



Welcome to St. John's Church

The First Sunday after the Epiphany:
The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ
January 10, 2021

The health and safety of our congregation and community is the highest concern of St. John's. As we begin to return to in-person worship, we will continue to "live stream" our 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship on the St. John's YouTube page, at: [St. John's YouTube Page](#)

Organ Prelude *What Star is This?*
Quem Pastores
Chartres

Puer Nobis
Helmut Walchla
Robert Powell

The Word of God

Opening Hymn *Brightest And Best Of The Stars Of The Morning*

- 1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,

dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

- 2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.*

- 3 Shall we then yield him, in costly devotion,
odors of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?*

- 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor secure,
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.*

- 5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

The Celebrant begins

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

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

When appointed, the following hymn or some other song of praise is sung or said, all standing

The Trisagion

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lessons

INTRODUCTION: The Book of Genesis includes creation stories drawn from two different sources. The authors of the first creation story emphasize the goodness of God's creation, and how God created an orderly world out of chaos, and gave humans a place of honor in it. In these verses, God sweeps like a wind over the chaos and formless void and begins to establish order.

A Reading from the scroll of Genesis (1:1-5):

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

After each Reading, the Reader may say
The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Silence may follow.

A Psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each Reading.

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.***
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.***
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.***
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.***
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;***
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.***
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.***
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.***
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"***
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.***
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.***

INTRODUCTION: Luke, the author of Acts, recounts the story of Apollos, a learned, eloquent spokesman for God who knew only the baptism of John, and who with others was then baptized in the name of Jesus and received the Holy Spirit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (19:1-7):

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — altogether there were about twelve of them.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Gradual Hymn *How Bright Appears The Morning Star*

1 ***How bright appears the Morning Star,
with mercy beaming from afar;
the host of heaven rejoices;
O righteous Branch, O Jesse’s Rod!
Thou Son of Man and Son of God!
We, too, will lift our voices:
Jesus, Jesus!
Holy, holy, yet most lowly,
draw thou near us;
great Emmanuel, come and hear us.***

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

INTRODUCTION: Our gospel reading this morning is the story of John’s baptism of Jesus. John tells of the mightier one to come whose baptism will be with the Holy Spirit. When Jesus emerges from the water, a voice from heaven echoes ancient oracles concerning the calling of the Lord’s chosen servant, and he receives the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Mark (1:4-11)

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, Priest-in-Charge

On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows

The Nicene Creed

*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.*

The Prayers of the People

Through Christ we are anointed with the Holy Spirit in baptism. May the same Spirit inspire us as we offer our prayers and petitions, responding, “Hear us, God of Glory.”

+ For an overflowing gift of generosity, that we may reflect God’s abundant care for all of creation, lifting others out of systemic poverty and racial injustice in the midst of this pandemic, and supporting the work of the Washington Council of Congregations to care for our community, reaping the joy of a philanthropic life; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ For Antonio, Secretary General of the United Nations, Donald our President, Joe, our President-elect, Ned our Governor, James, the First Selectman of the town of Washington, for the members of our Congress and Courts, and all who exercise authority in the nations of the world, that they will faithfully establish justice on earth, and carry the torch of freedom and peace into all lands; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ For the Church, remembering especially Suheil, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople; Francis, Bishop of Rome; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Ian and

Laura, our Bishops; Geoffrey, our Priest, and all members of this congregation, that we may bear witness to Jesus' forgiveness and love, offering to those outside our walls the light that illumines all darkness and releases humanity from the grip of sin and despair; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ That we may know our identity through the voice of God, who claims us as his beloved sons and daughters, as children of God, and who invites us to share in his earthly mission; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ In thanksgiving for the Body and Blood of Christ, a foreshadowing of that heavenly banquet upon which the faithful departed continually feast, remembering especially the more than 355,000 Americans who have died from this pandemic, for their families and friends, for our beloved ones who have passed before us, for the benefactors of this church, and Colonel Jay Lafleur who will be buried this week with full military honors; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ For the courage to walk through the tranquil and turbulent waters of life, knowing that in our baptism we died with Christ in darkness and joined him in the risen light; remembering especially the more than 135,000 Americans now lying in hospital with the corona virus, and also those who have commended themselves to our prayers, Mary Jo Keating, Joan Beattie, Heather, Marlene and Chris Smith, Tom Witt, Ed and Zemma White, Kathy Coe, Bob Cole, Eileen Hearn, Connie Kaylor, and all who are housebound especially Janet Chenery and Ken Hecken, pausing now that all may add their own prayers and petitions, either silently in our hearts or aloud in our midst.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion upon the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which sometimes infect our hearts; break down the walls that often separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations, races, peoples and tongues may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest, stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with one of the sentences of Scripture.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory Hymn *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

***1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.***

***2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,***

*and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.*

*3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.*

*4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.*

*5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.*

The Great Thanksgiving

The Celebrant faces the congregation and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

***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.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John, our Patron, and

all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*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 Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said

*Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer our praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest desire that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you physically, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace you with all the affections of our

souls, confident that nothing can ever separate us from the love God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.

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 Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn *Baptized In Water*

- 1 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:
heirs of salvation,
trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.***
- 2 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King:
one with his rising,
freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.***
- 3 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King:
born of one Father,
we are his children,
joyfully now God's praise we sing.***

The Celebrant, dismisses them with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Organ Postlude *Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized* Healey Willan

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
78 Green Hill Road
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Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Celebrant*

Jon Lafleur, *Organist*

Melissa Schipul, *Soloist*

Hunter Brown, *Reader*

Laura Daly, *Veejay*

Susie Markert *Altar Flowers*

MB Witt, *Altar Guild*

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