



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP  
AT WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 15, 2019 | 11:00 A.M.  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Preparation for Worship**

*Lord God, you send messengers of good news  
to prepare the way for your glorious realm.  
Anoint us with your Spirit to proclaim your Word  
so that all may repent and believe in you;  
through Jesus Christ, our way in the wilderness. Amen.*

**Tolling of the Hour**

**Greeting**

*Please sign and pass the friendship folder.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Voluntary** *Chorale Fantasie on "Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele"*

Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713-1780)

**Introit**

*Advent*

Richard Proulx  
(1937-2010)

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand!

**Lighting of the Third Advent Candle**

## ✦ Prayer of Confession

God of Advent,  
we pray for you to come,  
but really wish you wouldn't come too close.  
For then you might really see us—  
our selfishness, our sinfulness,  
our willfulness, our waywardness,  
our insensitivity, our ingratitude,  
our ways which are not your ways.

God of our salvation, forgive us.  
Straighten the winding ways of our hearts.  
Smooth out the paths made rough by sin.  
Bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.  
Prepare in us a place to receive the promised one when he comes,  
Jesus our Redeemer.

*(silent prayer)*

Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

## ✦ Response

WINCHESTER NEW

Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.

## ✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the Good News. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

## ✦ Response

WINCHESTER NEW

All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose  
ad - vent has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

## ✦ The Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*Signs of peace and reconciliation may be exchanged.*

## Conversation with Children

*Afterwards, children may stay with their parents, or infants to age 4  
may go to child care in Room 106.*

## Prayer for Illumination

### First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

O.T. pgs. 640-641

Holy wisdom, holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

### Anthem

*O comfort now, my people*

Thomas Pavlechko  
(b. 1962)

O comfort now, my people, says the Lord, your God.  
Speak gently to Jerusalem and cry unto her:  
Her warfare is accomplished, her penalty is paid.  
A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way!"  
So every valley shall be raised, all mountains, hills made low,  
as desert flowers rejoice and praise, and spring of water flow;  
uneven ground, a level field, rough lands become a plain;  
the glory of the Lord revealed, God's children see again.  
All humankind is grass and reeds, like flowers of the field;  
they wither at the gentlest breeze, their feeble lives to yield.  
Yet eyes are opened, ears unstopped, the lame leap like a deer,  
and speechless tongues all sing for joy, the weak no longer fear.  
For waters in the wild break forth, the desert flows with streams;  
the burning sand becomes a pool, the thirsty ground, a spring.  
Their highway is the holy way God's chosen walk along;  
the ransomed of the Lord return with gladness, joy and song.

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

N.T. pgs. 2-3

Holy wisdom, holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

Turning Around, Letting Go

John W. Wurster

*The sermon is followed by a brief time of silence and stillness.*

### ✦ Hymn 87

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

GENEVAN 42

### ✦ Affirmation of Faith

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.  
With believers in every time and place,  
We rejoice that nothing in life or death  
can separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

# Prayers of the People

## The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil;  
for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever. Amen.**

## Offering

*Gifts may be given anytime at [www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)  
or text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts.*

## Offertory Solo

*The Desert and the Parched Land*

Dave Brubeck  
(1920-2012)

arranged by Paul English  
(b. 1951)

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom.  
They will bloom with abundant flowers and rejoice with a joyful song.  
They will see the glory of our Lord, the splendor of our God.  
Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak,  
Say to those whose hearts are frightened: "Fear not, be strong! Here is your God!"

The shuttered eyes of blindness shall see light. The ears of the deaf shall hear.  
He will leap as a deer, the lame man, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.  
Thirsty lands will burst forth rushing streams and parched ground fill with pools.  
Come to the land that is Zion. Let sorrow and sighing flee.  
We shall sing with joy e'erlasting: "Fear not, be strong! Here is your God!"

## Offertory Response

Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther, and the Spir - it,  
One in Three, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing  
and un - wear - ied prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry,  
and do - min - - - ion, and e - ter - nal  
vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

## ✦ Litany for Advent

Among the poor, among the proud,  
among the persecuted, among the privileged,  
**Christ is coming to make all things new.**

In the private house, in the public place,  
in the wedding feast, in the judgment hall,  
**Christ is coming to make all things new.**

With a gentle touch, with an angry word,  
with a clear conscience, with burning love,  
**Christ is coming to make all things new.**

That the kingdom might come, that the world might believe,  
that the proud might stumble, that the hidden might be seen,  
**Christ is coming to make all things new.**

Within us, without us, behind us, before us,  
in this place, in every place, in this time, for all time,  
**Christ is coming to make all things new.**

Christ is coming to make all things new—even you, even me.  
**Christ is coming. Thanks be to God!**

## ✦ Hymn 79

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

TEMPLE OF PEACE

## ✦ Charge and Blessing

*Kindly remain in silence during the closing voluntary, or depart very quietly.*

## ✦ Closing Voluntary

*Chorale Verset on “Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele”*

George Böhm  
(1661-1733)

✦ Indicates worshipers are invited to stand in either body or spirit.

**Words in bold** type are to be read or sung together.

## SERVING TODAY

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS**  
Upper Elementary Class  
**LITURGIST**  
Ava Arlinghaus  
**CHANCEL GUILD**  
Diana Weiss

**GREETERS**  
Finance Committee  
**MUSICIANS**  
St. Philip Choir  
Cecilia Duarte, soloist  
Matthew Dirst, organist  
Randall Swanson, conductor

## **PASTORS**

John W. Wurster

Keatan King

Omar Rouchon

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the chancel are given by Connie Mayfield in memory of her late husband Ralph M Mayfield Jr. and in honor of her children – Robert Mayfield and Wilson Mayfield and his family.

## WORSHIP NOTES

Today's readings from the Revised Common Lectionary are:

Isaiah 35:1–10—*The desert will blossom; God's people will return with joy.*

Luke 1:46–55—*Mary rejoices in God, who helps the poor and lifts up the lowly.*

James 5:7–10—*Be patient; have courage; the coming of the Lord is near.*

Matthew 11:2–11—*Jesus praises John, the messenger who has prepared the way.*

## ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

Today's **organ voluntaries** are settings of the German chorale melody *Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele* ("Rejoice, O My Soul"), which is the same tune as Genevan 42, the basis for this morning's sermon hymn. Bach student Johann Ludwig Krebs made a name for himself as an organ virtuoso in the mid 18th century, with chorale fantasies and free works that give free reign to galant-style counterpoint. His fantasy on *Freu dich sehr* frames its highly decorated melody with an elaborate ritornello. The chorale-based works of Georg Böhm, by contrast, represent an older style of organ composition, one less concerned with elegant turns of phrase and more devoted to motivically-based counterpoint.

This morning's **choral introit** comes from a collection of introits for unaccompanied choir based on chant precedents by Richard Proulx, who was among the foremost American church musicians of the 20th and early 21st centuries. Proulx was a prolific composer of sacred choral and congregational music especially, and served for many years as Director of Music at Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral. Today's **anthem** *O comfort now, my people* is a direct musical reflection of the Isaiah readings heard during the Advent season, here set in an unusual and captivating melodic mode by Texas composer Thomas Pavlechko, who serves as Director of Music and Organist at Christ the King Catholic Church in Dallas. The **offertory solo** is by the American jazz pianist and composer Dave Brubeck, arranged in 2012 by Paul English for a Jazz Mass at Trinity Episcopal Church here in Houston.

— Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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