



# CHRIST CHURCH

PORTOLA VALLEY & WOODSIDE

## WELCOME!

Welcome to Christ Church - the Episcopal Church in Portola Valley  
The Rev. Beth Phillips, Rector  
Lauren Wittine, Director of Music

This service is a live interactive service on Zoom.

Please change your screen name to your preferred name.

You are welcome to watch it with or without your own video on,  
but those who are reading are asked to turn their screen on during that portion.  
(If you simply want to watch, the service is available on our YouTube page).

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**We will begin with a musical prelude in a few moments.**





**CHRIST CHURCH**  
PORTOLA VALLEY & WOODSIDE



# Third Sunday of Advent

**Welcome!**

**December 13, 2020**

**Prelude**

My Lord, What a Morning

*Robert Lau (b. 1943)*

**Lighting of Candle(s)** *After the prelude and before the opening hymn, an acolyte lights a candle in place of the candles we light each week on the altar and says*

Acolyte We light the first candle of Advent – the candle of Hope -to remind us of the hope that Jesus brought into the world.

We light the second candle of Advent – the candle of Love – to remind us of God’s love for us and manifested in Jesus.

We light the third candle of Advent – the pink one – the candle of Joy – to remind us of the joy that came into the world through Jesus and that even during the darkest of times that can be joy.

## Opening Hymn #56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

*While on mute, please join in singing:*



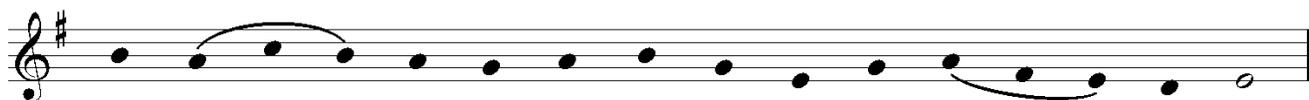
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.



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

## Opening Acclamation

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

## Confession of Sin

Officiant Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.  
*Hebrews 4:14, 16*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**People** **Most 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.**

Officiant 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.**

## Kyrie Eleison

Officiant Lord have mercy.

**People Christ have mercy.**

Officiant Lord have mercy.

## The Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray,

Officiant 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 forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lesson – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

Reader A reading from Isaiah.

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 Here ends the reading.

## Psalm 126

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.

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

**Reader** A reading from First Thessalonians.

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.

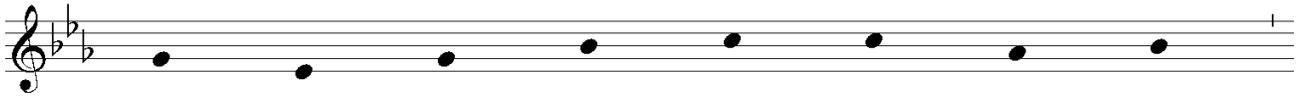
May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

**Reader** Here ends the Epistle.

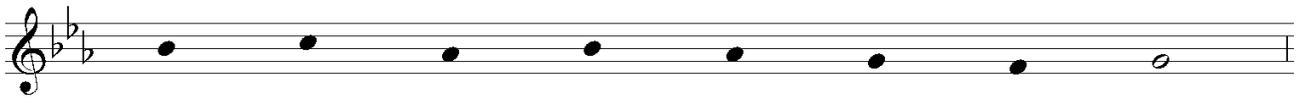
# Sequence Hymn #60

Creator of the stars of night  
*Intro and outro by Richard Warner*

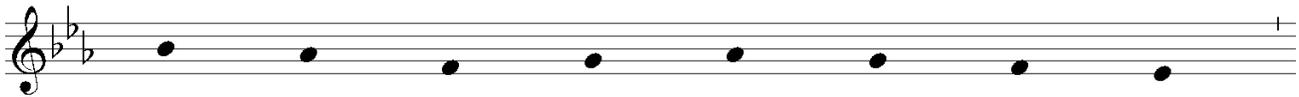
*While on mute, please join in singing:*



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse  
3 When this old world drew on toward night,  
4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now  
5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,  
\* 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;  
6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free  
3 not as a mon - arch, but the child  
4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 we pray you hear us when we call.  
2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.  
3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.  
4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

## **The Gospel – John 1:6-8, 19-28**

**Celebrant** The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**People** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**Celebrant** 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.

**Celebrant** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon** The Rev. Beth Phillips

## **A New Nicene Creed**

*Although this will be read by one person, you are invited to say the creed aloud at home while on mute.*

We believe in God,  
the creator of all life and beauty,  
who blesses our journey.

We believe in Jesus Christ,  
who lived as a friend and savior  
to all he met as he traveled,  
and who ate and laughed,  
wept and celebrated  
with them in love.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who rides on the gentle breeze,  
who strengthens our bindings,  
and who offers hope eternal.

We believe in the church,  
which stands open to all travelers,  
and bears witness to the everlasting love of God.  
Amen.

*You are invited to unmute yourself and join in the Prayers of the People. If the tech moderator mutes you, then it is because there is an echo or background noise that you may not be able to hear.*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (from *Intercessions for the Christian People*, p. 38 and 109)

Leader: During this season of Advent, let us offer our prayers to God, saying: *Lord, have mercy.* That our gracious Savior may rouse us from our sleep and make us attentive to the nearness of his presence, let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader That we may discover God's word in every sound of this world and God's love in every gesture of self-sacrifice among us, let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader That divine energy and holy grace may bring our hearts to vigilance and make us see with uncovered eyes the Christ who suffers in his people's agonies, let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader That we may come to recognize in our holy community gathered for prayer that Jesus the Christ is with us to make our songs of praise and pleading his own. We pray especially for *Deke Hunter, George Mallinckrodt, Paul Seipp, Hayley Bakken, Juliana Palazzolo, Bruce Beekley, Andrea Kohler, Sarah McAdam, Wendy McAdam, Tricia Suvari* who are celebrating their birthdays or anniversaries this week, let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader That God's coming into the days and years of our human history may always be new, always brimming with light to drive all darkness away, let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader That there be peace in the world, and a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader For all who have commended themselves to our prayers, among them *the Condon family, Amy Tribble, Ashley, Stephen Placido, Kaethe Langs, Ken Garrett, and Alexander Morse* and those we now name either silently or aloud (*pause*); that they may live in joy, peace, and health, let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader For all who have died, among them *Debra Ferguson, Owen Taylor, Bernard Spilsbury (father of Penny McCulloch), Ruth Smith, Patricia Fouquet, John Wilson, Herta Gross, Raymond Russom, James Dorsey* and those we now name either silently or aloud (*pause*); that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

*Celebrant Make ready our hearts for your coming, O Lord, and receive our prayers in the name of the one who comes, our gracious Savior, Jesus the Christ.*

*All Amen.*

## **The Peace**

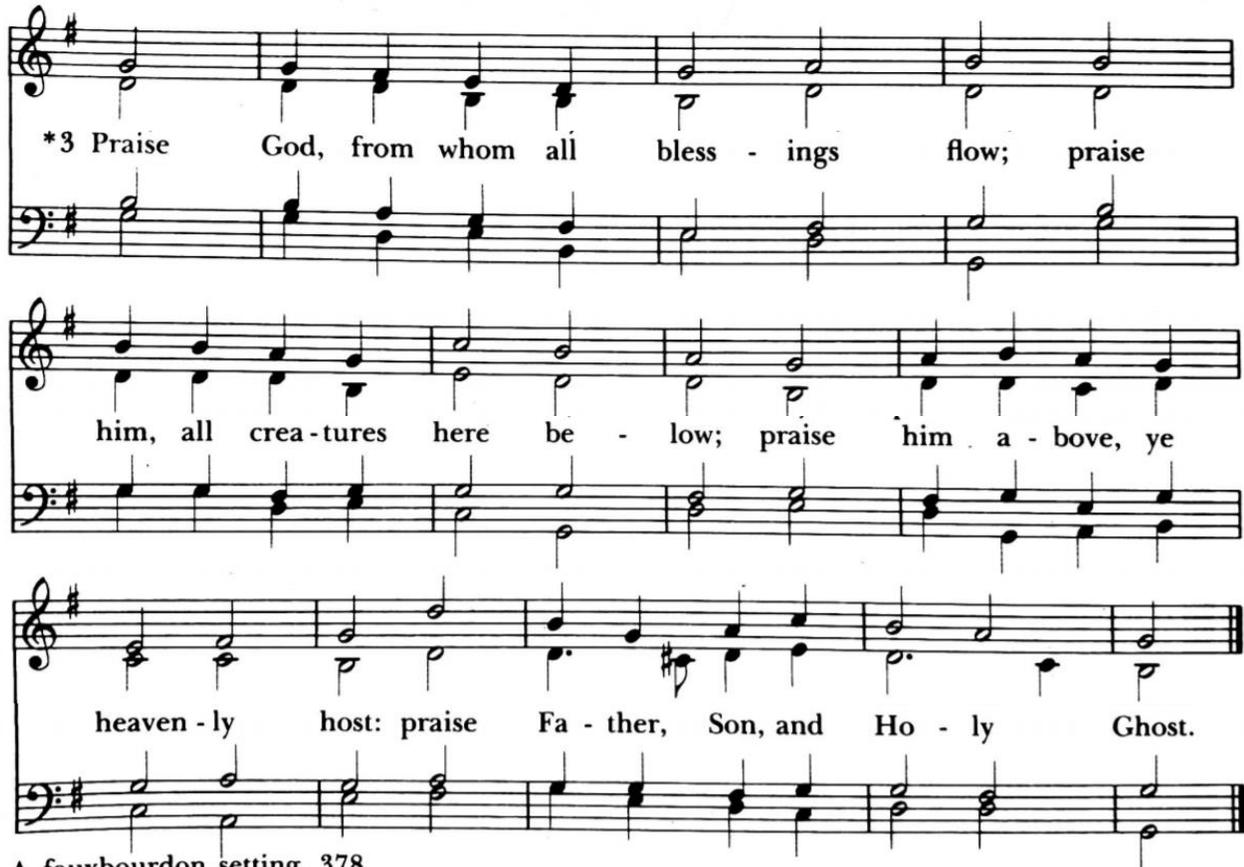
Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

## Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

*While on mute, please join in singing:*



\*3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

A fauxbourdon setting, 378.

## Transferring the Consecrated Gifts

### The Prayer of the Presanctified Gifts

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly,  
ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, hea-ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high -  
est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Officiant O God of creation, you are always with us,  
you blow among us, you unite us in your love;  
and so we praise you and we bless you.

**People We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, God most high.**

Officiant You son Jesus finds each separate heart,  
he gathers us together, he welcomes us all  
into communion; and so we praise and bless you.

**People We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, God most high.**

Officiant Your beloved community has met in prayer  
To reveal Christ in this bread and wine;  
And now we meet once more to praise and bless you.

**People We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, God most high.**

Officiant Show us gathered here that we too are Christ's body joined to all your human family throughout the ages in your love. Feed us, inspire us, fill us with Christ's life, that we may fill our lives with you. Make this sharing radiant with your presence and send us out into the world to shine forth your truth to all. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Officiant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**All 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.**

## Communion

Officiant Holy things for holy people.

**People One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ  
to the glory of God our father.**

*Everyone shares the bread. When all have received, any remaining bread is put away.*

*If have not yet received pre-sanctified hosts, we invite you to meditate on the following prayer.  
Please contact the church office to receive communion for future services!*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar at your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Officiant O gracious God, whose Christ stretched out arms of love upon the hard wood of the cross to embrace all the peoples of the earth: We give you thanks for feeding us with the Sacrament of that precious Body and Blood, which is the sign and instrument of our common life, the food of our pilgrimage, the foretaste of that heavenly banquet of which we shall partake with all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## Blessing

### Announcements

*If you have any announcements regarding church matters, please select the “raise hand” icon under the participants tab at the bottom of your screen, and a host will unmute you.*

# Closing Hymn #496

# How bright appears the Morning Star

While on mute, please join in singing:



1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam -  
2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast  
3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin -



ing from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;  
a pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;  
ners, fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.



O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man  
the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser -  
In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on,



and Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:  
a - phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;  
great Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.



Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,  
Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it  
A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.  
thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.  
Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

## **Dismissal**

Acolyte     Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People     Thanks be to God.**

**Please stay for Coffee Hour!**