

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

The Lord God has called us to not despise the words of the prophets, but test everything; holding fast to that which is good; and proclaiming God's saving message through our words and deeds. Let us begin by the offering of our prayers, responding, "Come, Lord Jesus."

+ O Emmanuel, the spirit of God is upon us to give us the courage to admit our sins and shortcomings, the desire to turn to you in faith and repentance, and the grace to accept your gifts of forgiveness and new life; remembering especially Suheil, Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople; Francis, Bishop of Rome; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Ian and Laura, our Bishops; Geoffrey, our Priest, and all members of this congregation, for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Root of Jesse, remove all prejudice from our hearts, and help us to accept our unity with all others; as we remember all the poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them, for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Key of David, unlock the imagination of your Church that we may bring good news to those who live in despair, release to the captives, comfort to the suffering, remembering especially the more than 100,000 Americans now sick in hospital with the corona virus, remembering also those who have commended themselves to our prayers, Mary Jo Keating, Joan Beattie, Heather, Marlene and Chris Smith, Tom Witt, Ed and Zemma White, Kathy Coe, Laura Whipple, Eileen Hearn, Connie Kaylor, Jay Lafleur in hospice care, and all who are housebound especially Janet Chenery and Ken Hecken; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Prince of Peace, awaken us to the fruits of concord and racial justice, that humanity may turn from its destructive vengeance and choose the path that leads to peace and security for all people everywhere; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Desire of Nations, lift the vision of our leaders, not to politicize the present challenges, but to resourcefully lead your people to the blessings of your kingdom; remembering especially Antonio, Secretary General of the United Nations, Donald our President, Joe, our President-elect, Ned our Governor, James, the First Selectman of the town of Washington, our Congress and our Courts, for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Dayspring from on High, put to flight death's dark shadow, and receive into the body of your resurrection those who have departed this life in your faith and fear; remembering especially the more than 275,000 Americans who have died in this pandemic, for their families and their communities, for Bill Wilmot and Josefina Marin, for our own family and friends departed, and for the benefactors of this church, for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Mary revealed the greatness of the Lord, and in our gladness we pause our prayers momentarily, so that all worshipping with us this morning made add their own prayers and petitions, either silently in their hearts or aloud in our midst.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.