

Welcome to St. John's Church



Madonna of the Magnificat, ' Botticelli, 1481 '

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

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

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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 of the Word of God
and Celebration of the Holy Communion*

Choral Prelude

Dixit Maria

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

Translation: Mary said to the Angel: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me, according to your word.

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Opening Hymn #66

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-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 are you, holy and living One.

People ***You come to your people and set them free.***

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 two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with accompaniment in the Bass clef. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line.

God be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Readings

INTRODUCTION: In this reading from the Hebrew Scriptures, the prophet Micah presents an ancient prophecy which foresees when a new ruler shall come forth for Israel out of David's city of Bethlehem in Ephrathah.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 80:1-7

the congregation is invited to join in the Refrain.

Refrain

Re - store us, O God of hosts; show the light
of your coun - te - nance and we shall be saved.

- 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: This New Testament reading describes the purpose of Jesus' coming into the world – to make an offering in his body for our sanctification.

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

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Gradual 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: The Gospel tells of Mary's visit to her kinswoman Elizabeth, and this humble woman's song of thanksgiving to the savior God who has called her to be the mother of the Lord.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ

according to St. Luke (1:39-55)

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Let us offer prayers to God our Creator, who prepares us to receive the miracle of new life, as we respond to each petition, saying, 'Come, Lord Jesus.'

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the prayers

+ O Wisdom, you come from the mouth of the Most High; inspire your Church as we seek to live out our faith on this holy ground and through our sacrificial love of one another; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Adonai, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush; help us discern your presence through the faith and courage of others, especially the unemployed; the homeless and hungry; children who are abandoned, abused, or unloved; and all for whom Jesus gave his life; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Root of Jesse, you stand as a firm sign of endurance and hope; give us the perseverance to seek freedom for ourselves and for all who are imprisoned by alcohol, depression, drugs, financial mismanagement, material greed, and discouraging illness; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Key of David, open wide our hearts that we may be sensitive to the fragility of the earth, learning to live more simply and love more fully; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O King of Nations, bring your clarity and judgment to those who exercise leadership in our government, and to those in service to your Church give the will to proclaim the promises of your kingdom; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Eternal Light, shine on all who have died in your Name that they, and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, may rest in peace; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Emmanuel, God with us, dwell in the hearts of those who do not worship you in the community of faith, and fill them with the desire to seek their place in your Church; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

In expectation with Mary, the beloved of God, may we rejoice in the coming of the Messiah as we continue our prayers, either silently or aloud.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ***Amen.***

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the confession

***Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. 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 God 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.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2.*

Offertory Anthem *Keep Your Lamps* Spiritual, arr. Tom Brand

Text: Don't get weary, the time is nigh. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning; the time is drawing nigh. Children, don't get weary 'till your work is done.

The Great Thanksgiving

God 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 *'Dixit Maria' Communion Service* Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one 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.'

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.

Fraction Anthem S # 153

Christ Our Passover

Willan

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
There - fore let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei *'Dixit Maria' Communion Service* 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.*

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 after receiving the bread so to indicate.*

Communion Hymn # 321

My God, Thy Table Now is Spread

1 My God, thy ta - ble now is spread, thy cup with
2 O let thy ta - ble hon - ored be, and fur - nished
3 Drawn by thy quick - ening grace, O Lord, in coun - tless
4 Nor let thy spread - ing Gos - pel rest till through the

love doth o - ver - flow; be all thy chil - dren
 well with joy - ful guests; and may each soul sal -
 num - bers let them come and gath - er from their
 world thy truth has run, till with this Bread shall

thith - er led, and let them thy sweet mer - cies know.
 va - tion see, that here its sa - cred pledg - es tastes.
 Fa - ther's board the Bread that lives be - yond the tomb.
 all be blessed who see the light or feel the sun.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

*Almighty and everliving God,
 we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
 of the most precious Body and Blood
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
 and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
 that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
 and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
 And now, Father, send us out
 to do the work you have given us to do,
 to love and serve you
 as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
 To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
 be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

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

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn # 81 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God's love a - right, she bore to
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman: *Celebrant & Preacher*

Tom Brand: *Organist & Choirmaster*

Jay Bauer: *8:00 Reader*

Mary Davis: *10:00 Reader*

MB Witt: *Chalicer*

Laura Daly: *VeeJay*

MB Witt, Sara Coles: *Altar Guild*

Bob Futh, Natalie Dyer: *Ushers/Greeters*

Laura Daly: *Coffee Hour*

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry

Mary Davis, Worth Bracken: *Wardens*

David Gillespie: *Treasurer*

Andris Kalnins: *Assistant Treasurer*

Justin Ormand: *Clerk*

Class of 2024

Rebecca Bent, Michael Del Nin, Susan McFeely

Class of 2025

MB Witt, Sara Coles, Andris Kalnins

Class of 2026

Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Justin Ormand

Diocesan Delegates: Sara Coles, MB Witt

Laura Daly: **Alternate**

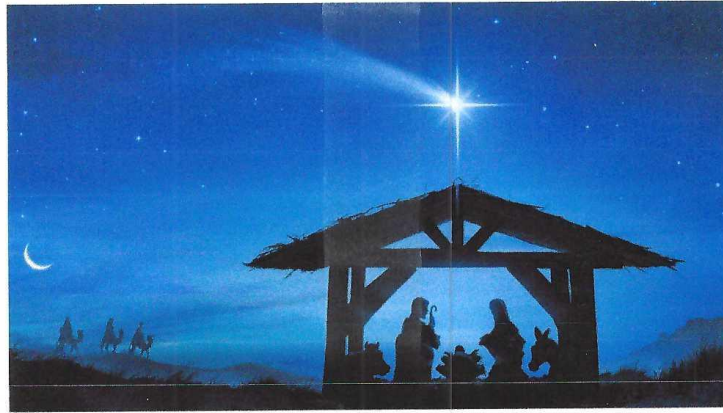


STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Sunday, December 15th

All members of St. John's are asked to turn in their 2025 Pledge Cards to assist the Vestry in drafting a budget for next year before our Annual Parish Meeting in January. They may be placed in the Offering plate, mailed to the church, or placed in the secure black box outside the door to the

Parish Hall. Additional pledge cards can be found on the Parish Office door.



Tuesday, December 24th
CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. FAMILY SERVICE

10:00 p.m. MIDNIGHT MASS

Open to the public

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



CONGREGATIONAL LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY
December 29, 2024
10:00 a.m.

All are welcome!

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