



**THE MISSIONAL COMMUNITY
OF ST MONICA
(AN AFRICAN ANGLICAN-
EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY)**



Host

The Rev. Dr. Martin P. Muhia

Officiant

Carolyne Muhia

Preacher

The Rev. Mercy Maina

Joy



14TH December from 12:30 p.m. to 02:00 p.m.



Trinity Episcopal Church 318 South Duchesne
Drive St. Charles, Missouri 63301



Third service at Trinity Episcopal Church



www.trinity-stcharles.org

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF

ADVENT



Contact Rev. Dr. Martin P. Muhia: 636-949-0160



MORNING WORSHIP

ORDER OF SERVICE

At the entry of the procession the people stand. A prayer is said and a hymn is announced.

Opening Hymn: How great Thou art

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

***Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!***

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.
3. And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away
- 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

At the altar the leader welcomes the people with the following words:

Leader The Lord be with you

People And also with you

Leader We have come together, the people of God, drawn by his Spirit, longing for His word, to praise the holy name of the Lord, to share his glorious news of grace, to pray for our needs and the pain of the world, to rejoice in his love and be sent in his peace.

Leader We are heirs of the Father,

People joint heirs with the son,

Leader renewed in the Spirit,

People together we are one.

SENTENCES

If a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his *life*. (**Ezekiel 18:27**)

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. (**Psalm 37:4**)

Leader If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, in repentance and trust, God is faithful and just, and will us our sins. So, let us confess them to our Father.

People Kneel

All *Eternal Father, God of our ancestors, before your power all things tremble, but through your Son, we approach your throne. We have done wrong and neglected to do right; Our sins weigh heavily on our hearts; Lord have mercy, count them not against us. Grant us the joy of forgiveness and lighten our hearts with the glory of Christ, who died and rose again for us. Amen*

Minister The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ rejoice at repentance and declares his acceptance. The dead are alive, the lost are found. His goodness and mercy will follow you all the days of your life, and you will live in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

Leader Blessed are those who live in your house:
People *They will be always singing your praise.*
Leader Praise the Lord.
People *The name of the Lord be praised.*

People stand.

Leader Glory to the Father in whom all things began,
People *Glory to the son who became the Son of Man, Glory to the Spirit who inspires and renews. The Lord our God forever! Alleluia!*

JUBILATE SONG (SONG OF JOY) PSALM 100:3

- 1. I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart:
I will enter his courts with praise.**
- 2. I will say this is the day that the Lord has made:
I will rejoice for he has made me glad.**
- 3. He has made me glad, he has made me glad:
I will rejoice for he has made me glad.**
- 4. He has made me glad, he has made me glad:
I will rejoice for he has made me glad.**

Minister Pray for Sunday school as they go to their classes

The PSALM appointed for the day may be sung or said antiphonally as people remain standing

The reader to introduce using these words:

The Psalm appointed for today is Psalm 146:4-9 **Pelaiah Maina**
We will Praise God Responsively by Whole Verse Ending with the Gloria Patri.

Lauda, anima mea

⁴ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁵ **Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; ***
who keeps his promise for ever;

⁶ Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

⁷ **The LORD sets the prisoners free;**
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

⁸ The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

⁹ **The LORD shall reign for ever, ***
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

After the reading, a Pause of 3 Seconds is observed

All lead by the reader: Glory to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

People sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 35:1-10

David Chege

It should be introduced using these words:

The Old Testament reading is taken from the book of Isaiah chapter 35 beginning to read at verse 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and
rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

After the reading, a Pause of 3 Seconds is observed

Reader This is the word of the Lord

All ***Thanks be to God***

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING James 5:7-10

Kelvin Kuria

It should be introduced using these words:

The New Testament reading is taken from the book of James chapter 5 beginning to read at verse 7

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.

After the reading, a Pause of 3 Seconds is observed

Reader This is the word of the Lord

All ***Thanks be to God***

Notices

Hymn **Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine**

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
**This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.**
- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

SERMON

Rev Mercy Maina

APOSTLES CREED

Leader: We stand together with Christians throughout the centuries and throughout the world today, to affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

*All **I believe in GOD the father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the holy spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended to heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the holy spirit, the holy catholic Church, The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.***

Leader The Lord be with you
People and also with you
Leader Let us pray.

People kneel and say or sing:

All *Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and you shall find,
knock and the door shall be open unto you. Allelu, alleluia. Alleluia*

Leader *As our Saviour 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 today our Daily bread, and forgive us our sins, As we forgive
those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever
more, Amen.***

OR THIS VERSION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER IN SONG

All ***Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be your name
your kingdom come your will be done,
hallowed be your name, hallowed be your name.
On earth as it is in heaven
hallowed be your name,
give us daily our daily bread,
hallowed be your name, hallowed be your name
Forgive us our trespasses,
hallowed be your name,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
hallowed be your name, hallowed be your name.
Lead us not into temptation,
hallowed be your name,
but deliver us from all that is evil,
hallowed be your name, hallowed be your name.
For yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
hallowed be your name,
For ever and ever, for ever and ever
hallowed be your name, hallowed be your name. AMEN.***

Leader *Show us your mercy, O Lord*

People ***and grant us your salvation.***

Leader *O Lord guide our President (s)*

People ***and give him your wisdom and justice.***

Leader *May your ministers serve you faithfully*

People ***and your royal people joyfully.***

Leader *In the valley of the shadow of death*

People ***protect us with your rod and staff.***

Leader *Like trees planted by the waterside*

People ***grant us the fruit of your spirit.***

Leader *Send us out as the salt of the earth*

People ***and as the light of the world.***

The Collect: *To be introduced with these words*

Leader Today is the Second Sunday of Advent

Leader Let us pray

All ***Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

Intercessory continues

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Almighty & everlasting GOD,
Father of the Prince of Peace,
In returning and rest we are saved, in quietness and trust is our strength.
Grant us the blessing of making peace,
And the joy of seeking justice.
Take from our souls all strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess,
The beauty of your peace;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

THE PRAYER FOR GRACE

Lord our heavenly Father. Almighty & ever living God, who has brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Protect us today with your mighty power, so that we do not fall into any sin, or meet any danger;
But all our deeds may be directed by you, & that we may do every day what is good in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

THE PRAYER FOR THE NATION (S)

Almighty GOD,
you rule all nations and direct them according to your will.
we pray that you will guide our President(s)
and all the leaders of our country(ries),
so that they may always use the authority
which you have given them
for the peace of the world,
the benefit, honor and development of our nation,
and the good of your holy Church;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

THE PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Almighty and eternal GOD,
the only source of power.
grant to our Bishops, Pastors and all the people of our churches
your health-giving spirit of grace;
and in order that they may truly please you,
pour on them the continual dew of your blessing.
grant this for the sake of our advocate and mediator, Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

A moment of silent intercession may be observed.... people can present individually their prayers to God.

The leader then uses the following prayer:

Your silence is full, irresistible;
your presence is joy unspeakable.
people drifting into mind
we lift to You and pray they find,
health in sickness,
life in deadness,
strength in weakness,
light in darkness.
Their loss You bear, mysteriously;
your peace You share, eternally. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF SAINT CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty GOD,
by your grace we have come together at this time
to bring our united prayers to you;
and you have promised by your son Jesus Christ,
that when two or three are gathered in his name
he will be in the midst of them.
Fulfill now O Lord,
our desires and petitions as may be best for us;
granting us in this world knowledge of your truth,
and in the world to come life everlasting;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

OFFERING

The minister makes the following biblical exhortation on giving for the Lords work.

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

Hymn **Sowing in the morning**

1 Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

 Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves;
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

2. Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;
By and by, the harvest and the labor ended,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

3 Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master,
Tho', the loss sustained, our spirit often grieves;
When our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

After the offering is brought to the altar the following form of response is used

Leader All things come from you O Lord.

People And of your own have we given you

BLESSING

Minister The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the
blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among
you, and remain with you always

People: Amen

Last Friday December 12, 2025 was Kenyan Independent day. We will sing Kenyan National Anthem before we Recess:

Ee Mungu Nguvu Yetu

First stanza

Swahili lyrics

Ee Mungu nguvu yetu Ilete baraka kwetu Haki iwe ngao na mlinzi Natukae na undugu
Amani na uhuru Raha tupate na ustawi.

English lyrics

O God of all creation Bless this our land and nation Justice be our shield and defender
May we dwell in unity Peace and liberty Plenty be found within our borders.

Second stanza

Swahili lyrics

Amkeni ndugu zetu Tufanye sote bidii Nasi tujitoe kwa nguvu Nchi yetu ya Kenya
Tunayoipenda Tuwe tayari kuilinda

English lyrics

Let one and all arise With hearts both strong and true
Service be our earnest endeavour
And our homeland of Kenya Heritage and splendour
Firm may we stand to defend.

Third stanza

Swahili lyrics

Natujenge taifa letu Eeh, ndio wajibu wetu Kenya istahili heshima
Tuungane mikono Pamoja kazini Kila siku tuwe na shukrani

English lyrics

Let all with one accord In common bond united
Build this our nation together And the glory of Kenya
The fruit of our labour Fill every heart with thanksgiving.

RECESSIONAL HYMN Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

- 1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land,
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
**Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.**

- 2 Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing waters flow;
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
**Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my Strength and shield,
Be Thou still my Strength and shield.**

- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside.
Bear me through the swelling current,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
**Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.**

DISMISSAL

Minister The service has ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord
People **Thanks be to God.**

NOTICES

- We are pleased to have you worshipping with us today—whether in person or online. Your presence is truly appreciated.
- Next Sunday, December 21, 2025, we will hold our worship service in the St. Hilda Room on the second floor to allow greening of the church after the second service.
- The Youth Bible study materials that the Bishop promised are now available in both soft and hard copies. We also have Sunday School materials from the diocesan office.
- We have opened a church WhatsApp group to improve communication. Kindly inform the office if you have been left out.
- Our Sunday School classes run concurrently with this service.
- The flyers to advertise our congregation are now ready. We have both soft and hard copies available, and we are grateful to the Bishop's Office for facilitating this.
- We are still seeking additional ushers and live-streaming volunteers to assist with upcoming training and planning sessions.
- Forms are available to help us collect data for improving communication and pastoral care. Those who have not yet completed a form are encouraged to do so and leave it after the service.
- Suggestions on how we can improve our services—or how the clergy can better serve you—are always welcome. Please write them down and hand them to an usher or one of the priests.
- You are warmly invited **to join us** for a cup of tea in the parish hall **downstairs** after the service.
- A barcode for giving is located below. Feel free to scan it and follow the simple instructions provided.
- **We shall have a combined service on Christmas Eve together with Trinity members. The services will be held at 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. respectively. Please note that we will *not* have a service on Christmas Day.**

