

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE HOLY EUCHARIST — 10:15 A.M.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome to St. John's! We invite you to help create the experience of silence before our service. Our hope is to calm our hearts as we prepare to enter into an intensity of shared presence.

Prelude **Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme, BWV 140** **J.S. Bach**

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

Hymn **Rejoice! rejoice, believers** **Hymnal 68**

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you
People **And also with you.**
Presider 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

You may be seated.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
 the mountain of the LORD'S house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
 and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
 Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
 to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
 and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
 and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
 and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122 *Laetatus sum*

Tone I.2

A cantor sings the antiphon at the beginning, then the congregation and choir immediately repeat it, singing it again where indicated; a cantor sings the verses to plainchant.

Antiphon (sung by all)



cantor:



1 *I was—glad when they said to me, **
"Let us go to the / house of the LÖRD."

2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, / O Jerūsalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at u/nity with itself;

Antiphon

- 4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the / Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the / house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
“May they prosper who love you.

Antiphon

- 7 —Peace be within your walls *
and quietness with/in your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for / your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will / seek to do you good.” [Ant.]

Antiphon

The Second Lesson: Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn **Thy kingdom come, O God!**

Hymnal 613

Holy Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44, standing

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Mairi Graham - Shaw
Intern for Liturgy and Preaching

Silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.

The Nicene Creed, *standing*

**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 worshipped 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.

Prayers of the People, standing

Intercessor Holy God, ever with us and ever on your way towards us, we look to you this Advent, willing your kingdom to come, knowing it is not ours to take. Come to us in the many guises of love; meet our longing, enter our waiting, give life to our hoping. Your kingdom come.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Advent God, Hope of the hopeless, you alone give reason to move forward. Give hope to those throughout the world who this day are hungry for basic gifts ---- food, to those who are aching from hunger. A home, to provide shelter and safety. Education, to provide opportunities for jobs. Justice, to give all a chance. God of hope. Your kingdom come.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Advent God, Love of the loveless, you are the One who never fails to love beyond boundaries. You love all without question; the loveless and unloving. May we bring your love to those whom we may reject because of what they have done to us or what they may represent to us. Open our hearts to know them now. Give us strength to love, give them strength to respond. Give us the gentleness to love ourselves as well. God of love, help us love. Your kingdom come.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Advent God, Joy of the joyless. You are the source of all delight. In a world of desperate pleasure and stale smiles, move us to the place where true joys are to be found. We pray for those who face this season of joy with deep apprehension, knowing it is a season where true poverty may be revealed; poverty of love, of friends, of family, of purpose, of spirit. God of joy, help us bring your joy. Your kingdom come.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For all from our parish who serve in the Armed Forces, especially Douglas Hamillton, Carl Heise, Molly and Jon Hilzinger, Andrew Moeller, Andy Morgado, Joshua Robeson, Spencer Russo, Brian Tewart, and Kyle Webb, that they will be strong in your power, shielded by faith, and kept from all harm. Your kingdom come.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For all who suffer in mind, spirit, heart, or body, especially, Kathy Arthur, Peter Bierrie, Jinny Buracchi, Helen Chatman, Connie Cliffe, Sandra and Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Jim Emig, Erica, Robert Fresher, Nancy Gould, Mike Hawley, Kelly Kimball, Glenn Jacobsen, Michaela, Jim Scala, John Schumacher, Joan Squelia, Donna Stutts, and Kathy Wesch, asking that you will comfort, heal, and hold them, keeping them always in the knowledge of your love and the security of your presence. Your kingdom come.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For all who have died and now dwell in your light, especially Elizabeth Kemp, that they may rest in peace and rise in glory. Your kingdom come.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider God of Advent, we set ourselves to longing again, longing, waiting and hoping. We long for your kingdom to come and for the transformation of the world, for it to be on earth as it is in heaven. The glimmerings of that new world needs to become real in us. Come, Advent God with the promise of new birth in Emmanuel, Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin, kneeling

Presider Let us confess our sins to God.

A moment of reflective silence is kept.

People **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.

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace, standing

Presider The peace of 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.

Welcome and Announcements

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

Presider Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

The congregation's offering for the mission and ministry of the church is received. Please be seated.

Anthem Sleepers, wake! A voice astounds us

Wachet auf

Presentation, standing

The congregation's gifts of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Holy Table. Weekly donations to the Shoreline Pantry are placed before the Altar.

The Great Thanksgiving: *Eucharistic Prayer 2, Enriching Our Worship*

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

Sanctus *from Missa De Sancta Maria Magdalena*

H. Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - ly, Lord God of power and might,
Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he that comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel, as the Presider continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.

Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Presider And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

The Lord's Prayer, said by all

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem *from Missa De Sancta Maria Magdalena*

H. Willan

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:—

have mer - - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the

world:— grant us peace.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy things for holy people.
All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.
For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. We are not allowing intinction at this time.
Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding one arm across your chest. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.

Hymn **Jesus came, adored by angels**

Hymnal 454

Prayer after Communion, standing

Presider Let us pray.
People **Loving God,**
 we give you thanks
 for restoring us in your image
 and nourishing us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
 Now send us forth
 a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
 that we may proclaim your love to the world
 and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sending of Eucharistic Visitors, as requested

Presider In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We, who are many, are one body, for we all share one bread, one cup.**

Blessing, standing

Presider May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

Hymnal 57

The Dismissal, *standing*

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Postlude on "Helmsley"

Arr. A. Pandolfe

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS SUNDAY

Today's Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Rhode van Gessel and Rick Weir in celebration of their 32nd wedding anniversary.

GIVING TREE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, AT 4:30 PM

The Giving Tree returns! Help local families this Christmas by fulfilling Christmas wishes. The program begins on Sunday, November 27th and will be available at 4:30 PM. You may grab a ticket or two in the Narthex. Please return all gifts to St. John's by Sunday, December 11th, and they will be delivered to DCF and our local Essex Social Services. Gifts can be left in the office or the Christmas tree in the Narthex. Please sign out your tag on the clipboard with your contact information, and please DO NOT wrap your gifts. A gift bag with loose tissue paper is perfect.

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER & CLASS
THURSDAY NIGHTS IN ADVENT: DEC 1, 8, 15, & 22

6:00 PM Evening Prayer
6:30 PM Food & Fellowship
7:00–8:00 PM Advent with The Saint John's Bible: Making Place for Jesus

The Advent season is a time of hopeful anticipation and waiting. These four Thursday evenings are an opportunity to step outside of the busyness of the season and into a space of calm reflection. You are welcome to come for a portion of the evening or stay the whole time. We begin in the church with an Evening Prayer by candlelight, and the service is led by parish members presiding and preaching. The service ends with a favorite Advent hymn.

Following the service, people are invited to bring appetizers and finger foods to share in the Parish Hall. This time of light refreshments is an opportunity for fellowship and community before choir practice and the Advent Class.

At 7:00 PM, Rev. Kate Wesch and Rev. Martha Rogers lead a class entitled: Advent with The Saint John's Bible: Making Place for Jesus. Through the lens of art and scripture and engaging the senses, we will explore the traditional nativity scene. Each week building on the one before, we will Make a Place for Jesus by creating our own nativity using characters and images from The Saint John's Bible. Join us for this creative and engaging journey to Christmas.

CAROLING, CHILI, & COCOA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, AT 4 PM

Christmas Caroling, Chili, and Charlie Brown! We gather outside in front of the church and go caroling together. Afterwards, warm up with a chili supper at the church and watch A Charlie Brown Christmas.

FORUM: CHRISTMAS CALLIGRAPHY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, AT 9 AM

Join us during this special Advent season event, and have fun creating some simple yet elegant and unique calligraphic cards and gifts to give to your friends and family — including beautiful Christmas cards, calligraphed bookmarks, and Dream, Prayer, or Gratitude Journals. By visiting our website, you can learn more about the program and artist Caroline Joy Adams.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, AT 5 PM

On the Third Sunday of Advent, we have a choral service in which Advent carols and scripture readings tell the story of anticipation. The service is followed by a reception. More information will be available next week for online sign up with reception coordination. In the meantime, you can sign up in the Narthex on Sunday.

SPECIAL DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND MUSIC FUND DEADLINE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

The Christmas poinsettias, evergreens, and special music we enjoy in the church at Christmas contributes so much to the glory of this season. We will acknowledge donations on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in the worship bulletins.

Please mail, donate online, or put your envelope on the offering plate during worship. Please mail checks to P.O. Box 422, Essex, CT 06426, or make an online donation. Please indicate in the memo line "Christmas flowers" or "Music Fund." Also indicate in whose memory the donation can be given, or if you prefer to offer it in thanksgiving for a person or an event. All donations and information must be in the office by Tuesday, December 14. If you have questions, please call 860-767-8095 ext. 10 or email chelsea@stjohnsessex.org.

CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT IN THE PEWS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH AT 4 PM

For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all!"

We have a very exciting opportunity this year at the 4:00 PM service on Christmas Eve. This will be the debut of a brand new kind of pageant.

This Christmas Pageant includes everyone and you can participate without even moving out of your pew. If you have children or teens who would like to wear a costume and be in the pageant, great! Please arrive by 3:30 PM. Everyone else will be given directions as they arrive and we will create the pageant together. This fun and engaging pageant tells the traditional story of Christ's birth, weaving together scripture and Christmas carols in a new way. This short service includes all of your Christmas favorites; a pageant, singing Christmas carols, communion, and Silent Night by candlelight.

Christmas Services

CHRISTMAS EVE - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 **4 PM Christmas Pageant with Communion & Carols** **Prelude Carol Sing beginning at 3:45 PM**

See and hear the story of Christmas acted out and sung by all ages. This service will include Eucharist and all are invited to participate in the pageant.

6 PM & 10 PM Christmas Service with Communion & Choir

All are welcome to attend a festival Eucharist celebrating the birth of Christ.

This service includes Christmas carols led by the St. John's Choir.

The service concludes with the singing of Silent Night by candlelight.

CHRISTMAS DAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 **10 AM Christmas Service with Communion & Carols**

All are welcome for a beautiful, simple service of Holy Eucharist to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The "Come As You Are" 5 PM service will take a pause on the following Sundays (November 27th, Christmas Day, and New Years Day). We encourage all to consider attending one of the morning services on these dates).

Thank you! Please also note the Parish Office is on a holiday break from December 26-30.

Serving Today at 10:15 A.M.

Organist & Choir Director	Anthony Pandolfe, Jr
Lectors	Dan Taylor-Stypa & Bill Bennett
Intercessor	Lois Blood Bennett
Ushers	David Evangelisti & Dan Taylor-Stypa
Eucharistic Minister & Crucifer	Stephanie Patterson
Videographer	Ken Ewell
Saint John's Gospel Bearers	Donna Moeller & Dan Taylor-Stypa
Altar Guild	Deborah and Darrell Jones
Counters	Ken Ewell & Bill Chatman
Presider	The Rev. Kate E. Wesch
Preacher	Mairi Graham-Shaw

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CLERGY AND STAFF: The Rev. Kate E. Wesch, *Rector*; Chelsea DiDonato, *Parish Administrator & Communications Director*; Anthony Pandolfe, Jr., *Music and Choir Director*, Mairi Graham-Shaw, *Intern for Liturgy & Preaching*, Manuel Matute, *Sexton*; Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

VESTRY: Karen Kaestle, *Warden*; Dan Taylor-Stypa, *Warden*; Nat Eddy, *Vestry Clerk*; Howard Tuttle, *Treasurer*; Carol Beisser, Lee Gaby, Darrell Jones, Scott Konrad, Sandy Loether, Stacie Padelli, Ellen Pfarr, Patricia Pittsinger, Rob van der Horst

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

WEDNESDAYS

Morning Prayer— 10 A.M.

SUNDAYS

Holy Eucharist — 8 A.M.

Holy Eucharist— 10:15 A.M.

“Come As You Are” Worship Service — 5 P.M.

St. John's Episcopal Church

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