

Welcome to St. John's Church



Caravaggio (1571-1610) L.A. Museum of Art

The Second Sunday Of Advent

*December 10, 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/UCoOwTnqIRss4BT8VwFul4qg>

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

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

Choral Prelude

Lord, We Beseech Thee

Adrian Batten

*Lord, we beseech thee,
give ear unto our prayers,
and by thy gracious visitation
lighten the darkness of our hearts,
by our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Opening Hymn # 65

Prepare The Way, O Zion



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Refrain
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

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

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily composed of chords, with some moving lines in the bass. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The Kyrie *Short Communion Service* Adrian Batten (1591-1637)

*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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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 is a message of comfort and new hope to God's people.

A Reading from the Scroll of Isaiah (40:1-11)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out:


“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *the congregation is invited to join in the Refrain.*

Refrain



Show us your mer - cy, O Lord, and grant us your sal - va - tion.

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

INTRODUCTION: This lesson is a reminder that the divine perspective on time can be very different from that of human beings.

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Peter (3:8-15a)

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

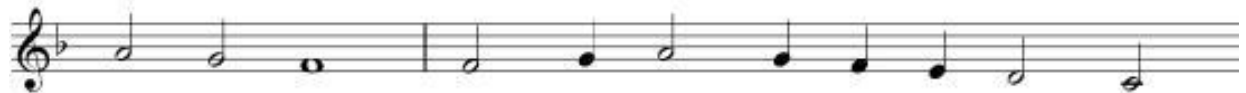
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn # 67 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

INTRODUCTION: The Gospel of Mark begins with the ministry of John the Baptist.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Mark (1:1-8)

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; *the voice of one crying out in the wilderness*: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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 voice of God cries out in the wilderness, calling us to a transformed way of living. Let us respond to this invitation through the offering of our prayers, responding to each petition by saying, “O Come, Lord Jesus.”

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the prayers

+ Come with your promise to bring a new heaven and a new earth to your people, saving us from the fires of sin and despair, and offering to us the solemn gifts of grace and salvation; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come into the hearts of your people, that we may turn from our selfish consumption of fossil fuels, our waste of food and clothing, our recklessness with money, and our carelessness with the gifts of creation; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come into the body of the Church and make us a baptizing community, that multitudes may hear your message of repentance and hope, and receive your free gift of eternal love; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come with your Holy Spirit, into the hearts of those who are unemployed, abused, poorly educated, and who are persecuted for their faith, and awaken hope; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come to young people everywhere, that they may have a desire to study your commandments and to exercise ministry in the world outside the Church; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come to Michael, our Presiding Bishop, to Joe, our President of the United States, and to all who exercise offices of authority; may wisdom be their guide, and the true love of their people direct their decisions; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come to those whom we love but see no more, especially Cameron, and gather them into your heavenly rest; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus, and help us to be a people who honor your commandments and who live by your law of love, as we continue our prayers and petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ***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 *Let the Clouds Rain Down* Charles Giffen (b. 1943)

*Let the clouds rain down the Just One,
and the earth bring forth a Savior.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

*Let the clouds rain down the Just One,
and the earth bring forth a Savior.*

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 *Short Communion Service* Adrian Batten (1591-1637)

*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.*

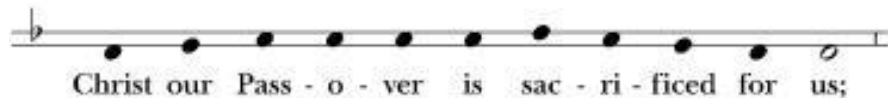
*And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

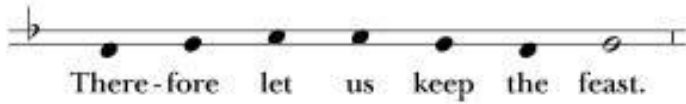
*For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

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 *Short Communion Service* Adrian Batten (1591-1637)

*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 or upon the tongue of the recipient, as desired. If one wishes intinction, then either the chalice bearer or the communicant may take the host and dip it in the wine. 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 # 304 *I Come With Joy To Meet My Lord*

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff contains a melody line with notes and rests. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with line numbers 1 through 5 on the left. The lyrics are: "1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -", "2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to", "3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each", "4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His", "5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll".

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
 4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
 5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
 2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
 4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
 5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

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.

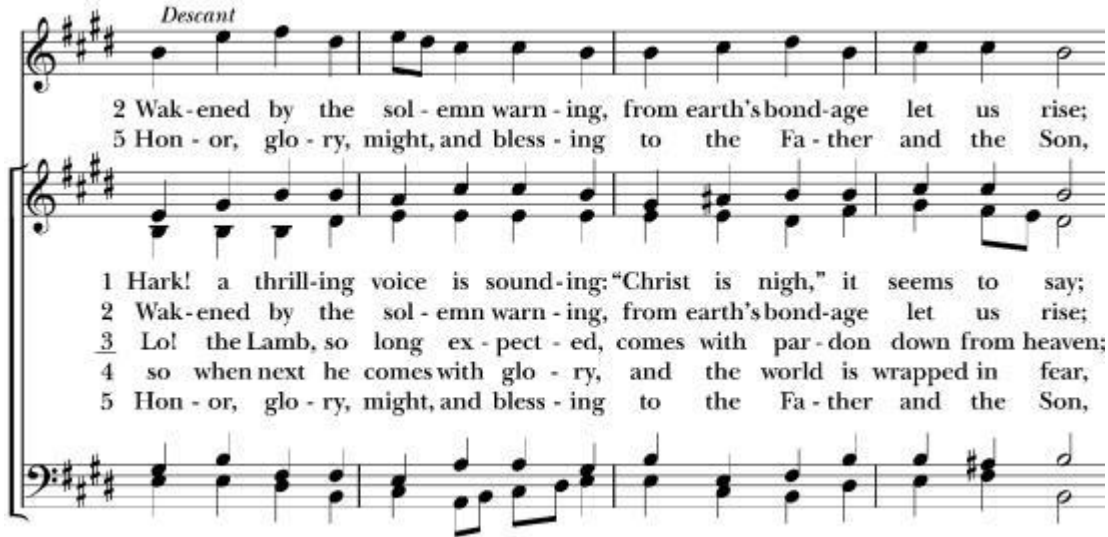
The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing

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.*

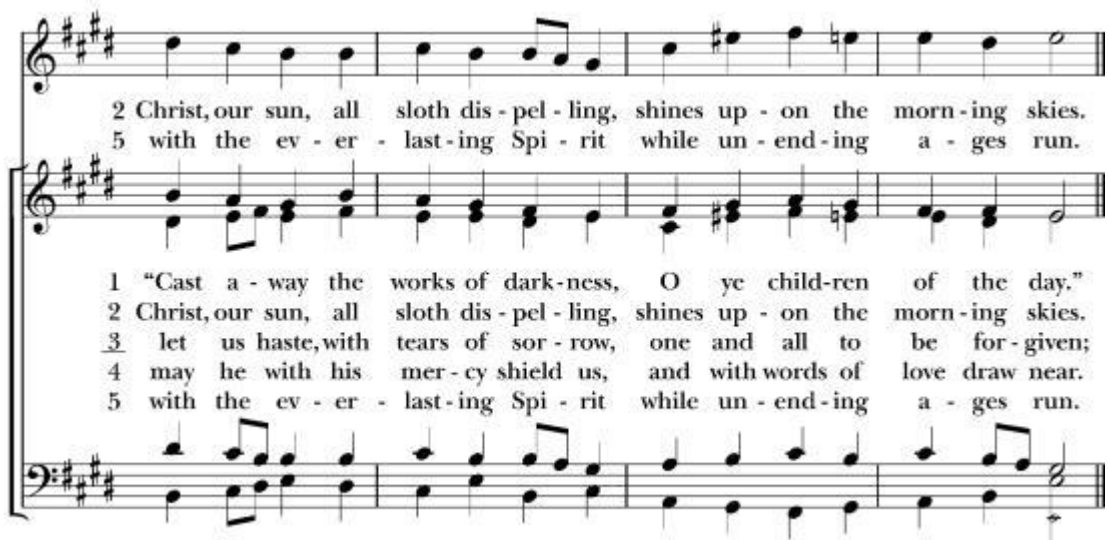
Closing Hymn # 59 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

Descant



2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
5 Hon- or, glo- ry, might, and bless- ing to the Fa- ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill- ing voice is sound- ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex- pect- ed, comes with par- don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo- ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon- or, glo- ry, might, and bless- ing to the Fa- ther and the Son,



2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis- pel- ling, shines up- on the morn- ing skies.
5 with the ev- er- last- ing Spi- rit while un- end- ing a- ges run.

1 "Cast a- way the works of dark- ness, O ye child- ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis- pel- ling, shines up- on the morn- ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor- row, one and all to be for- given;
4 may he with his mer- cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev- er- last- ing Spi- rit while un- end- ing a- ges run.

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.
All are invited. Please join us.***

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman: *Celebrant*

Tom Brand: *Organist & Choirmaster*

Jay Bauer: *8:00 Reader*

Justin Ormand: *10:00 Reader*

Rebecca Bent: *Chalicer*

Laura Daly: *VeeJay*

Corinne Johnson, MB Witt: *Coffee Host*

Ginny Reynolds, MB Witt: *Altar Guild*

Bob Futh, Natalie Dyer: *Ushers/Greeters*



Stewardship letters have now been sent to all members of the St. John's congregation, with enclosed pledge cards for next year. Additional pledge cards can be found in the church or Parish Office, which can be dropped in the offering plate on Sundays, mailed to or dropped off at 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 before Christmas!

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