

Welcome to St. John's Church



"John the Baptist Preaching," Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, 1732/3

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

8:00 a.m. & 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

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

St. John's YouTube Page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOwTnqIRss4BT8VwFul4qg>

MORNING PRAYER

Choral Prelude

Canite Tuba

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

Translation: Blow the trumpet in Sion, address the nations, declare to the people and say: God our Saviour draws nigh."

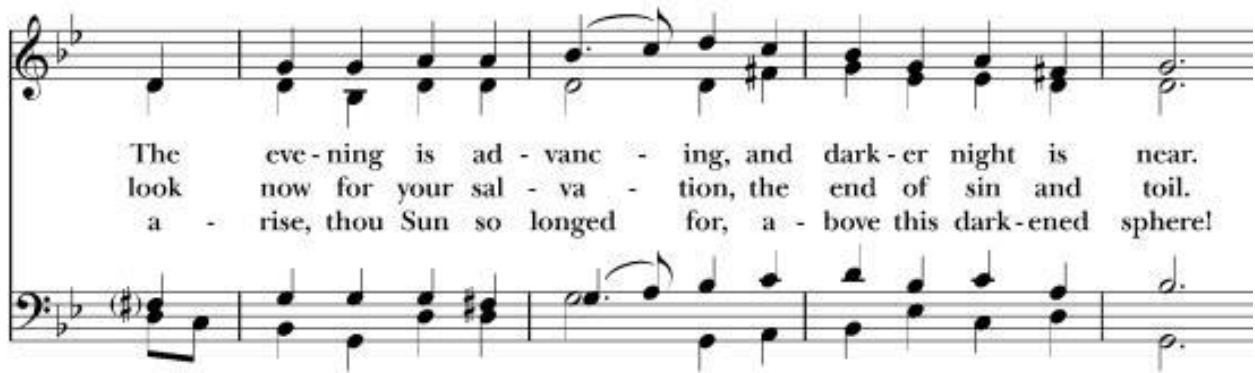
The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Opening Hymn # 68

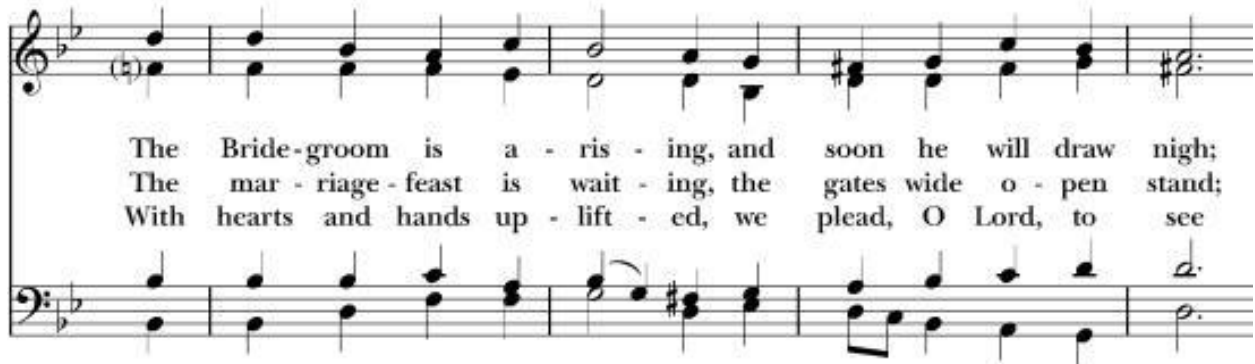
Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers



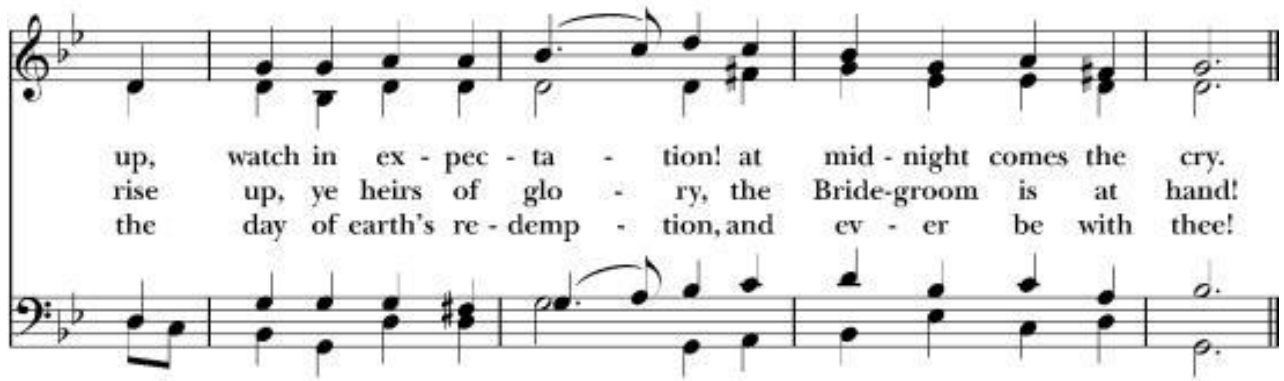
1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People ***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Venite S # 4 *The congregation is invited to join in the chant* Monk



- 1 O come, let us ¹sing unto the ¹Lord; *
 let us heartily rejoice in the ¹strength of ¹our sal¹vation.
- 2 Let us come before his ¹presence with thanks ¹giving, *
 and show ourselves ¹glad in ¹him with ¹psalms. [Ant.]
- 3 For the Lord is a ¹great ¹God, *
 and a great ¹King a ¹bove all ¹gods.
- 4 In his hand are all the ¹corners of the ¹earth, *
 and the strength of the ¹hills is ¹his ¹also.
- 5 The sea is ¹his and he ¹made it, *
 and his hands pre¹pared the ¹dry ¹land. [Ant.]

- 6 O come, let us worship and 'fall' down *
and 'kneel' before the 'Lord our 'Maker.
- 7 For he is the 'Lord our 'God, *
and we are the people of his 'pasture
and the 'sheep of his 'hand. [Ant.]
- 8 O worship the Lord in the 'beauty of 'holiness; *
let the 'whole earth stand in 'awe of him.
- 9 For he cometh, for he cometh to 'judge the 'earth, *
and with righteousness to judge the world
and the 'peoples with his 'truth. [Ant.]

(Gloria Patri may be added)

Glory to the Father, and 'to the 'Son, *
and 'to the 'Holy 'Spirit:
As it was in the be 'ginning, is 'now, *
and 'will be for 'ever. A' men. [Ant.]

The congregation may wish to be seated for the Psalm.

Psalm 85

The congregation is invited to join in the Refrain.

Refrain

Sing the praises of the Lord.

- 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.
- 3 You have withdrawn all your fury *
and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation
- 4 Restore us then, O God our Savior; *
let your anger depart from us.
- 5 Will you be displeased with us for ever? *
will you prolong your anger from age to age?
- 6 Will you not give us life again, *
that your people may rejoice in you?
- 7 Show us your mercy, O Lord, *
and grant us your salvation.

- 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: In the Hebrew Reading, the prophet Zephaniah foretells a time when the judgment of Israel will be ended, and the mighty Lord will bring victory and renewal to God's people.

A Reading from the prophet Zephaniah (3:14-20)

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

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

Canticle

Jubilate Deo

John Blow (1649-1708)

*Text: O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.*

*Be ye sure that the Lord he is God;
it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; **

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

*O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving
and into his courts with praise; **

be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name.

*For the Lord is gracious;
his mercy is everlasting; **

and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

INTRODUCTION: In this New Testament reading, Paul invites the new disciple at Philippi to exult in the Lord, who is near at hand.

A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians (4:4-7)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn # 76 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

INTRODUCTION: In the this reading, John the Baptist preaches repentance to all those who hear his call to baptism, and he tells them of the mighty one to come.

A Reading from the Gospel of St. Luke: (3:7-18)

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Laura Daly, *Licensed Lay 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 The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Sunday

O God, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord: Grant us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Mission

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Offertory Anthem *Come with Rejoicing*

- Arr. Tom Brand

Text: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Come with Rejoicing, Hallelu, Hallelujah! Let us all rejoice, Hallelu!

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 thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,*

*and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

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

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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 Lol 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.

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

Postlude

Worship Ministers Today:

Laura Daly: *Licensed Lay Preacher*

Tom Brand: *Organist & Choirmaster*

Laura Daly: *8:00 Lay Worship Leader*

Justin Ormand: *10:00 Lay Worship Leader*

John Magee: *8:00 Reader*

Worth Bracken: *10:00 Reader*

Laura Daly: *Veejay (VJ)*

MB Witt, Sara Coles: *Altar Guild*

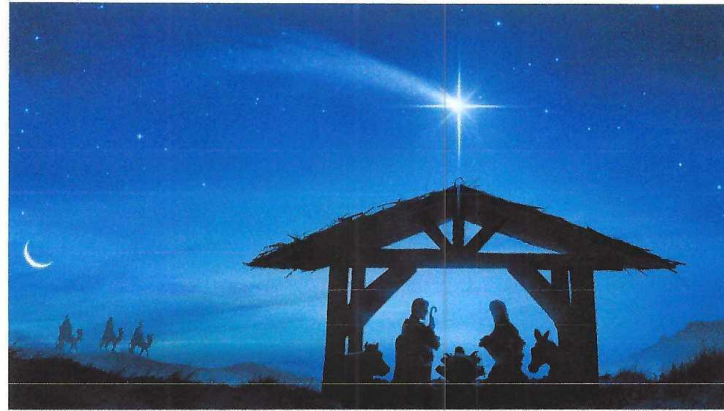
Natalie Dyer, Bob Futh: *Ushers*



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Sunday, December 15th

All members of St. John's are invited to turn in their 2025 Pledge Cards in the Offering plate in support of the life and ministry of our parish, on or before Sunday, December 15th, in order to assist the Vestry in drafting a budget for next year before our Annual Parish Meeting in January.



Tuesday, December 24th
CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. FAMILY SERVICE

10:00 p.m. MIDNIGHT MASS

All are welcome

St. John's Episcopal Church
78 Green Hill Road
Washington, CT 06793