

Welcome to St. John's Church



The Sunday After Christmas Day:

*December 26, 2021
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.*

WELCOME TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP!

The health and safety of the most vulnerable in our congregation and community remains the highest concern to St. John's. Remember that many in our communities are not vaccinated; like most of those under 5 years old, those who are immuno-compromised, and those who have chosen not to be vaccinated for other reasons. While many are now vaccinated, remember that even a small percentage of those vaccinated can contract the corona virus, and while their symptoms may be milder, they can also spread the virus to loved ones and friends back home. We have not yet reached herd immunity as a nation. So please remain vigilant in safety protocols, mindful of the risk in our community, masked indoors, social distancing and getting vaccinated if possible. And be assured that we will continue to 'live stream' our worship to both our St. John's YouTube Page and our St. John's Facebook page.

MORNING PRAYER

In accordance with the guidelines of the CDC and the CT Department of Health, St. John's asks everyone to wear masks inside the church, whether vaccinated or not.

Prelude

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Opening Hymn # 93 *Angels, From The Realms of Glory*

1 *Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

2 *Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:*

Refrain

3 *Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:*

Refrain

4 *Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:*

Refrain

The Invitatory and Psalter

The people standing, the Officiant may say

Officiant *O Lord, open our lips.*

People *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Invitatory Psalm 100 Jubilate

Alleluia. To us a child is born: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

** serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.*

Know this: The Lord himself is God;

** he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.*

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise;

** give thanks to him and call upon his Name.*

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting;

** and his faithfulness endures from age to age.*

Alleluia. To us a child is born: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Psalm 147

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.]*
- 13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;*
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.*
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.*
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.*
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.*
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?*
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.*
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.*
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!*

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen*

The Lessons

INTRODUCTION: In our Hebrew Bible reading, the prophet Isaiah joyfully responds on behalf of all God's people to the Lord's promised for a redeemed Jerusalem.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah: (61:10-62:3)

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

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

Silence may follow.

Canticle #S261: A Song To The Lamb

Revelation 4:11; 5-9, 9-10, 13

- 1*** *Splendor and honor and kingly power
are yours by right, O Lord our God,*
- 2*** *For you created everything that is,*

- 3*** *And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,*

- 4*** *From every family, language, people, and nation,*

a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

*5 And so, to him who sits upon the throne,
and to Christ the Lamb,*

*6 Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor,
for ever and for evermore.*

*Splendor and honor and kingly power
are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is,
and by your will they were created and have their being;*

INTRODUCTION: In the second reading, the apostle Paul explains what the role of the law has been and how, in our new relationship of faith, we have become children and heirs of the Father.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians: (3:23-25, 4:4-7)

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle # 10: The Second Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 55:6-11)

*Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; **

call upon him when he draws near.

*Let the wicked forsake their ways **

and the evil ones their thoughts;

*And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, **

and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, **

*nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen..*

INTRODUCTION: In the third reading, the fourth Gospel opens with a hymn to the expression of God's very being, God's Word, who has now become flesh and lived among us.

A Reading from the Gospel of John: (1:1-18)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

People *Thanks be to God.*

The Sermon

Laura Daly, *licensed Preacher*

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

*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 into 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.*

Offertory Hymn # 112

In The Bleak Midwinter

*1 In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.*

*2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable-place sufficed*

*the Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.*

*3 Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
throngèd the air;
but his mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipèd the belovèd
with a kiss.*

*4 What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him-
give my heart.*

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

*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 Suffrages

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. *And grant us your salvation.*
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. *Let your people sing with joy.*
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. *For only in you can we live in safety.*
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. *Your saving health among all nations.*
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. *Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. *And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Sunday

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Hymn # 105 *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

*1 God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*2 From God our heavenly Father
a blessèd angel came
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name.*

Refrain

*3 "Fear not, then," said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior
of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's power and might."*

Refrain

*4 Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and charity
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
doth bring redeeming grace.*

Refrain

Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

Officiant: Let us continue our prayers, pausing now so that all may add their own prayers or petitions, either silently in their hearts or out loud in our midst.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you 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 age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Then may be said

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn # 107 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

*1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.*

Christ is born today!

*2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss;
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this!*

*3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!*

The Officiant may then conclude

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.* *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Postlude

Worship Ministers Today:

Sara Coles, *Officiant*

Laura Daly, *Preacher*

Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*

John Magee, *8:00 Reader*

Marty Sauser, *10:00 Reader*

Larry Littlefield, *Veejay (VJ)*

Sara Coles, MB Witt: *Altar Guild*

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**78 Green Hill Road
Washington, CT 06793**

Staff

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Priest-in-Charge*
Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Dawn Rosiello, *Parish Administrator*
Joan Burgess, *Foundation Administrator*

Vestry

David Gillespie, Susan McFeely, *Wardens*
Joan M. Beattie, *Clerk*
Laura Daly, *Clerk Pro-Temp*
Larry Littlefield, *Treasurer*
Hunter Brown, *Assistant Treasurer*
Class of 2021
Robert Futh, Larry Littlefield, MB Witt
Class of 2022
Sara Coles, Mary Davis, Andris Kalnins
Class of 2023
Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Joseph Claro

Diocesan Delegates: Sara Coles, MB Witt.

Parish Office Telephone: (860) 868-2527

Parish Office Hours: *Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

St. John's Email: stjohnschurch@snet.net

St. John's Website: <http://stjohnswashington.com/>

St. John's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchWashingtonCT>

St. John's YouTube Page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOwTnqlRss4BT8VwFul4qg>