



ST. FRANCIS
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

www.stfrancisva.org

Sunday Worship

December 15, 2013 – 10:00 AM

Third Sunday of Advent

The Word of God

Welcome & Quiet Time (↑ indicates when to stand) Welcome to worship today. We're glad you've come to glorify God with us. We invite you to take part in everything today. Follow the singing with the words in this bulletin. Come to the Table for communion. You are invited to stay for refreshments after the service.

Prelude

Call to Worship

↑Gathering Song #1: Church on Fire

The Holy Spirit is here and His power is real. Anything can happen and it probably will. Something very good something good is going on around here.

There's a light that shines to make the dark disappear. A power at work but there's nothing to fear. Something very good something good is going on around here.

This is a church on fire. This is the Holy Spirit flame. We have a burning desire. To lift up Jesus' name. Let the fire burn in every heart. To light the way, defeat the dark. Let the flame of love burn higher. This is a church. This is a church on fire.

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

All: And blessed be His kingdom now and forever. Amen.

Priest: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you know 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

↑Gathering Song #2: How Great Is Our God

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty; Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice. He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide, and trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice. How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God! And all will see how great, how great is our God!

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands; Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End. The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son, the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb. How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God! And all will see how great, how great is our God!

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God! And all will see how great, how great is our God!

↑All: 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.

(Please be seated) **A Reading from James**

(5:7-10)

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.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

↑**Gradual Song: There Is a Higher Throne**

There is a higher throne, Than all this world has known, Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue, Will one day come. Before the Son we'll stand, Made faultless through the Lamb; Believing hearts find promised grace— Salvation comes.

(Chorus:) Hear heaven's voices sing; Their thund'rous anthem rings Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies. Their praises rise. All glory, wisdom, pow'r, Strength, thanks, and honor are To God our King, who reigns on high Forevermore.

And there we'll find our home, Our life before the throne; We'll honor Him in perfect song Where we belong. He'll wipe each tear-stained eye, As thirst and hunger die. The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King; We'll reign with Him.

(Chorus – 2 Times)

↑**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew**

(24:36-44)

All: 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."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Christ.

Message (please be seated)

↑**Leader:** Let us stand and profess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

All: 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.

↑ Prayers of the People: Form VI

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;

All: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Leader: For this community, the nation, and the world;

All: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Leader: For all who serve in our country's military. Defend and strengthen them with courage to deal with the perils they face.

All: For all veterans who helped keep our country free.

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

All: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Leader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

All: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Leader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

All: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Leader: For Kathryn, our Presiding Bishop, and Shannon, Susan and Ted, our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers; for all who serve God in his Church; for the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *[Please feel free to add your own petitions either silently or aloud.]* Hear us, Lord;

All: For your mercy is great.

Leader: For the Precious One Family Day Home, and its owner operator, Simone Mealy, that more children would be added to this service and they would grow with great health and joy while there.

All: That all family owned and operated businesses would grow in our community.

Leader: We pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For persons who are lonely or have no family; for persons who are estranged from their families; for persons who are grieving the loss of a love one; and for all who need to feel the love of God.

All: That all would come into the fellowship of the Kingdom of God.

Leader: Congregations and clergy of Creator, Mechanicsville; Immanuel, Old Church; Santa Maria, Falls Church; Grace, Bremo Bluff; and St. John's, Columbia

All: That Your church would always minister in the power of your Spirit.

Leader: Show us what kind of ministry You are giving to us that would make the gospel plausible to families with young children in our community.

All: That all children would come to you.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *[Please feel free to add your own thanksgivings.]* We will exalt you, O God our King;

All: And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Leader: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *[Please feel free to add your own petitions either silently or aloud.]* Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

All: Who put their trust in You.

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

All: Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; 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 serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Priest: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

↑Exchange of Peace

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

People: And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory

↑ **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. Amen.

↑Eucharistic Prayer A

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All (Sung): Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are 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.

Priest: 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Priest: 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.**

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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.**

The priest breaks the consecrated bread and says:

Priest: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. **Alleluia.**

Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

[NOTE: All are welcome to receive Communion, whatever your faith tradition. Please receive the bread in the open palm of your hand. Then, either consume the bread and move to a chalice and receive from the chalice by guiding the base of the chalice to your mouth or take the chalice from the chalice minister. Or, you may intinct or dip the bread into the chalice and consume it. The glass chalice contains non-alcoholic wine for those who do not wish to consume alcohol for any reason. If you do not wish to receive communion but would like a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.]

Communion Song: All Who Are Thirsty

All who are thirsty. All who are weak. Come to the fountain. Dip your heart in the stream of life. Let the pain and the sorrow. Be washed away, In the waves of his mercy. As deep cries out to deep; We sing,

Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come.

Holy Spirit come. Holy Spirit come. Holy Spirit come.

As deep cries out to deep. As deep cries out to deep.

↑Post-Communion Prayer (*All*): Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

↑Blessing

↑Song of Dismissal: Jesus Messiah - Chris Tomlin

He became sin; Who knew no sin. That we might become His Righteousness. He humbled himself and carried the cross. Love so amazing. Love so amazing.

(Chorus:) Jesus Messiah, Name above all names. Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel. The rescue for sinners. The ransom from Heaven. Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

His body the bread, His blood the wine. Broken and poured out, all for love. The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn. Love so amazing. Love so amazing.

(Chorus:) Jesus Messiah, Name above all names. Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel. The rescue for sinners. The ransom from Heaven. Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

All our hope is in You, All our hope is in You. All the glory to You, God, The light of the world

(Chorus:) Jesus Messiah, Name above all names. Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel. The rescue for sinners. The ransom from Heaven. Jesus Messiah, Lord of all. Jesus Messiah, Lord of all. The Lord of all, the Lord of all.

↑Announcements, Prayer Requests, and Dismissal

Priest: Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Remember in your prayers:

Neale Dickinson

Christian Families in Pakistan

Anna Hawk

Chuck Haack

Helen

Virginia Gammon & Family

Michelle Lambert

Sonny B.

Arielle Niemeyer

Simon Bauers

Amanda

Chris Keller

Make yourself comfortable!

Welcome to worship today. We're glad you've come to glorify God with the people of St. Francis Church.

There is no "one right way" to participate. Join in as much as you want.

If you wish to sing, all our music is included in the bulletin. We have a lively contemporary band and music is a significant part of our worship experience. However, we recognize that visitors may not know the music. If you and your family are among these, we encourage you to hum along or simply sit back and enjoy the sound.

Filling out a name tag and placing it on your person will permit us all to greet each other by name while visiting here at St. Francis. Likewise, signing our guest roster will permit us to follow-up with you following this Sunday's worship.

If you are a guest today, don't feel obligated to make a financial contribution to the offering.

Rest rooms are located in the entrance Narthex and in the mobile office/classroom building adjacent to the worship hall.

"We are a welcoming community seeking to share God's unconditional love with all."

Your Vestry Members are:

Senior Warden: Jack Martin

Junior Warden: Bill Weatherford

Other Members: Peter LeViness
Ann James

Larry Kidd
Richard Walker

Register: Marian Elam

Treasurer: Susan Kidd

Below is the schedule for greeters, lay readers and chalciers. If you have a problem with the dates on this schedule, please let Larry Kidd know as soon as possible and he will try to make adjustments. Otherwise, you will need to find a substitute if you are unable to be at church on your assigned date.

<u>Worship Service Date</u>	<u>Scripture Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Reader</u>	<u>Chalciers</u>	<u>Greeters/Ushers</u>
15-Dec	Richard Walker	MJ Weatherford	Richard Walker, MJ Weatherford	Bill Weatherford, Larry Kidd
22-Dec	Bill Weatherford	Kathy Gammon	Bill Weatherford, Kathy Gammon	John and Libby Clark, Larry Kidd
24-Dec	MJ Weatherford	Larry Kidd	MJ Weatherford, Susan Kidd	Richard Walker, Larry Kidd
29-Dec	Missy Rand	Richard Walker	Marian Elam, Richard Walker	John and Libby Clark, Larry Kidd
5-Jan	Kathy Gammon	Bill Weatherford	Kathy Gammon, Bill Weatherford	Bill Weatherford, Larry Kidd
12-Jan	Jack Martin	Kathy Gammon	Jack Martin, Kathy Gammon	Richard Walker, Larry Kidd
19-Jan	Larry Kidd	MJ Weatherford	Susan Kidd, MJ Weatherford	Paul and Ann James, Larry Kidd
26-Jan	Bill Weatherford	Missy Rand	Bill Weatherford, Ann James	John and Libby Clark, Larry Kidd
2-Feb	Richard Walker	Kathy Gammon	Richard Walker, Kathy Gammon	Bill Weatherford, Larry Kidd

~Announcements~

Upcoming Important Dates:

Sunday, December 15	Communion Service	St. Francis	10:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 22	Communion Service	St. Francis	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Service	St. Francis	5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 29	Communion Service	St. Francis	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, January 8	Vestry	St. Francis	6:00 p.m.

Financial Update - If you have any questions about any of this data, please don't hesitate to ask your treasurer, Susan Kidd.

	Operating Funds		Net Gain
	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>or (Loss)</u>
2013			
1st Quarter	\$24,463.00	\$20,486.48	\$3,976.52
2nd Quarter	\$21,422.00	\$21,276.96	\$145.04
3rd Quarter	\$20,693.00	\$22,431.50	(\$1,738.50)
October	\$5,883.00	\$8,044.51	(\$2,161.51)
November	\$6,867.00	\$7,483.71	(\$616.71)
December	<u>\$820.00</u>	<u>\$719.10</u>	<u>\$100.90</u>
4th Quarter	<u>\$13,570.00</u>	<u>\$16,172.32</u>	<u>(\$2,677.32)</u>
2013 Year-To-Date	\$80,148.00	\$80,367.26	(\$294.26)
Checking Account Balance	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Ending</u>	
YTD 2013	\$32,627.98	\$32,408.72	(\$294.26)

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