

***Third Sunday after Pentecost  
December 16, 2018  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II***

Processional	<i>Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding</i>	Hymn #59
Opening Acclamation	<i>The Book of Common Prayer</i> (BCP)-355	
Collect for Purity		BCP-355
<i>Kyrie</i>		S-91
The Collect of the Day		insert
First Reading	Zephaniah 3:14-20	insert
Canticle	Canticle 9	insert
Second Reading	Philippians 4:4-7	insert
Sequence Hymn	<i>Hark! The Glad Sound! The Savior Comes</i>	H #72
The Gospel	Luke 3:7-18	insert
The Sermon	the Rev. Donna J. Gerold	
The Nicene Creed		BCP-358
Prayers of the People		Pew Card
Confession and Absolution		BCP-360
The Peace		BCP-360
Welcome, Announcements and Offertory		
Anthem	<i>Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment</i>	by A.J. Waters
At the Presentation	Doxology	Hymn #380 (v.3)

**The Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer A		BCP-361
<i>Sanctus</i>		S-114
The Lord's Prayer		BCP-364
The Breaking of the Bread		BCP-364
Fraction Anthem	<i>Christ our Passover</i>	WLP #866
Communion Hymns		
	<i>My God, Thy Table Now Is Spread</i>	H #321
	<i>Now, My Tongue the Mystery telling</i>	H #329
Post Communion Prayer		BCP-366
Recessional	<i>Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers</i>	H #68
Dismissal		BCP-366

**Ministers for the Day**

Celebrant	the Rev. Donna J. Gerold
Acolyte	Debbie Flowers
Lectors	Rennie Edwards & Alan Pierce
Prayers	Nancy Totman
Greeters	Ralph & Susie Wagoner
Chalice	Patti McCartney & Candace Springer
Healing	Kristin Anderson
Music	Ina Meyer & Choir
Flowers	Wesley Chesnut
Altar Guild	A. Dolan & Nancy Totman
Hospitality	

***Following the service please join us in Benedict Hall as we celebrate the  
50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Jim & Geri Anderson***

December 16, 2018

Zephaniah 3:14-20, Canticle 9, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

## REJOICE !

In today's gospel, John, the Baptizer, proclaims the good news that "One . . . is coming," the One who those of his day have been waiting, the Anointed One, the Incarnation of God the Father, the One who brings the cleansing, refining fire of the Holy Spirit, the One who gathers the outcast and brings us home, the One who is near now and forever. It is clear that our response can only be to rejoice; just look at all the injunctions in the other lessons: "Sing aloud . . . shout . . . Rejoice and exult with all your heart!", "Sing praises to the Lord . . . cry aloud . . . ring out your joy.", "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."

In the short term, it is often hard to find the inspiration to rejoice in the circumstances of our lives, but God is in it for the long haul. The Holy One has always used whatever we creatures offer and uses it to benefit us and the world. Think back to the time(s) in your own life when it felt like the very end of the world, but when you look at it through today's eyes, you see what a blessing it has turned out to be after all. That has certainly happened in my life, more than once.

Remembering those times in my life and reflecting on the long-term



consequences inspires me to sing the Canticle appointed for today from the First Song of Isaiah: "Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior." My heart is full to

overflowing with the joy of knowing the Beloved, the One who is coming, the One who is here. It is time for me, and I hope for you, to rejoice!

*Pat Horn, Author*

*Audrey Horn, Photographer*



**Sermon on the Mount (Pieter Jansz. Pourbus (c. 1523 – c. 1584)**

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