



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

The Second Sunday After Christmas Day  
*January 3, 2021*

*The health and safety of our congregation and community is the highest priority for St. John's. As long as the Town of Washington and surrounding villages are in a Red Zone for new virus infections, we will close the church to the public and "live stream" our 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship on the St. John's YouTube page, at: [St.John'sYouTubePage](#)*

**Organ Prelude**    *The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away*                      Bach Chorale  
*Shepherds' Farewell And Serenade To The Holy Family*  
from "The Childhood Of Christ"                      Hector Berlioz

## **The Word of God**

**Opening Hymn**                      *Now Greet The Swiftly Changing Year*

*Now greet the swiftly changing year with joy and penitence sincere;  
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.*

*For Jesus came to wage sin's war; this Name of names for us he bore;  
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.*

*His love abundant far exceeds the volume of a whole year's needs;  
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.*

*With such a Lord to lead our way in hazard and prosperity,  
what need we fear in earth or space in this new year of grace?*

*"All glory be to God on high and peace on earth," the angels cry;  
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.*

*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 Gloria**

***Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.***

***Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.***

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
    have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
    receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
    Jesus Christ,  
    with the Holy Spirit,*

## **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 wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

## **The Lessons**

### **A Reading from the scroll of the Prophet Jeremiah (32:7-14):**

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and  
those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.  
Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."  
For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

*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 84**

***1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.***

***2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.***

- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.*
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.*
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.*
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.*
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.*
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.*
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.*
- 10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; \*  
he will give grace and glory;*
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold \*  
from those who walk with integrity.*
- 12 O LORD of hosts, \*  
happy are they who put their trust in you!*

### **The Epistle of St. Paul to the Christians at Ephesus (1:3-6, 15-19a):**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

**Gradual Hymn**            *Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love!*

*1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love!*

*Name all other names above!*

*Unto which must every knee  
bow in deep humility.*

*2 Jesus! Name decreed of old,  
to the maiden mother told,  
kneeling in her lowly cell,  
by the angel Gabriel.*

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

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according St. Matthew**

*People Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

*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**

Raising our voices in proclamation and praise of the newborn child, let us rejoice as we offer our prayers to God, responding, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

+ In thanksgiving for the peacemakers who toil in troubled lands, and in families of discontent, that the Prince of Peace may give them words of wisdom as they seek to encourage new means of communication, the mending of relationships, the ease of anxiety and despair; let us pray.

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

+ In thanksgiving for those who bring treasures to the poor and needy of the world, to the unemployed and the underemployed, to the furloughed, and fearful, offering the precious gifts of hope and patience to God’s fragile people; let us pray.

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

+ For those who exercise leadership throughout the Church, remembering especially 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 in our actions the love of Christ, enlightening the hearts of those who have a hidden faith, and strengthening those of a weak spirit; let us pray.

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

+ 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 legislative bodies, and those who serve on our Courts, that they may honor our historic inheritance and take us along new pathways in the service of bettering our nation; let us pray.

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

+ For those who have died before their time, remembering especially Jay Lafleur, who died last week, and the more than 340,000 Americans who have died in this pandemic, for the families who grieve the loss and mourn their absence, that we may be comforted by the Father of us all, whose only Son was not spared an early death; let us pray.

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



+ In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, remembering those who have been our mentors and teachers, and through whose companionship we have experienced the riches of divine grace; let us pray.

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

As God's adopted children, through the will of Jesus Christ, let us add to these prayers and thanksgivings, remembering especially the more than 120,000 Americans now lying in hospital with the corona virus, and remembering 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, Laura Whipple, 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.***

## **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.*

**Offertory Anthem**

*The Star Carol*

Alfred Burt

## **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 you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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.***

*The Celebrant, dismisses them with these words*

**Let us go forth in the name of Christ.**

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

**Closing Hymn**

*O God, Whom Neither Time Nor Space*

*1 O God, whom neither time nor space  
can limit, hold, or bind,  
look down from heaven, thy dwelling-  
place,  
with love for humankind.*

*2 Another year its course has run;  
thy loving care renew:  
forgive the ill that we have done,  
the good we failed to do.*

**Organ Postlude**

*In Thee Is Gladness*

Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi (1591)

*On behalf of the people of St. John's, we wish you and your family a safe and  
Happy New Year*

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

**Worship Ministers Today:**

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Officiant*

Jon Lafleur, *Organist*

Isabella Dubow, *Soloist*

Laura Daly, *Reader*

Larry Littlefield, *Veejay*

Susie Markert *Altar Flowers*

MB Witt, *Altar Guild*

**Parish Office Telephone:** (860) 868-2527

**St. John's Email:** [stjohnschurch@snet.net](mailto: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/UCoOwTnqIRss4BT8VwFul4qg>