

Welcome to St. John's Church



Enrique Simonet Lombardo, Spanish (1866-1927)

The First Sunday Of Advent

December 3, 2023

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

P.O. Box 1278

78 Green Hill Road

Washington, CT 06793

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 YouTube Page:

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

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

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

Choral Prelude *Never Weather-Beaten Sail* Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Never weather-beaten sail - text by Thomas Campion (1567-1720)

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore.

Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,

Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:

O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.

Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise.

Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes:

Glory there the sun outshines whose beams the blessed only see:

O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee!

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Opening Hymn # 66 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de-liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter-nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Celebrant Blessed the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People ***His mercy endures for ever.***

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.**

The Trisagion S # 102

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Kyrie

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

O Lord, have mercy upon us
O Christ, have mercy upon us
O Lord, have mercy upon us

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

INTRODUCTION: Our Hebrew scripture this morning presents a contrite plea to God for merciful justice.

A Reading from the Scroll of Isaiah (64:1-9)

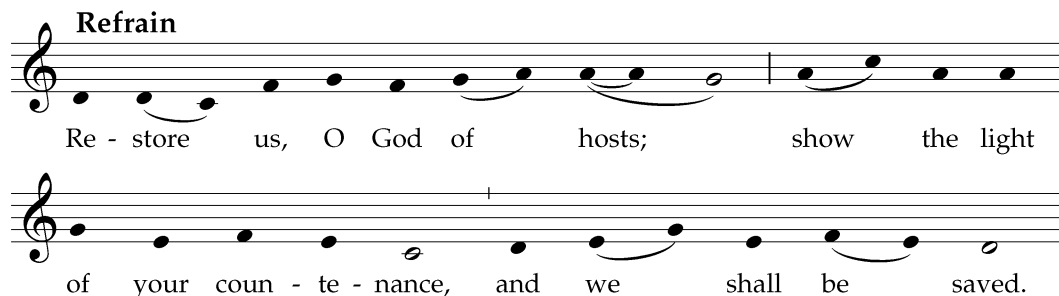
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, o that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil -- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *the congregation is invited to join in the Refrain.*



- 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.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

INTRODUCTION: In this reading, Paul greets the new disciples in Corinth, telling them of his gratitude to God on their behalf and offering comfort and assurance.

A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians (1:13-18)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn # 601

O Day Of God, Draw Nigh

1 O day of God, draw nigh in beau - ty and in power, come
2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid, the
3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure, and
4 Bring to our world of strife thy sov - ereign word of peace, that
5 O day of God, draw nigh as at cre - a - tion's birth, let



INTRODUCTION: In this Gospel reading this morning, Jesus presents his disciples with a vision of the end of human history and repeatedly urges them to be on watch.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Mark (13:24-27)

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

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 Kingdom of God is upon us. Let us put away the works of darkness and be clothed in the brilliance of God's light, as we offer our prayers responding to each petition by saying, "O Come, Lord Jesus."

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the prayers

+ Come between the warring nations of the world, enter the inner chambers of government and the hearts of our leaders, and bring that peace which passes all understanding; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come to all those suffering in our world, remembering especially Katy Coe, and all those struggling with addiction, free them from falsehood, shame, and guilt, fill them with courage that overcomes temptation, and give them an abundance of your grace; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come to those who sit alone in empty rooms, who suffer from the pain of hunger and grief, and who live with anxiety and fear, and invite them into the glorious fellowship of thy saints in light; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come, spare us from our deceit and selfishness, from our attachment to the false idols of our age, from our excuses for not living the gospel, and awaken us to your hope that we may keep watch for your appearing; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come in the Eucharistic Meal, that strengthened by your Body and Blood, we may reveal your kingdom in our daily lives; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come and open wide the gate of heaven, that the faithful departed may find themselves in the arms of your mercy, especially Cameron; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus, dwell in our hearts, as we pause to continue the offering of our prayers, either silently in our hearts or aloud in our midst.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the confession

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in

the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest, stands and says

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, but also time for 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 Christ 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.

I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:1

Offertory *Into This World Of Sorrow*

Percy Buck (1871-1947)

*Into this world of sorrow,
Into this valley of rue and sadness,
Came Christ, our dear Consoler,
And brought us gladness.
Now is the time of his coming,
Now are our hearts with joy replete,
But, to lead us to Heaven,
He bread of tears did eat.*

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God.

People **It is right to give our 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 sent

your 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 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:

Sanctus

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

*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.

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

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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."

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.*

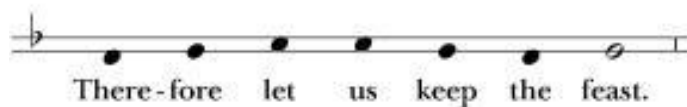
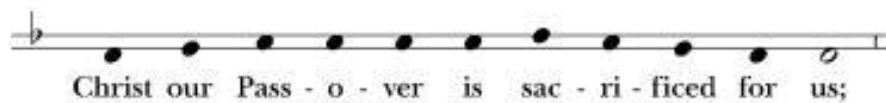
*And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread S # 153

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said



Agnus Dei

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

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.*

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

INSTRUCTIONS: *Those wishing to receive Communion should come forward to the Altar rail as directed. Please speak with an Usher if you need to receive Communion in the pew. The consecrated host will be placed in the hands of the recipient. If they wish intinction, then the chalice bearer may take the host and dip it in the wine for them. Otherwise, communicants may sip from the chalice, assisting by taking hold of its base. If the communicant does not wish to receive the wine, one can simply cross their arms across their chest so to indicate.*

Gluten free wafers are available. Just ask at the altar rail if you wish one.

Communion Hymn # 324 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*



1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with
trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
on the way, as the Light of Light de -
sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the
mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,
Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
he will give to all the faith - ful
that the powers of hell may va - nish
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"



for online worshippers, and for those who for other reasons choose not to receive, here is a 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.

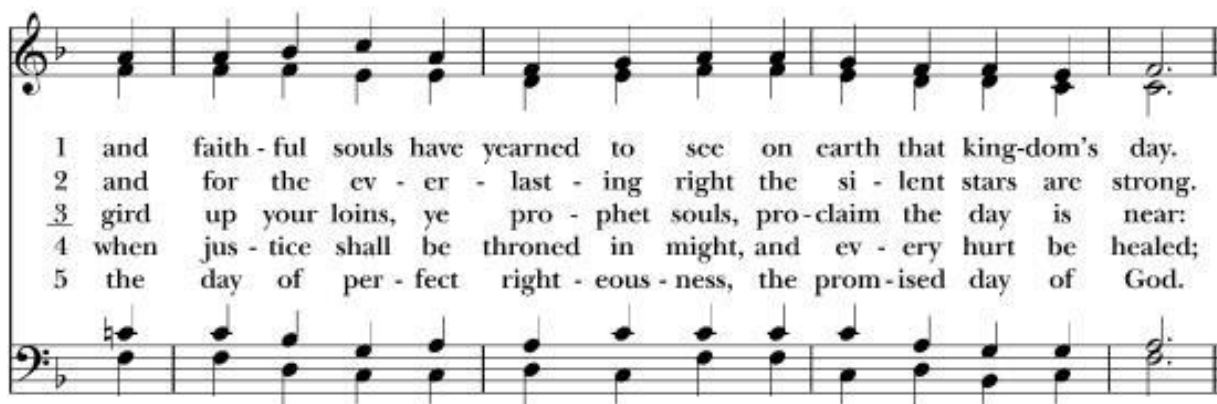
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, 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 the Eternal Majesty, the Incarnate Word, and the Abiding Spirit be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn # 615 "Thy Kingdom Come" On Bended Knee





Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Organ Postlude



There is a Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the Service, and ongoing Christmas Fete sales and bargains.

All are invited. Please join us.



Stewardship letters have now been sent to all members of the St. John's congregation, with enclosed pledge cards. Additional pledge cards can be found in the church or Parish Office, which can be dropped in the offering plate on Sundays, mailed to the church office, or placed in the secure black box outside the Parish Hall entrance. Please support St. John's with a pledge of financial assistance for 2024!

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman: *Celebrant*

Tom Brand: *Organist & Choirmaster*

Tom Hollinger: *8:00 Reader*

Michael Del Nin: *10:00 Reader*

MB Witt: *Chalicer*

Fr. Geoff: *VeeJay*

The Fete Committee: *Coffee Host*

Susie Magee, Corinne Johnson: *Altar Guild*

Bob Futh, Natalie Dyer: *Ushers/Greeters*

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**Staff**

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

Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Dawn Rosiello, *Parish Administrator*

Joan Burgess, *Foundation Administrator*

Vestry

Mary Davis, Jay Bauer: *Wardens*

David Gillespie: *Treasurer*

Andris Kalnins: *Assistant Treasurer*

Laura Daly: *Clerk*

Class of 2023

Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Joseph Claro

Class of 2024

Rebecca Bent, Michael Del Nin, Susan McFeely

Class of 2025

Worth Bracken, Sara Coles, Andris Kalnins

Diocesan Delegates: Sara Coles, MB Witt

Laura Daly: **Alternate**



TRADITIONAL NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

**SUNDAY, December 17, 2023
4:00 p.m.**

Open to the public



CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, December 24, 2023

5:00 p.m. Family Service

10:00 p.m. Midnight Mass

Open to the public