7-18 (*Glory to you, Lord Christ*)

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord **People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Homily Jane Hale (*all may be seated*)

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.

A Litany for Peace *(Lay reader and congregation standing preferred, or kneeling/sitting)*

Giver of Life and Love, you created all people as one family and called us to live together in harmony and peace. Surround us with your love as we face the challenges and tragedies of gun violence. For our dear ones, for our neighbors, for strangers and aliens, and those known to you alone, Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

God of Righteousness, you have given our leaders, especially Barack, our President, and Dannel, our Governor, the members of Congress, the judges of our courts and members of our legislatures, power and responsibility to protect us and to uphold our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. For all who bear such responsibility, for all who struggle to discern what is right in the face of powerful political forces, Loving God, **Make us instruments of your peace.**

God of Compassion, we give you thanks for first responders, for police officers, firefighters and EMTs, and all those whose duties bring them to the streets, the lobbies, the malls and the homes where the carnage of gun violence takes place day after day. Give them courage and sound judgment in the heat of the moment and grant them compassion for the victims. For our brothers and sisters who risk their lives and their serenity as they rush to our aid, Loving God, **Make us instruments of your peace.**

Merciful God, bind up the wounds of all who suffer from gun violence, those maimed and disfigured, those left alone and grieving, and those who struggle to get through one more day. Bless them with your presence and help them find hope. For all whose lives are forever marked by the scourge of gun violence, Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

God Who Remembers, may we not forget those who have died, more than 30,000 this year, in the gun violence that we have allowed to become routine. Receive them into your heart and comfort us with your promise of eternal love and care. For all who have died, those who die today, and those who will die tomorrow, Loving God, **Make us instruments of your peace.**

God of Justice, help us, your church, find our voice. Empower us to change this broken world and to protest the needless deaths caused by gun violence. Give us power to rise above our fear that nothing can be done and grant us the conviction to advocate for change. For your dream of love and harmony, Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

Let us also pray for our own needs and those of others.

For ... *(read names from the intercession sheet)*

And for those in the Armed Forces but especially for Angela, Dan, Jeff, Ken, Tom, Doug, Joel, Jed, Micah, Bill, Tim (and any others written in)

We thank you, Lord, for those celebrating birthdays... *Tim Apicelli, Charles Paul (see sheet also)*

For those celebrating anniversaries... *(see sheet)*

We pray for all who have died... *(see sheet)*

All this we pray in the name of the One who offered his life so we might live. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God. **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

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

Offertory Music *(the ushers pass the collection)*

Offertory Presentation (380 verse 3) *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

The Holy Eucharist: Prayer B *(sung opening)*

S120 *Celebrant:* The Lord be with you. *People:* **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts. *People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People:* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues..... It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin, 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.

S130 *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 (repeat)*

.... 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." 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People: **We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;**

..... 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 our loved ones and 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, **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

S156 **Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast.**

8 Children's Entrance Hymn

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Hymns during Communion (324, LEVAS 14) *(all are invited to communion)*

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (optional): Friends in Christ we send forth our visitors bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom they go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. **For though we are many, we are one body.**

Thanksgiving Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

Celebrant and People: **Eternal God, 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.**

Blessing followed by sung AMEN

Announcements

57 **Recessional Hymn**