

# Welcome to St. John's Church



## The First Sunday After Christmas Day:

*December 31, 2023*

*no 8:00 a.m. today*

*10:00 a.m.*

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

**78 Green Hill Road**

**Washington, CT 06793**

**Parish Office Telephone:** (860) 868-2527

**Parish Office Hours:** *Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

**St. John's Email:** [stjohnschurch@snet.net](mailto:stjohnschurch@snet.net)

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

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

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

### **Worship Ministers Today:**

Rebecca Bent: *Officiant*

Jon Lafleur: *Organist*

Sara Coles: *Preacher*

Worth Bracken: *Reader*

Sara Coles: *Veejay (VJ)*

Sara Coles, MB Witt: *Altar Guild*

Natalie Dyer, Bob Futh: *Ushers*

Rebecca Bent, Susan McFeeley: *Coffee Hour*

# MORNING PRAYER

**Organ Prelude**    *The Shepherd's Farewell and Serenade to the Holy Family*  
from *L'enfance du Christ*, Berlioz

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

**Opening Hymn # 93**                      *Angels, From The Realms Of Glory*

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;  
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

*Refrain*

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,  
ye have seen his na - tal star:  
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

*People* ***And your glory all the day long.***

***Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

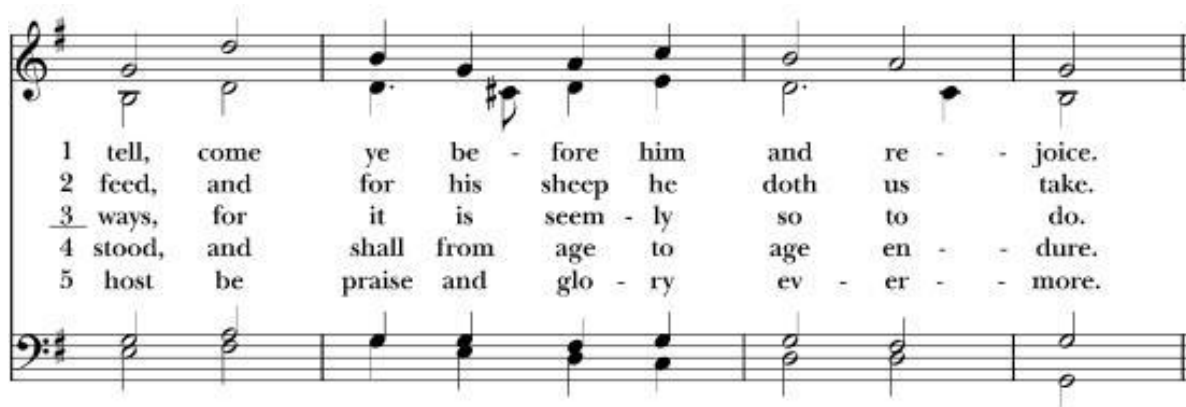
## Hymn # 377

*All People That On Earth Do Dwell*

*Unison or harmony*

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with  
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our aid he  
 3 O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap - proach with joy his  
 4 For why? the Lord our God is good, his mer - cy is for  
 \*5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom heaven and

1 cheer - ful voice: him serve with mirth, his praise forth  
 2 did us make: we are his folk, he doth us  
 3 courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his Name al -  
 4 ev - er - sure; his truth at all times firm - ly  
 5 earth a - dore, from men and from the an - gel



### Metrical Psalm # 147

1. *Hallelujah! How good it is  
 To praise our God in songs,  
 A pleasant thing to honor you  
 To whom our praise belongs.*
2. *You, Lord, rebuild Jerusalem  
 And gather Israel;  
 You heal the brokenhearted ones  
 And bind their wounds up well.*
3. *You count the number of the stars,  
 Each one is in your sight;  
 For you are great and strong in power,  
 Your wisdom infinite.*
4. *You, Lord, will cast the wicked down  
 And lift the lowly poor;  
 Let us make music on the harp  
 And praise you evermore.*
5. *You cover heaven above with clouds,  
 Prepare the earth for rain;  
 You make the grass grow on the hills  
 To save our land from pain.*
6. *You feed young ravens when they cry  
 And cattle in their need;  
 But you admire no human strength  
 Nor any warrior's steed.*
7. *But God is pleased by those who hold  
 In awe God's holy Name,  
 Who wait with patience to receive*

*God's love always the same.*

8. *Worship the Lord, Jerusalem,  
Praise God, O Israel;  
The Lord has made your gates secure  
And blessed your children well.*
9. *Upon your borders, God makes peace,  
The wheat fields give us flour;  
You, Lord, send your command on earth,  
Your word speeds forth with power.*
10. *Who can withstand the freezing cold,  
The hoarfrost, hail, and snow?  
Yet when you send your word and wind,  
They melt and waters flow.*
11. *You give to Israel your word,  
Your just decrees, but yet  
You have not shown to other lands  
Your law. Hallelujah!*

## **The Readings**

*INTRODUCTION: In our Hebrew scripture reading the prophet joyfully responds on behalf of all God's people to the Lord's promises for a redeemed Jerusalem.*

### **A Reading from the Scroll of the Prophet Isaiah: (61:10-62:3)**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.  
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

People

***Thanks be to God.***

### Hymn # 438

### *Tell Out My Soul, The Greatness Of The Lord*



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!  
2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!  
3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!  
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of his word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;  
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.  
his ho - ly Name—the Lord, the Might - y One.  
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

*INTRODUCTION: In this second reading, Paul explains what the role of the law has been and how, in our new relationship of faith, we have become God's children and heirs of the Father.*

### **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians: (4:4-7)**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we

might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

People

***Thanks be to God.***

## Hymn # 105

## *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*



The musical score is written on five staves. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, with four numbered parts (1-4) of the lyrics below it. The second staff contains the second line of the hymn. The third staff contains the third line of the hymn. The fourth staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the first line of the refrain. The fifth staff contains the second line of the refrain. The music is in a simple, traditional style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came  
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;  
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,  
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:  
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,  
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;

to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.  
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."  
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

*Refrain*  
 O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and  
 joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

**INTRODUCTION:** In our third Reading, the Fourth Gospel opens with a hymn to God's Word, the expression of God's very being and the creative power of all life, who has now become flesh and lived among us.

**A Reading from the Gospel of St. John: (1:1-18)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Word of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

Sara Coles, *licensed Preacher*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.***

***He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.***

***He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.***

***He descended to the dead.***

***On the third day he rose again.***

***He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.***

***He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,***

***the holy catholic Church,***

***the communion of saints,***

***the forgiveness of sins,***

***the resurrection of the body,***

***and the life everlasting. Amen.***



## The Prayers

*Officiant* Hear our cry, O God.

*People* ***And listen of our prayer.***

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

***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 Suffrages

V. Help us, O God our Savior;

R. ***Deliver us and forgive us our sins.***

V. Look upon your congregation;

R. ***Give to your people the blessing of peace.***

V. Declare your glory among the nations;

R. ***And your wonders among all peoples.***

V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

R. ***Never forget the lives of your poor.***

V. Continue your loving kindness to those who know you;

R. ***And your favor to those who are true of heart.***

V. Satisfy us by your kindness in the morning;

R. ***So we shall rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.***

## The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

## A Collect for Sunday

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### A Prayer for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our own hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love you: for the honor of your Name. *Amen.*

### Offertory Hymn # 112

*In The Bleak Midwinter*

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan,  
2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;  
3 An-gels and arch-an-gels may have gath-ered there,  
4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;  
heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign:  
cher-u-bim and se-ra-phim throng-ed the air;  
If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal-len, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-win-ter a sta-ble-place suf-ficed  
but his mo-ther on-ly, in her maid-en bliss,  
if I were a wise-man, I would do my part;



*Officiant:* Let us continue our prayers, pausing now so that all may add their own prayers or petitions, either silently in their hearts or aloud in our midst.

### **The General Thanksgiving**

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
 we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
 for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
 to us and to all whom you have made.  
 We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
 and all the blessings of this life;  
 but above all for your immeasurable love  
 in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
 for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
 And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
 that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
 not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
 by giving up our selves to your service,  
 and by walking before you  
 in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

# Closing Hymn # 177

# Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** 2 Corinthians 13:14

## Organ Postlude

## Now Greet The Swiftly Changing Year

Slovak hymn