



## **Welcome to St. John's Church**

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

*February 14, 2021*

*10:00 a.m.*

*The health and safety of our congregation and community is the highest concern of St. John's. While closed to the public in the midst of this pandemic, we continue to 'live stream' our 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship each week on both our [St. John's YouTube Page](#) and our [St. John's Facebook page](#)*

**Organ Prelude**

*Fuga a due voci  
Voluntary in a minor  
Adagio in b minor*

J C Perusch  
Anon  
Tommaso Albinoni

## **The Word of God**

**Opening Hymn # 122**

*Alleluia, Song of Gladness*

- 1 Alleluia, song of gladness,  
voice of joy that cannot die;  
alleluia is the anthem  
ever raised by choirs on high;  
in the house of God abiding  
thus they sing eternally.*
- 2 Alleluia thou resoundest,  
true Jerusalem and free;  
alleluia, joyful mother,  
all thy children sing with thee;  
but by Babylon's sad waters  
mourning exiles now are we.*
- 3 Alleluia though we cherish  
and would chant for evermore  
alleluia in our singing,  
let us for a while give o'er,  
as our Savior in his fasting  
pleasures of the world forbore.*
- 4 Therefore in our hymns we pray thee,  
grant us, blessèd Trinity,  
at the last to keep thine Easter  
with thy faithful saints on high;  
there to thee for ever singing  
alleluia joyfully.*

*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.*

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **The Lessons**

*INTRODUCTION: After many years as God's agent and champion of his ways in Israel, the Northern Kingdom, the Prophet Elijah's life draws to a close as he ascends into heaven amidst a chariot of fire and whirlwinds from heaven!*

### **A Reading from the Second Book of Kings:**

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I

will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.” Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

*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 50:1-6**

***1 The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; \*  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.***

***2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, \*  
God reveals himself in glory.***

***3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; \*  
before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.***

***4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above \*  
to witness the judgment of his people.***

***5 “Gather before me my loyal followers, \*  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”***

***6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; \*  
for God himself is judge.***

*INTRODUCTION: Paul has written that Christ is the very image of God, though not all can perceive the truth.*

## **A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians:**

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

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

**Gradual Hymn # 538**            *O Light Of Light*

- 1 O Light of Light, Love given birth;  
Jesus, Redeemer of the earth:  
more bright than day your face did show,  
your raiment whiter than the snow.***
- 2 Two prophets, who had faith to see,  
with your elect found company;  
the heavens above your glory named,  
your Father's voice his Son proclaimed.***
- 3 May all who seek to praise aright  
through purer lives show forth your light.  
To you, the King of glory, now  
all faithful hearts adoring bow.***

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

*INTRODUCTION: In our gospel this morning is the story of Jesus' transfiguration.*

## **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Mark**

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter

said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

*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**

Beholding God's glory in the world about us, and in the faces of our sisters and brothers, we offer our prayers, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

+ Word made Flesh, enlighten the world with the fruits of your peace, that all your children may be fed, educated, sheltered, and loved; remembering especially António, Secretary General of the United Nations, Joe, our President, Ned our Governor, James, the First Selectman of the town of Washington, for the members of our Congress and Courts; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

+ Bearer of the Cross, strengthen us to pick up the gods of this world, and dispel their power, that we may live according to your commandments, and in the liberty of the Holy Spirit; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

+ Rabbi and Teacher, empower your priests to preach the gospel and to live its message, proclaiming to others your forgiveness and love, your eternal generosity and daily presence in our lives; remembering especially Suheil, the Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople; Frances, Bishop of Rome; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Ian and Laura, our Bishops; Fr. Geoff, our priest, and all the members of St. John's; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

+ Son of God, transfigure your Church by giving us the faith and courage to choose those things that bring spiritual life to the community, and to let go of those things which drain energy and joy; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

+ Rock of our Salvation, strengthen those who work in the service industry, help them deal with difficult people and situations, and empower their employers to provide fair wages and safe working environments; let us pray.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

+ Bread of Life, may this Eucharistic Meal nourish us spiritually with thanksgiving and gratitude; let us pray.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

+ Incarnate One, be with those who have departed this life in your faith and fear, that their souls and the souls of all the faithful may rest in peace and rise in glory; let us pray.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

With the light of Christ to reveal the glory of God, we continue our prayers and petitions for the sick and elderly; mindful of the still more than 80,000 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 Zemina White, Kathy Coe, MB's sister and her husband Tony, and all who are housebound especially Janet Chenery and Ken Hecken, and pausing now that everyone 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 have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; 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 Solo**                   *I Want To Walk With Jesus*

## **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**

*Celebrant and People*

*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 into our hearts spiritually. 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 # 129**

*Christ Upon The Mountain Peak*

- 1 Christ upon the mountain peak  
stands alone in glory blazing;  
let us, if we dare to speak,  
with the saints and angels praise him.  
Alleluia!***
- 2 Trembling at his feet we saw  
Moses and Elijah speaking.  
All the prophets and the Law  
shout through them their joyful greeting.  
Alleluia!***
- 3 Swift the cloud of glory came.  
God proclaiming in its thunder  
Jesus as his Son by name!  
Nations cry aloud in wonder!  
Alleluia!***
- 4 This is God's beloved Son!  
Law and prophets fade before him;  
first and last and only One,  
let creation now adore him!  
Alleluia!***

*The Celebrant, dismisses them with these words*  
Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People*           ***Thanks be to God.***

**Organ Postlude**

*Trumpet Tune*

Maurice Green

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**78 Green Hill Road**  
**Washington, CT 06793**

**Worship Ministers Today:**

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Celebrant*  
Jon Lafleur, *Organist*  
Madison LaFontan, *Soloist*  
Hunter Brown, *Reader*  
Laura Daly, *Veejay*  
Susie Markert, *Altar Flowers*  
MB Witt, *Altar Guild*

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