

# Welcome to St. John's Church



## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

*December 19, 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; all 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.*

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*The Liturgy for the Proclamation of the Word of God  
and Celebration of the Holy Communion*

*St. John's asks everyone to wear masks inside the church, whether vaccinated or not.*

**Prelude**     *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*                      Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

**The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell**

**Processional Hymn # 66**             *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.*

*2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art:  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.*

*3 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*4 By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

## The Word of God

*The people standing, the Celebrant may say*

*Celebrant*     Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People*         ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Kyrie**             *Missa Dixit Maria*                      Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

*Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

## **The Collect of the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

*People*        ***And with thy spirit.***

*Celebrant*    Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says the Collect.*

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by thy daily visitation, that thy Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

## **The Lessons**

*INTRODUCTION: In the reading from the Hebrew Bible, the prophet Micah has told of the humiliation and difficulties Israel must experience in the near future, but he has written that later God will give them victory over their enemies. A shepherd-king will be born of David's line, and put an end to their oppression.*

### **A Reading from the Book of the prophet Micah (5:2-5a)**

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
    who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
    one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
    from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
    when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
    to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
    in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
    to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

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

People            **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 80:1-7**            *choir sings Anglican chant by C. Hylton Stewart (1884-1932)*

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
\* shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
\* stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts;  
\* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts,  
\* how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
\* you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
\* and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts;  
\* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved

*INTRODUCTION: Under Jewish law, each year the high priest entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement to offer sacrifices for the forgiveness of certain sins, but Christ's sacrifice, his total self-offering, once and for all on the Cross, renders continuation of these sacrifices unnecessary, writes the author of this letter.*

### **A Reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews (10:5-10)**

When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

*People Thanks be to God.*

**Gradual Hymn # 438** *Tell Out My Soul*

**1** *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.*

**2** *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has  
done;  
his mercy sure, from age the same;  
his holy Name-the Lord, the Mighty One.*

**3** *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.*

**4** *Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!*

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

*INTRODUCTION: Our Gospel reading tells of Mary's visit to her kinswoman Elizabeth and records this Mary's song of thanksgiving to the God who has called her to be the mother of the Lord.*

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to St. Luke (39:1-55)**

*People Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And

Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*People            Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

**The Sermon**                      The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, Priest-in-Charge

## **The Apostles’ Creed**

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;*

*And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.*

*He descended into hell*

*The third day he rose again from the dead.*

*He ascended into heaven,*

*and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.*

*From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church and the world.

*The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the Prayers and Confession*

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Hosam, the Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople; Francis, Bishop of Rome; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Ian and Laura, our Bishops, Fr. Geoff, our priest, for all the members of this congregation and the members of the Bishop's Transition Committee, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially António, Secretary General of the United Nations, Joe, our President, Ned our Governor, Jim, the First Selectman of the town of Washington, and the members of our Congresses and Courts, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Bob Futh in hospital, Janet Chenery and Ted Bent in rehabilitation, Kathy Coe, Diana Clark, Chris Smith, and Ann Hogman's daughter-in-law, Maisie in hospital, and all who are housebound especially Joan Beattie, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

*Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here.*

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially the more than 800,000 Americans who have died in the global pandemic, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John, our Patron, and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen**

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

***Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; 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 with thy spirit.***

*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 Anthem**      *Ave Maria*      Jacques Arcadelt (1504-1568)

*Translation: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

(Text: Based on Luke 1:26-38, John 1:14, Baruch 3:4)

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*The Celebrant faces the congregation and sings or says*

The Lord be with you.

*People*      ***And with thy spirit.***

*Celebrant*      Lift up your hearts.

*People*      ***We lift them up unto the Lord.***

*Celebrant*      Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People*      ***It is meet and right so to do.***

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying:

**Sanctus**      *Missa Dixit Maria*      Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

*The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the consecration prayer*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole

world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.*

**Agnus Dei**

*Missa Dixit Maria*

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

*The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer*

***We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.***

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All baptized Christians of all ages and denominations are welcome to receive Communion in this place. This is God's house and the Lord's table, not ours*

*Communion will be distributed in one kind only, the bread, and will be received in the pews, as the Celebrant moves along to share. If an attendee does not wish to receive Communion, they need only to cross their hands over their chest so to signify. Others may receive as they wish, standing, kneeling, or seated. Please wait until the Celebrant has passed before removing your masks and consuming the bread.*

**Communion Hymns # 313**     *Let Thy Blood In Mercy Poured*

***1 Let thy Blood in mercy poured,  
let thy gracious Body broken,  
be to me, O gracious Lord,  
of thy boundless love the token.***

*Thou didst give thyself for me,  
now I give myself to thee.*

*2 Thou didst die that I might live;  
blessèd Lord, thou cam 'st to save me;  
all that love of God could give  
Jesus by his sorrows gave me.*

*Refrain*

*3 By the thorns that crowned thy brow,  
by the spear-wound and the nailing,  
by the pain and death, I now  
claim, O Christ, thy love unfailing.*

*Refrain*

*4 Wilt thou own the gift I bring?  
All my penitence I give thee;  
thou art my exalted King,  
of thy matchless love forgive me.*

*Refrain*

*for online worshippers, and for those who for other reasons choose not to receive, here is the  
Prayer for Spiritual Communion:*

### **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 are not now receiving 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.*

*The People may join in saying this prayer*

*Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast*

*prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.*

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing*

The peace of God, which surpasses 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 among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn # 81**      *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*

*1 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!*

*Of Jesse's lineage coming  
as seers of old have sung.*

*It came, a blossom bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.*

*2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
the Rose I have in mind,  
with Mary we behold it,  
the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.*

*3 O Flower, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispel in glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere;  
true man, yet very God,  
from sin and death now save us,  
and share our every load.*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Organ Postlude**

*The flowers on the High Altar today are given to the Glory of God*

**Worship Ministers Today:**

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Celebrant*

Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*

John Magee, *8:00 Reader*

Sara Coles, *10:00 Reader*

Larry Littlefield, *Veejay (VJ)*

Camille Gillespie, MB Witt: *Altar Guild*

Justin Orman, Joseph Claro, *Coffee Hour*

**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.*

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

**St. John's Facebook Page:**  
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