



SAINT GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

801 E. COMMERCE ST., MILFORD, MI 48381
248-684-0495 ✉ WWW.STGEORGESMILFORD.ORG

December 14, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

The Third Sunday of Advent

The Holy Eucharist, Rite I, In-person

The Rev. Michelle Werner, *Rector*

Mr. John Potter, *Music Minister*

The Service begins on p. 323 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Word of God

Opening acclamation and Collect for Purity	p. 323
Gloria in Excelsis	p. 324
Lighting of the Advent Wreath	see below
Collect of the Day, <i>response: And with thy spirit.</i>	see below
The Lessons and Psalm	see below
The Sermon	Rev. Werner
Nicene Creed	p. 326
Prayers of the People: <i>response, Come Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.</i>	Blue Card
Confession of Sin	p. 331
Exchange of Peace: <i>response, And with thy spirit.</i>	

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I	p. 333
The Lord's Prayer	p. 336
The Breaking of Bread <i>and</i> Prayer of Humble Access	p. 337
Post Communion Prayer	p. 339
The Blessing	
Sending Hymn H-82 #66 <i>Come, thou long expected Jesus</i>	Public Domain
Dismissal	
Postlude <i>Noel X</i> French Carol, Arr. Louis-Claude D'Aquin	Public Domain

At the Advent Wreath *Three candles are lighted*

Celebrant Let us pray. *Silence.*

Come, O Holy One, breaker of chains and renewer of life! Open our eyes to your presence in all the earth. Stir us to rejoice in the signs of your love: the liberation of the oppressed, the healing of the frail and broken, the springing up of water in parched places, and the coming once and again of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day,

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit**

Let us Pray,

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end.
Amen.

First Lesson | Isaiah 35: 1-10

The Return of the Redeemed to Zion

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 35, beginning at the 1st verse.

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter | Psalm 146: 4-9

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!

The Epistle | James 5: 7-10

Patience in Suffering

A reading from the Letter of James, chapter 5, beginning at the 7th verse

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel | Matthew 11: 2-11 *Messengers from John the Baptist, Jesus Praises John the Baptist*

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People **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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sending Hymn

H-82 #66

Come, thou long expected Jesus

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Postlude

Noel X

French Carol, Arr. Louis-Claude D'Aquin

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It's not too late to sponsor Christmas poinsettias! Please use the form in the Narthex.

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Announcements –December 14, 2025

- ★ **Welcome to St George's Church!** Our Worship schedule includes Services at 08:30am and 10:15am in the Church. Both services will be live-streamed to our YouTube channel (accessible from our website and our Facebook page) in each month according to the following pattern:
 - 1st Sunday - 08:30 am Rite I Service
 - 2nd/3rd/4th/(5th) Sundays - 10:15 am Rite II Service
- ★ **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Sun Dec 21 at 11:45am Benthic Brass Christmas Concert and Luncheon**
 - **Wed Dec 24 at 4:00pm & 8:00pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist with Candlelight**
 - **Sun Dec 28 at 9:30am One Service: 9 Lessons and Carols**
 - **Wed Dec 31 at 5:00pm New Year's Eve Party: 'British & Leftovers!'**
- ★ **Gifts for the Giving Tree Due back today.** Wrapped gifts can go on the pew under the TV in the Fellowship Hall. If you are still working on it, please let Rev. Michelle know and make sure it is here by noon on Wednesday. Thank you to all who have participated in this powerful ministry.
- ★ **Benthic Brass Returns Sunday Dec 21 at 11:45am.** Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a festive Tuba and Low Brass concert and sing along of Christmas favorites and other selections. Lunch will be served after the concert. **Sign up now if you are willing to help provide for the luncheon.** Fliers are available in Print and on the Facebook page to share around town.
- ★ **New Years Eve Party: 'British & Leftovers!' 5:00-8:00pm** Come ring in the new year (in London) here at St George's. We will gather for a potluck dinner, white elephant gift exchange and celebrate the London New Year at 7:00pm. Sign in up in Fellowship Hall.
- ★ **The Mitten Tree is up in the Fellowship Hall.** Please bring in new child or adult sized hats, gloves, mittens or other warm items for our good friends at Neithercut Elementary School in Flint. We are also collecting new and gently used children's books.
- ★ **Today is the Last Day to Sign up to sponsor Poinsettias in the Narthex.** Cost is \$20. Help us beautify the church this Christmas **Advent Greens at the altar today are provided and arranged by Laura Frost.**

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<https://www.stgeorgesmilford.org/>

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN