



10:30

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

WELCOME to all visitors and guests this morning. We are happy you are here to worship with us. If you want to know more about the Church of Reconciliation, you may email the church office at info@cor-satx.org to receive our weekly e-mail.

All are welcome at the table of the Lord for Holy Communion. If you would prefer to receive Communion at your seat instead of at the rail, please let an usher know. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Karate at REC!

We are interested in starting karate classes for our REC family beginning in January 2023. Please join us in the Library TODAY for an information meeting at noon after the 10:30 service. All are welcome to hear more about how GoJu Ryu karate brings harmony to mind, body, and spirit. GoJu Ryu karate is a lifestyle that can be practiced throughout life regardless of one's physicality. Classes are for ages 6 through adult. Jude Castillo from our congregation will be teaching the karate classes.

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 8:00am – Holy Eucharist (no music)
- 9:00am - Christian Education & Formation
- 9:30 am - Family Faith Formation
- 10:30am – Holy Eucharist (livestreamed, with music)

MIDWEEK SERVICE

12:30PM - Wednesdays

You're Invited!

Sally Scurlock and Ed Reischling would like to invite all our Reconciler friends to join us in the celebration of our wedding at 2:00pm, Thursday, December 22, 2022 in the sanctuary. The Rev. Judith Rhodes will be officiating. After the ceremony, please join us in the Alban classroom for a reception before heading back to your Christmas activities.

Advent Adult Formation: "Encounters with the One Whom my Soul Loves": Exploring Christian Contemplative Practices as guides to a more intimate relationship with the Divine.

Sundays 9am in Alban classroom

- 12/11: Creative Encounters - led by Benjamin PowerGriffin
- 12/18: Centering Prayer - Open Minds, Open Hearts, led by Margaret Lewis & Priscilla Coppock

Christmas Eve at Reconciliation

Please join us on Saturday, December 24, for a Christmas Eve service. Carols will begin at 5:00pm, and the service will begin at 5:30pm. There will be NO worship services on Sunday, December 25.

Winter Clothing Drive for Casa Marianella

Last year, we collected over 150 winter coats, in addition to knitted caps, to benefit the men and women of Casa Marianella in Austin, Texas! This year, we would like to expand our efforts to winter coats, hats, gloves, and sweatshirts too!! We are looking for donations of brand new or gently used items (clean and nothing in need of repair). Please drop off all donations to the front office, Youth Building, or Brown Hall, no later than Sun, Dec. 18. Thank you in advance for your generous giving! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to chat with Jennifer Murphy.

Advent Dinners

What a JOY last year's Advent Dinners were, that we are doing it again, and we even added an additional evening!! EVERYONE is invited!! Please make plans to join us on Wednesday: December 14 and 21 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in Brown Hall. Everyone will have the opportunity to slow down and enjoy some time together, as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Each Wednesday evening, there will be delicious dinners, games, crafting, praying, serving, and MORE!! Registration will be open to ALL and the cost is FREE; but reservations are required (and donations are always welcome!!) Register here: <https://cor-satx.org/advent-dinners-2022/> Adult Volunteers are needed, so please chat with Jennifer Murphy if you are interested.

Door Code Change!

The codes for Brown Hall, the Library, and Office have changed. Please email Bill at bill@cor-satx.org or Erica at erica@cor-satx.org for the new codes. Thank you!

Today's altar flowers are given by Sheila Korte: Happy Birthday to my dear wife, Marilyn. May we have many more great years. Love, Sheila; and by Roxie Montesano: In loving memory of my husband, George Beddingfield, who passed away on December 11, 2021.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Vanessa and Darrell Gill

“Jesus spoke to the people again, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me won’t walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” *John 8:12*

As we light the first three candles of the Advent wreath, we give thanks for your great love in Jesus, your Son. Open our hearts to receive your love and show us the way to give that love to others. Amen.

(Our first Advent candle with purple ribbon will be lit, which represents hope.)

(Our second Advent candle with purple ribbon will be lit, which represents peace.)

(Our third Advent candle with pink ribbon will be lit, which represents joy.)

THE PROCESSION AND THE OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Hymnal #56, verses 1-3

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Celebrant: 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.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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.**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Lector: A Reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 35:1-10
Read by Lauren Cate

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146

***Refrain:* Happy the Poor in Spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.**

Lord, you keep faith forever, secure justice for the oppressed.
You give food to all who are hungry.
O Lord you set captives free. *Refrain*

Lord, you open up blind eyes, and you raise up all those bowed down.
The alien people are welcomed.
The just, secure in your love. *Refrain*

Orphans, widows find comfort, but the wicked you take to the ruin.
Your reign lasts for all generations, both now and forever more. *Refrain*

THE EPISTLE

Lector: A Reading from James.

James 5:7-10
Read by Bob Russo

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN

Jesus, Come! For We Invite You

Jesus come! For we invite you, guest and master, friend and Lord;
Now, as once at Cana's wedding, speak and let us hear your word:
Lead us through our need or doubting, hope be born and joy restored

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior 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.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Josh Woods

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The New Zealand Prayer Book, p. 481

Celebrant: Let us affirm our faith together.

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Read by Sidney Burnette

Intercessor: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work, especially military, medical workers, and first responders;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world, especially our president, Joe, our governor, Greg, our mayor, Ron, and all other leaders;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation.
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble, especially from our parish family: Jan, Kimberly, Ron, Garnet, Kes, Stella, Robert, John, Betty, Roger, Carolyn, Marguerite, Kevin, Tiffany, George, Becky, John, Paula, Kathy, Bill, Maureen, Boyd, Lindsey, Monnie, and Phil; and others we name either silently or aloud____.
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, David and Rayford, our Bishops, Josh and Judy, our priests, and all other ministers of the church;
For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially Marion Atkins, mother of Carolyn Atkins; that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Minister: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful God:
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and service you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

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

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

People: **And also with you.**

(The people exchange greetings)

THE GATHERING HYMN

Awake, Awake

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heavenly door,
and lives now inside us forever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy birthday to:

Ellen Thomas	12/3	Raymond Suire	12/14
Nancy Daniels	12/10	Bonnie Stiriz	12/15
Charles Parrish	12/10	Rick Cate	12/16
Bob Russo	12/11	Art Ramseur	12/16
Marilyn Graham	12/11	Teresa Gray	12/16
Garnet Szurek	12/13		
Bobby Hausser	12/14		

*If you would like your birthday, anniversary, or other milestone mentioned here,
please email info@cor-satx.org.*

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Music of the Morning by Pepper Choplin

Hear the music of the morning, rising with the sun.
Light has come to fill the darkness, now the night is done.
So lest us take time to pause, take time to pray,
and pray to God who made us, God you made the day.
Know the blessing of the morning, feel the peace within.
Hold the promise of the dawning, see the day begin.
Lift up your head, lift up you song,
and sing to God who made us, God, who made the day.
Come rise up and sing alleluia. Alleluia.
Take time to pause, take time to pray,
and pray to God who made us, God you made the day.

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

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 our thanks and praise.**

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:

Celebrant and People (sung)

S130 (Schubert)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The LORD'S PRAYER (*sung*)

G7

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

The people respond: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE INVITATION

HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the table of the Lord for Holy Communion.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Poor, Wayfaring Stranger Arr. Jay Althouse
Jeannette Sullivan and Mark Mangus, duet

Prepare the way, O Zion
Hymnal #65

THE GREETING AT THE RAIL

Greeting: Christ is coming.

Response: Let us receive him.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: And now, let us pray.

Eternal 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

THE CLOSING HYMN

Blest Be the King
Hymnal #74

THE DISMISSAL

The Priest dismisses the people saying:

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

The People Respond:

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Elementary Ministry:

Ages: 4 years old through 4th Grade

Family Faith Formation: Sundays from 9:30-10:20am in the Children’s Building.

Rec Middle School Ministry:

Ages: 5th Grade thru 8th Grade

Middle School Faith Formation: Sundays from 9:30-10:20 a.m. in the Rec Room

Middle School Youth Group: Wednesday Evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Rec Room

Rec High School Ministry:

Ages: 9th-12th Grade

High School Faith Formation: Sundays from 9:30-10:20 a.m. in the Rec Room

High School Youth Group: Wednesday Evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Rec Room

Please call/text or email Jennifer Murphy at 210-725-3080 or jennifer@cor-satx.org for more information.

**Serving and Ministering This Sunday
December 11, 2022**

8:00

Lector: Christie Smith

Prayers of the People: Christie Smith

Acolyte: Erica Valle

Intincter: Jennifer Murphy

Altar Guild: Team III (Priscilla Coppock Team)

Usher: Ben Ennis

10:30

Lectors: Bob Russo

Prayers of the People: Sidney Burnette

Intincter: Mark Mangus

Acolytes: Jamie Bentley, Clayton Swann, Ruben Seitz, Michael Seitz, Erica Valle

Altar Guild: Team III (Priscilla Coppock Team)

Ushers: Leslie Allison (lead), Mike Moneer, Roderick "Pat" Patterson

Greeters: Jann Steed (lead), Smokey Kiel

Breakfast: Team Mangus

Hospitality: Lisa and Eliza Merrifield, Terri Steed

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who was able to help donate to HIS Love (Youth event) and Magdalena House (family baskets.) Your generosity overwhelms me!! Much love to you this Advent Season.

~Jennifer Murphy

Use this QR code to sign up for our weekly newsletter!



Thank you for joining us today and for your generosity. Use this QR code to make a donation to Rec via PayPal.



**Second Sunday Service Day
for Children, Youth and Families**

Please make plans to join us for **Second Sunday Service Day!** This time will be set aside for ALL of our Children, Youth and Families (and anyone else who would like to join us) to serve our San Antonio community, right here in our very own **Brown Hall.** Service projects will vary, but we will finish in time for the 10:30 service. (This time of service will take the place of Family Faith Formation for the week.) Additional service opportunities will continue to be offered throughout the school year for our Middle School and High School Youth. Any questions?!? Please call/text or email Jennifer Murphy.

Upcoming Second Sunday Service Days:
Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 12