



Welcome to St. John's Church

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Midnight Mass
10:00 p.m.
December 24, 2020

The health and safety of our congregation and community is the highest concern of St. John's. Until 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

The Word of God

Opening Hymn

O Come all ye faithful

*1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;*

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*2 God of God, Light of Light eternal,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created, [Refrain]*

*3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" [Refrain]*

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

Song of Praise

Angels We Have Heard On High

*1 Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.*

Refrain:

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

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, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

A Reading from the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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 96

- 1. Sing to the Lord new songs of praise;
Let all the earth sing to the Lord.
Sing out and praise God's holy Name;
Proclaim good news with one accord.***

2. *Declare God's glory far and wide,
God's wondrous acts and holy law;
For God is greatly to be praised
And then beheld with greatest awe.*
3. *The gods that other nations serve
Are idols made of wood and stone;
But it is God the Lord who made
The heavens above us, God alone.*
4. *Magnificent God's presence here,
With splendid courts in glorious light;
Ascribe to God all peoples, tongues;
Ascribe to God all power and might.*
5. *Ascribe all honor to the Lord;
Bring gifts into the holy place.
In holy beauty worship God,
And let us bow before God's face.*
6. *Proclaim, "It is the Lord who rules
And who will judge with equity";
Rejoice, O earth; O sky, be glad;
And roar, all creatures of the sea.*
7. *O fields and forests, shout for joy
When God our ruler comes in might
To judge the peoples with the truth,
The whole created earth with right.*

A Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

After each Reading, the Reader may say
The Word of the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Gradual Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*I Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"*

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according St. Luke:

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary

and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

+The Word has been made flesh, the light of God's love has broken through our darkness, the Daystar from on high now shines in our hearts. Filled once again with the joy of Jesus' birth, let us pray together in the power of his Spirit, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

+ That the Prince of Peace may guide the leaders of the nations of the world, and all men and women everywhere, into the ways of freedom and truth, remembering particularly 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, our Congress and our Courts, that the decisions they make may bring righteousness and justice to all peoples; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ For Suheil, Archbishop 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 be guided in our journey to Bethlehem, uniting the whole Church as we live into our spiritual kinship with one another; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ For those for whom the darkness has suffocated hope in this time of pandemic: for the lonely, the fearful, the hungry, the hurt, and those who bear a personal grief and loss; passing now so that all may add their own prayers and petitions either silently, or aloud (pause) . . . (then continue) that they may all see the dawn of God's love, and revive the eternal hope that never fades away; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ For our families and friends, and for all our absent sisters and brothers; for those who are sick, remembering especially Mary Jo Keating, Joan Beattie, Heather, Marlene Smith, Tom Witt, Ed and Zemma White, Kathy Coe, Laura Whipple, Eileen Hearn, Connie Kaylor, Jay Lafleur in hospice care, and all who are

housebound especially Janet Chenery and Ken Hecken; and for all those who have died and who now feast at the heavenly banquet of God's grace; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ That we may be released from the captivity of our sins, the places of interior blindness that cause us to choose darkness over light; that we may be forgiven by the power of the Holy Spirit for sins and weaknesses, for our fear and uncertainty, for our lack of faith; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ That we who gather to worship together on this holy night, and those throughout the world who worship with us from afar, may bear witness to Christ born in our hearts; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In the wonder of this night, let us continue to offer our petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. ***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

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

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.

During the ministration of Communion, hymns, psalms, or anthems may be sung.

Communion Hymn

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

***1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.***

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.

Post-Communion Hymn:

Silent Night

*1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing "alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!"*

*3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

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.***

Final Hymn:

Joy To The World!

*1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*2 Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.*

Organ Postlude

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

Special Christmas Fund Remembered Names

Mr. and Mrs. William Bardel

Florence Klein Britton

Mr. Nicholas Benson and Ms. Natalie Dyer

Elisha Dyer

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bent

Renee Fotouhi, Eleanor Fotouhi, Abol Hassan Fotouhi, M.D., Parviz Fotouhi, Julia Biddle Armour Walker, Judah Folkman, M.D., Sen. Ted Stevens, Charlotte & Gordon Smith

Mr. Hunter Brown and Miss Tillie Page Laird

Kenzie Brown, Estelle and Howard Bronson, Pamela Brown, FiFi Laird Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Campbell

Jack and Pat Campbell, David Purcell, Emory Strilkauskas

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coles

No names given

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Daniels

No names given

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dulack

Jules and Madeleine Sintobin, Stephen and Theresa Dulack

Ms. Emily Fitzhugh

Faith Stewart Gordon, Robert James Thornton, Ann Belfield Thornton

Mr. and Mrs. David Gillespie

John J. O'Hara, Maxine B. O'Hara, Kimball R.F. O'Hara, Walter M. Gillespie, Mary L. Gillespie, Elizabeth Gillespie Hartnagel, Marcella Long. Prayers for the living: Helen O'Hara MacDuff

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman

Kenneth and Gloria Hahneman, Joseph and Betty DiNunno

Mr. Andris Kalnins and Ms. Sarah Lee Martin

Julie Hays Worthington Martin, Lorenzo Wodehouse Martin, Arthur Dwight Martin, Emilie Martin, Zenta and Gustaus Kalnins

Mrs. Kirsten Knutson

David H. Knutson, Magna and Mathias Eriksen

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Littlefield

No names given

Capt. Rudy Mangels and Ms. Holly Flor

Matthew Flor, Larkin Mangels, Edna and Marvin Mangels, Patricia and Bert Schuetz, Susan Agnes Flanagan, William Coyne, Warren Louise and Nelda Mangels.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Markert

Phil and Maxine Markert, Tina Arnold, John Arnold, Nora and Alan Wolff, Nancy Wolff, Mickey and Peter Wolff, Helen and Wallace Gray, Drika Purvis

Ms. Katherine Michie

Peg Addicks and Peg Mowbray Jones

Mr. Alex Purves

Hoppy Barnard and Drika Purves

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Smith

Mark Christian Murphy, Marie and Christian Meier, Helen McNeil, Wentworth Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Witt

In Thanksgiving for all our Blessings

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

Worship Ministers

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Officiant*

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Officiant*

Jon Lafleur, *Organist*

Donna Castaner, *Soloist*

Hunter Brown, *Reader*

Larry Littlefield, *Veejay*

Susie Markert *Altar Flowers*

MB Witt, *Altar Guild*

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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>

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