



St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church
1073 Tremont Street | Roxbury, MA 02120 Office: 617.427.6175
www.stcyprians.org

A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. The Episcopal Church in the Anglican Communion.

Welcome to St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church. Our congregation has been part of the greater Boston area for over one hundred years. Having deep roots in the Caribbean immigrant community, the parish continues to welcome people from all that region and beyond.

ST. NICHOLAS – CHILDREN'S SERVICE

DECEMBER 17, 2023 at 10.30am

In the fourth century, Nicholas was Bishop of Myra in modern-day Turkey. He was a very kind man and had a reputation for helping the poor and giving secret gifts to people in need. There are many legends about Nicholas, the most famous one you will hear in this service. Because of his kindness and goodness Nicholas was eventually made a saint.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ORDER OF SERVICE

Celebrant – The Rev. Noble Scheepers
Guest Speaker – Janeal Hoyte
Organist – Brian Edwards
MC -- Charles Knight
Readers: Charles Knight and Margaret Lowell
Eucharistic Minister: Cheryl Mottley

=====

Call to worship:

My soul magnifies the Lord

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior

The Mighty One has done great things

Holy is God's name

Hymn: St. Nicholas (The Holly and the Ivy)

Text: Luci Shaw,

**A follower of Jesus, by persecution torn,
Was Nicholas the Bishop, to noble parents born.
Forsaking wealth and power, he gave to all in need,
The bread to fill their bodies, God's love their souls to feed.
He taught the Gospel simply so all could understand,
Through his kind ministrations faith flourished in the land.
And when three guiltless victims would perish by the sword
He freed them in a moment, obedient to his Lord.
Three girls too poor to marry he gave three bags of gold,
Their weddings were a blessing from Nicholas, we're told.
His robe a bishop's crimson, our Advent patron lives,
In life of all who follow, in heart of each who gives.**

Lighting of the Advent candles:

(Reader): We light this candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in your kingdom on earth.
For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind.

We rejoice in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Hear our prayer:

God of the future, make us ready for the coming of your reign

When you will bring everlasting peace, and renew the face of the earth

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

**Call to Confession:*

Happy are those whose help is the Lord. Let us seek God's help as we confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession:

**God our Savior, we ask for your mercy
Though we have heard Mary's song
We still seek security in pride and power and possessions.
Though we know your story, we resist the cost of following you.
For the lowly of this world and hungry people who wait to be filled,
Help us to work for the justice you intend
Make us messengers of the peace you bring
As we wait for you, strengthen our acts of love and service
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen**

Declaration of Forgiveness: Priest

God forgives all our sins and promises to bring us to everlasting life.

Thanks be to God

Collect for the day:

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Lesson: : Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

¹⁵ The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.

¹⁶ In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack.

¹⁷ The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

¹⁸ I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden.

¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.

²⁰ At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.

Psalm

In place of psalm: Song "How great my joy"

Theodore Baker

**1 While by the sheep we watched at night,
glad tidings brought an angel bright.**

Refrain:

How great our joy!

Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy!

Joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

**2 There shall be born, so he did say,
in Bethlehem a child today. [Refrain]**

**3 There shall the child lie in a stall,
this child who shall redeem us all. [Refrain]**

**4 This gift of God we'll cherish well,
that ever joy our hearts shall fill. [Refrain]**

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

²⁵ And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

²⁶ And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

²⁷ And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

²⁸ Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:

²⁹ So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.

³⁰ Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

³¹ Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

³² But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

³³ Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

³⁴ For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

³⁵ Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

³⁶ Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

³⁷ And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Children come to the front

Song: Sung to the tune of WE THREE KINGS

Text: Bill Quinlivan

**We are children, gifted and blessed
Hope to honor Nicholas best
Pray for others, sisters, brothers
God takes you through each test.**

*O, prayers are all that we can say
St. Nicholas, come save the day
More than kind-did-he give with char-i-ty
Nicholas, won't you stay?*

**Make us icons as we go
Prayers for peace, God's love we show
May it please us to know Jesus
Heaven's gifts he'll bestow!
*O, prayers are all that we can say
St. Nicholas, come save the day
More than kind-did-he give with char-i-ty
Nicholas, won't you stay?***

Sermon message: Janeal Hoyte

Enter St. Nicholas “HO!HO!HO!” - hand out cookies

Song: Jolly Old St. Nicholas

Emily Huntington Miller

***Jolly old St. Nicholas,
Lean your ear this way!***

*Don't you tell a single soul
What I'm going to say.
Christmas Eve is coming soon!
Now, you dear old man.
Whisper what you'll bring to me;
Tell me, if you can.*

Children's Creed:

South African Catechist

**I believe that God is my father in heaven
I believe that He made the world
I believe that He gives me life
I believe that He helps me grow.
I believe that Jesus is the Son of God
and the Son of Mary
Jesus shows me that God is love
Jesus lived and died for me
Jesus is alive now, alive in me and
in my neighbour.
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Who helps me love others
Who makes me holy
who helps me know God better
I believe in God's family the Church
I believe that I will live happy with God forever and ever. Amen**

Prayers:

Lord, you make this day special
with the memory of the good bishop Nicholas.
He praised you in all the wonders he worked,
he thanked you in all the gifts he shared with the poor.
May we have ears like Saint Nicholas to hear when any are in need,
and hands always ready to help and share.

Blessed are you, O Lord, in all your saints.

For the sake of the world, that God so loves;
We pray for peace in every nation
That hatred and ill will in the hearts of all people
Will be burned away in your refining fire, leaving only love
Pray for the peace of the church
We pray for the peace in Christ's body
Put an end to fear and fighting
That we may proclaim your good news, and be awake to your presence.

Pray for the peace of this community

We pray for peace in our land, for safety in our homes and streets
For the prosperity of our neighbors, and for the health of family and friends
Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or
spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and
bring them the joy of your salvation.
We pray for the sick.....

Grant them a spirit of healing and a spirit of trust in your love, AMEN

Song: O come let us adore him – Tune: refrain of O come all ye faithful (sing twice)

**1.O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord**

**2.For He alone is worthy, for He alone is worthy
For He alone is worthy, Christ the Lord**

**3.We give Him all the glory, we give Him all the glory
We give Him all the glory, Christ the Lord**

The Peace:

Open wide, O Lord, the gates of heaven; and visit your people in peace
Send forth your Spirit from on high, that their hearts may be lifted up to you.
May the peace of the Lord be with you always:

And also with you

Announcements

Offertory Hymn:

Text: J M Rosenthal, 2015

Tune: I Saw Three Ships

**The saint of Christmas now we see,
St Nicholas, St Nicholas,
He comes with gifts and glad are we,
St Nicholas, pray with us.**

**His stories and his legends bold,
St Nicholas, St Nicholas,
They bring great joy to young and old,
St Nicholas, pray with us.**

**For children, sailors, everywhere,
St Nicholas, St Nicholas,
He offers help and tender care,
St Nicholas, pray with us.**

**The Child of Bethlehem we seek,
St Nicholas, St Nicholas,
Show us the Child and Mother meek,
St Nicholas, pray with us**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you
And with your Spirit

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
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.
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You called all people to follow your paths of justice and peace
Beating this swords into plowshares and this peers into pruning hooks.
In the light of your holy word we look for the day
when nation shall not lift up sword against nation or learn war anymore.
Therefore, with the entire company of heaven, and with your people on earth
who live in this hope we praise you and join in the never ending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you and blessed is Jesus Christ your son
for he is Immanuel, God with us.
Fulfilling the expectations of the prophets he healed the blind and the lame
Cleansed the lepers, opened the ears of the deaf, raised the dead
and brought news to the poor.
Through his life death and resurrection you manifest your new covenant with humankind
and through the Church of his disciples you give testimony to the power of your salvation
for the world.
For on the night he was betrayed he took bread, gave thanks to you,
Broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying,
Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.
When supper was over, he took the cup and gave thanks, saying,
Drink this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant
poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

Therefore in remembrance of all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ
We give ourselves in praise and Thanksgiving as a living sacrifice
in union with Christ's offering for the world as we declare:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

Send your Holy Spirit upon us gathered here out of love for you,
and on these gifts of bread and wine, let the bread we break
be a true fellowship in the body of Christ. Let the cup we share,
be a true participation in the new covenant in his blood.

By your spirit empower us to be Christ in the world, serving in his name
until the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord.

as the waters cover the sea. Through your son Jesus Christ

with the Holy Spirit in your holy church

all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Fraction Anthem:

Agnes Dei

The Holy Communion

Hymn during communion: Good King Wenceslas

James Morgan / Juliette Pochin

**1. Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even
Brightly shone the moon that night
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight
Gathering winter fuel**

**2. Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou knowst it, telling
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?
Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain
Right against the forest fence
By Saint Agnes fountain.**

**3. Bring me flesh and bring me wine
Bring me pine logs hither
Thou and I shall see him dine**

When we bear them thither.
Page and monarch, forth they went
Forth they went together
Through the rude winds wild lament
And the bitter weather

4.Sire, the night is darker now
And the wind blows stronger
Fails my heart, I know not how
I can go no longer.
Mark my footsteps, good my page
Tread thou in them boldly
Thou shall find the winters rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.

5.In his masters step he trod
Where the snow lay dinted
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed
Therefore, Christian men, be sure
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye, who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious
And his mercy endures forever

Charge:

About that day and hour no one knows, therefore, keep awake
For you do not know on what day your Lord is coming
Be ready, for the Lord will come at an unexpected hour

Blessing

May the Spirit of the Lord surround you
As you walk and wait for his coming
And the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Be amongst you, and those whom you love,
And remain with you, this day, and always, Amen.

Hymn: Joy to the world: #100

Dismissal: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
Thanks be to God

*FEAST ON THE WORD, AN ADVENT COMPANION – edited by David L. Bartlett,
Barbara Brown Taylor, and Kimberly Bracken Long*