



Welcome to St. John's Church
The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
January 31, 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

Voluntary in F
Largo in d minor

John Bennett
Vivaldi

The Word of God

Opening Hymn # 549

Jesus Call Us, O'er The Tumult

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice soundeth,
saying, "Christian, follow me;"*
- 2 as, of old, Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.*
- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store;
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."*
- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."*
- 5 Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Savior, make us hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.*

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; 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: As the people of Israel prepare to enter the Promised Land, Moses instructs them. At Sinai, their leaders have found direct contact with God to be beyond them, so God has promised to raise up another prophet for them after Moses' death.

A Reading from the Scroll of Deuteronomy (18:15-20):

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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 111

*1 Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.*

*2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.*

*3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures forever.*

*4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.*

*5 He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.*

*6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.*

*7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.*

*8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.*

*9 He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant forever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.*

*10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures
forever.*

INTRODUCTION: Paul continues to answer questions put to him by Corinthian Christians. Here he is giving counsel to those of them who are unsure whether it is permissible to eat the meat of animals that have been sacrificed in pagan temples.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (8:1-13):

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom

are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

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

Gradual Hymn # 380

From All That Dwell Below The Skies

- 1 From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise!
Let the Redeemer's Name be sung
through every land, by every tongue!***
- 2 Eternal are thy mercies, Lord,
and truth eternal is thy word:
thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
till suns shall rise and set no more.***

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

INTRODUCTION: In our gospel this morning, Jesus both teaches and acts with authority. His teaching was more than the interpretation of Jewish law. It was the proclamation of the new possibilities of God's kingdom.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Mark (1:21-28)

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

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in

their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee..

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

Hear our supplications, O Lord, as we turn to you with our whole heart and soul and mind, responding to each of our petitions by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."

+ Open our ears to hear the message of peace that is being proclaimed throughout the world and throughout your gospel, and inspire us to work for its fruits in our time and place; remembering especially the poor and needy amongst us, for this we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ Remove all greed and dishonesty from government organizations and agencies, that the hungry may be fed, the elderly receive care, and children be given the knowledge necessary for a full and productive life; remembering especially Antonio, Secretary General of the United Nations, Joe, our new President, Ned our Governor, James, the First Selectman of the town of Washington, for the members of our Congress and Courts, for this we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ Give us the courage to face the unclean spirits that dwell within us and among us, and the faith to dispel their stronghold over us and our communities, so that all may see God's power working in our lives and actions, and may come to believe in you, O Lord; for this we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ **Empower our bishops, priests, and deacons with such love towards you that they** may minister with vision, energy, and enduring faithfulness; 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, for this we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ Raise the dead to your heavenly kingdom, O Christ, remembering especially the more than 420,000 Americans that have died from Covid in the midst of this pandemic, for their families and communities, that they may all share in life eternal; for this we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ Release the sick from illness, and still their minds of the housebound and elderly from anxiety and fear; comforting the still more than 100,000 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.

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. **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 # 660

O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

- 1 O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.*
- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.*

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 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.***

Closing Hymn *O Lord, Make Us More Holy*

***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 Voluntary in C*

John Travers

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*

Joseph Claro, *Veejay*

Alex Purves, *Altar Flowers*

MB Witt, *Altar Guild*

Parish Office Telephone: (860) 868-2527

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

St. John's Website:

<http://stjohnswashington.com/>

St. John's Facebook Page:

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

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