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**ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH** December 15, 2024

#### Artist Reflection

#### The Good That is Yours

Ink dyes and gold resist on silk, with digital collage By Lisle Gwynn Garrity

As John the Baptist preaches about transformation, he receives the same question three times from those gathered by the river: "What, then, shall we do?" His responses are straightforward and practical, but also particular. He tells the crowd to share any excess clothing and food with those who have none. He tells the tax collectors not to use their position of power to launder and steal money. He tells the soldiers not to coerce and threaten, and to be satisfied with their wages.

In other words, he tells them what not to do, which leads me to assume that those showing up to be baptized are carrying some things they need to atone for. And yet, they have shown up. They have journeyed into the wilderness to be baptized and transformed. They long for a new beginning.

At the center of this quilt square collage, a pinwheel of fire spins. It represents the Holy Spirit impelling the world to turn. Surrounding it are four petal shapes that bloom like a flower. They are each filled with branches of fruit. When we align ourselves with the movement of the Spirit, we can do the good that is ours to do. Our actions can bear good fruit. The petals and pinwheel are encapsulated by the outline of a blue cross. Four walls of the cross contain broken fragments. In stark contrast to the lush fruit, the fragments are like shards of glass. They symbolize the sins John the Baptist sees present amongst the crowds: extortion and coercion, the hoarding of power and resources. And yet, these fragments are linked together by blue arrows filled with the waters of baptism. There is a way to begin again. From each cardinal direction, a triangle of Holy Spirit fire faces inward, pointing us to baptism and transformation. When we do the good that is ours to do, we bear good fruit – fruit that repairs and nourishes, fruit that grows into the four corners of the earth.

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Your presence today is a blessing to this parish. This bulletin has been created from the prayers found in *The Book of Common Prayer*, and it contains most of the spoken parts of worship. The blue Hymnal 1982 in your pew rack contains most of the hymns that are sung. You'll find words to the hymns that come from supplemental hymnals printed in this bulletin.

Voluntary

#### Announcements

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Hymn	All stand.	Hymnal 1982 – 76
On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry		Winchester New

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The people standing, the Celebrant says

BCP p. 355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

#### Collect for Purity

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.

Trisagion

Alexander Archangelsky

See pew card for music.

The following is sung three times, all standing.

#### Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant:	The Lord be with you.
Dooplo	And also 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**.

BCP p. 355

The people sit.

#### The Lessons

#### Zephaniah 3:14-20

A Reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

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: The Word of the Lord.People: Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

Canticle 9: The First Song of IsaiahHymnal 1982 – 679Surely it is God who saves meThomas Merton

The people remain seated.

## Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi

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: The Word of the Lord.People: Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

All stand.

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 1982 – 75

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Ascension

# The Gospel: Luke 3:7-18 *All stand*.

- Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
- People: 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.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Reverend Nancy L.J. Cox

## The Nicene Creed *All stand*.

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.

All remain standing.

#### The Prayers of the People

From Hear Our Prayer, by Jon White and Lisa Graves

Intercessor: Let our hearts and minds be stirred as we pray to God for the peace that passes understanding, and rejoice in the gift of Christ, saying, "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

> For peace in the church: May we intensify our efforts at peace-making with the separated churches, that peace may prevail over conflict, and that we may be reconciled into one family, exercising one baptism, one eucharist, and one common ministry in its many forms. *Silence*.

Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For peace in the world: May conflicts cease, may refugees and survivors find new homes and the spirit to begin again. May wounds be healed, losses grieved, and honorable deeds remembered. May grace abound in all lands and may the lion and the lamb lie content. *Silence*.

Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For this assembly. That the world might know us by our love. Help us with the grievances we harbor within our families and communities and among our co-workers and friends. Help us build trust and teach us forgiveness that we might know reconciliation in your love. *Silence*.

Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For peace where we live, work and play, and for peace within ourselves: May the noises in and around us diminish so that we can hear the quiet sounds of Creation. And grant us time and space to listen for you, our heart's true desire. *The people are invited to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.* 

People:	Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.
Intercessor:	For all those who suffer, may we be messengers of hope, peace, and healing. Especially we pray for all those who have sought our prayers. <i>The people are</i> <i>invited to add their petitions, followed by silence.</i>
People:	Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.
Intercessor:	For those who are gone and beyond our reach, fill the empty spots in our hearts and souls with reassurance of your love for them and fill them also with the hope of our reuniting someday in your eternal kingdom. <i>Silence</i> .
People:	Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds the concluding collect.

Celebrant: O Lord, fill our minds and hearts with everything that is good and loving and worthy of thanksgiving and praise, everything that comes to us under the sign of your peace and in the name of Christ our Lord. *Silence*.

People: Amen.

#### Confession of Sin

BCP p. 359

The Deacon or Celebrant says Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and 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.

#### The Absolution

#### The Priest stands and says

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.** 

Peace	BCP p. 360
All stand	
Celebrant:	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People:	And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

A note about receiving Holy Communion: In the Episcopal Church, we understand that Christ is "really present" in the bread and wine provided from God's table. All who claim Christ as Lord are always welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in this church. Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of their parents. Come forward at the direction of the ushers. Receive the consecrated wafer in the palm of your outstretched hand from the first person who comes to you. To receive a glutenfree wafer, please cross your hands palms down. You may drink from the larger cup/chalice which the next person will offer you. Receive the consecrated wine by guiding the offered cup to your lips and sipping, or by intinction: lightly dip the wafer into the wine. Those who distribute the wine will wipe the chalice with a food safe sanitizer and turn it for the next person after each person receives. You may also decide to take the wafer only. If you choose not to receive communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing as your presence is a blessing to all of us. Once you have been blessed or received communion, you may offer a short prayer and then return to your seat. If physical limitations make it difficult to come forward, please let an usher know that we may have the honor of bringing communion to you.

Offertory Sentence

BCP p. 376

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14* 

## Offertory Anthem Never weather-beaten sail

BCP p. 376 Charles Wood

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore, never tired pilgrim limbs affected slumber more, Than my weary spirit now longs to fly out of my troubled breast: O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest!

Ever blooming are the joys of heav'n's high Paradise, Old age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes: Glory there the sun outshines; whose beams the Blessèd only see: O come quickly, come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my soul to Thee!

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## Presentation of Gifts

Celebrant:All things come of thee, O Lord.People:And of thine own have we given thee.

## The Great Thanksgiving

#### Sursum Corda

BCP p. 367

The People remain standing.

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.

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:

#### Sanctus

See pew card for music.

Russian Orthodox

Celebrant and People

#### 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.

#### The Celebrant continues

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation

Russian Orthodox See pew card for music.

#### Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory.

#### The Celebrant continues

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 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**.

## The Lord's Prayer BCP p. 363

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

#### People and Celebrant

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. 11:10 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II | Third Sunday of Advent

#### The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem: Agnus Dei

Russian Orthodox See pew card for music.

Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy on us**. Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy on us**. Jesus, redeemer of the world, **give us your peace**.

#### Invitation

BCP p. 364

*The Celebrant says* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

#### Spiritual Communion Prayer

A prayer for those worshipping virtually to be unified in Communion with Christ.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of 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. And 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.** 

#### Communion Hymns What is the crying at Jordan

Hymnal 1982 – 69 St. Mark's, Berkeley

Watchman, tell us of the night

Hymnal 1982 – 640 *Aberystwyth* 

 Lay Eucharistic Minister Prayer (as needed)

 Celebrant:
 In order that all may receive Holy Eucharist,

 \_\_\_\_\_\_ will take the Eucharist to \_\_\_\_\_\_ today.

 All:
 In the name of this congregation, we send you

 forth bearing these holy gifts that those to

 whom you go may share with us in the

 communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We

 who are many are one body because we all

 share one bread, one cup. Amen.

The Post-Communion PrayerBCP p. 366After Communion, the Celebrant saysLet us pray.

Celebrant and People Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

#### Blessing

BCP p. 366

Post-Communion Hymn
Prepare the way, O Zion

Hymnal 1982 – 65 Bereden väg för Herran

DismissalDeacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.People: Thanks be to God.

#### Voluntary

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## A Note on Today's Readings

Welcome to All Saints' Episcopal Church. In our readings and in the Collect for today, the major themes of biblical, prophetic religion come together, deepening the preparation of God's faithful people for the approaching Christmas festival. We pray that God will "stir up his power and come among us" and we are given the paradoxical message of fearful judgment and joyful anticipation.

This message is given first in Zephaniah's announcement of "the Day of the Lord" when God will come to draw all people into a saving and life-giving community. "The Lord, your God, is in your midst." "Sing aloud... Rejoice... Exult."

For Paul and the church in Philippi, the Lord has indeed come in Jesus' death and resurrection. "Rejoice," Paul says, and be partakers in the peace of God, which is our true guardian and protector.

But first, we hear the harsh words from John the Baptist, warning that we must be prepared for that coming if it is indeed to be a time of rejoicing. Repentance is the key to that preparation. However, repentance must be more than a feeling, and it must be deeper than outward rituals such as water baptism, or tracing one's descent from Abraham. That repentance must bear fruit in social righteousness – in self-giving and concrete actions of love and mercy toward others.

The Lord is in the midst of us, and so we sing out joyful Alleluias as he comes to us in his Word, and again as he comes to us in the breaking of the bread.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.* Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

#### Today's Announcements

**Sunday school for all ages is at 10 AM.** Nursery for infants-3 year olds is provided every Sunday from 8:45 AM-12:30 PM.

Advent Lessons and Carols TODAY at 5 PM offered by the Choir of All Saints'. Hear of the foretold child, sing carols of the ages, and prepare your heart with Mary.

**The Service of Light will be Saturday, December 21 at 7 PM**. All are welcomed for this beautiful candlelight vigil with prayer, special music, and reflection.

**Personal Care Holiday Bag donations** are being gathered for our neighbors at Curis Concord Nursing & Rehab Center through next Sunday, December 22. See *Weekly Word* for details.

**End-of-Year Giving** | As you review your end-of-year gifts, please consider where you stand with fulfilling your 2024 estimate, if you are able. If you have questions, please send an email to <u>finance@allsaintsconcord.org</u>.

**Prayer Requests** | Please let us know how to pray for you at <u>allsaintsconcord.org/prayer-requests/</u>. You can also request that a clergy or prayer team member contact you.

## 2024-25 Advento Epiphany SCHEDULE

December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent Advent Lessons and Carols – 5 PM EYC White Elephant Party December 21

Service of Light – 7 PM December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9 & 11:10 AM Services EYC Cookie Sale Hanging of the Greens EYC Family Caroling December 24

Christmas Eve Family Service – 4 PM Nativity of our Lord – 5:30 PM with violinist, Vasily Gorkovoy Nativity of our Lord – 9 PM with Choir of All Saints' December 25

Christmas Day Service – 10 AM December 29

First Sunday after Christmas – Holy Eucharist – 10 AM January 5 – Epiphany Holy Eucharist – 10 AM Gathering with Grace Lutheran for Chili Cook Off, Service of Epiphany & Burning of the Greens – 5:30 PM



#### CLERGY

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#### **REPORTING TO THE VESTRY**

Victor Clark, Treasurer Kim Gordick, Vestry Clerk

For announcements and information, scan the QR code to view All Saints' *Weekly Word*.



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