



**Welcome to St. John's Church**  
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
*February 7, 2021*

*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 our [St. John's YouTube Page](#) and our [St. John's Facebook page](#)*

**Organ Prelude**

*Flute Piece  
Ayre  
Sarabande*

Thomas Thorley  
Arcangelo Corelli  
J S Bach

## **The Word of God**

**Opening Hymn # 1**

*Father, We Praise Thee*

*1 Father, we praise thee, now the night is over,  
active and watchful, stand we all before thee;  
singing we offer prayer and meditation:  
thus we adore thee.*

*2 Monarch of all things, fit us for thy mansions;  
banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;  
bring us to heaven, where thy saints united  
joy without ending.*

*3 All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,  
Trinity blessed, send us thy salvation;  
thine is the glory, gleaming and resounding  
through all creation.*

*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.*

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

## **The Lessons**

*INTRODUCTION: The prophet speaks to a people, probably weary from years in exile, who are tempted to desert their faith in God. The prophet challenges them with a series of questions. Can God's domain be measured by human beings? Can anyone advise him? Isn't he greater than all the nations?*

### **A Reading from the Scroll of the Prophet Isaiah:**

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

*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 147:1-12, 21c**

***1 Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*  
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!***

***2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; \*  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.***

***3 He heals the brokenhearted \*  
and binds up their wounds.***

***4 He counts the number of the stars \*  
and calls them all by their names.***

- 5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; \*  
there is no limit to his wisdom.*
- 6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, \*  
but casts the wicked to the ground.*
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; \*  
make music to our God upon the harp.*
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds \*  
and prepares rain for the earth;*
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*  
and green plants to serve mankind.*
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds \*  
and for the young ravens when they cry.*
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;*
- 12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, \*  
in those who await his gracious favor.*
- 21 Hallelujah!*

*INTRODUCTION: Paul has written that as an apostle he has a right to be supported by the Church but that he has chosen not to seek the financial support of the Corinthian community lest this be a barrier to people coming to Christ.*

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

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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

People            **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn # 538**            *God Of Mercy*

**1 God of mercy, God of grace,  
show the brightness of thy face.  
Shine upon us, Savior, shine,  
fill thy Church with light divine,  
and thy saving health extend  
unto earth's remotest end.**

**2 Let thy people praise thee, Lord;  
be by all that live adored.  
Let the nations shout and sing  
glory to their Savior King;  
let all be, below, above,  
one in joy, and light, and love.**

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

*INTRODUCTION: In our gospel this morning, Mark continues to tell us of Jesus' activities at Capernaum by the Sea of Galilee. In the synagogue, Jesus has taught "as one having authority" beyond knowledge of the scriptures and has healed a man possessed by evil.*

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

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

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

*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**

Let us offer our prayers to God, who frees us from the bondage of sin and gives us that liberty of abundant life which is revealed to us in Christ Jesus, as we respond, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

+ That the Church may discover many ways to present the love of God in this time of pandemic, reaching people of different cultures, tongues, and understandings with the one message of Christ, 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.*

+ That those who are weary may have their strength renewed, those who are hungry be given the bread of life, those who are sick healed of their illness, and those in despair awaken to hope; let us pray.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

+ For those who are peacemakers throughout the world, that their labor be not in vain, but bear fruit that brings new life to the peoples of all nations, 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.*

+ For economic development and assistance in our communities ravaged by this virus, for support to increase in employment and financial security in our nation, and advance healing among our people; let us pray.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

+ For family life, that through love and forgiveness relationships may prosper, and children may have the stability that builds emotional, physical, and spiritual wellbeing; let us pray.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

+ For all who have died, remembering especially the more than 450,000 Americans who have died from Covid in the midst of this pandemic, for their



families and communities, that they may all find eternal life in the arms of our all-merciful Savior; let us pray.

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

As a community of faith, called to proclaim the good news of Christ, we continue our prayers and petitions for the sick and elderly; mindful of the still more than 90,000 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, 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, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; 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 # 493**        *O For A Thousand Tongues*

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!*
- 2 My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim  
and spread through all the earth  
abroad the honors of thy Name.*
- 3 Jesus! the Name that charms our fears  
and bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.*
- 4 He speaks; and, listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.*
- 5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voiceless ones,  
your loosened tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold, your Savior comes;  
and leap, ye lame, for joy!*
- 6 Glory to God and praise and love  
be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above,  
the Church in earth and heaven.*

## **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**

*O Lord, Make Us More Holy (Loving, Patient, Faithful)*

***1. Lord, make us more holy  
Lord, make us more holy,  
Lord, make us more holy  
until we meet again.  
Holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.***

*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*

J K F Fischer

**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*

Laura Daly, *Reader*

Larry Littlefield, *Veejay*

Susie Markert, *Altar Flowers*

MB Witt, *Altar Guild*

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