

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

THE HOLY EUCHARIST — 10:15 A.M.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

THE GATHERING

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 **Prelude on "Abbot's Leigh"**
All rise at the sound of the bell.

A. Pandolfe

WLP 780 **Lord, you give the great commission**

ABBOT'S LEIGH

1. Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the
2. Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my
3. Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my
4. Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther,
5. Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing; "I am

sick and preach the word." Lest the church ne -
name bap - tize and teach." That the world may
bod - y, this my blood." Let us all, for
what they do, for - give." Yet we hoard as
with you to the end." Faith and hope and

glect its mis - sion, and the gos - pel go un -
trust your prom - ise, life a - bun - dant meant for
earth's true glo - ry, dai - ly lift life heav - en -
pri - vate trea - sure all that you so free - ly
love re - stor - ing, may we serve as you in -

heard, help us wit - ness to your pur - pose
each, give us all new fer - vor, draw us
ward, ask - ing that the world a - round us
give. May your care and mer - cy lead us
tend and, a - mid the cares that claim us,

Refrain

with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty. }
clos - er in com - mun - i - ty. } With the Spir - it's
share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty. }
to a just so - ci - e - ty. }
hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty. }

gifts em - power us for the work of min - is - try.

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. BCP p. 355
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**
Presider 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.**

Canticle 13 S-236 *Benedictus es, Domine* **J. Rutter**
Found in the front of the blue Hymnal 1982

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

You may be seated.

The First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15 *Domine, quis habitabit?*



- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide up on your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt up on his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- †7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

People **Thanks be to God**

Hymn 556 Rejoice, ye pure in heart

MARION

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12, *standing*

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

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Presider The Gospel of our Savior

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

Sermon

A quiet time for reflection follows the sermon.

The Rev. Kate E. Wesch

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 The kingdom of God is near at hand. Let us earnestly call on God for the needs,
concerns, and hopes of all peoples. For the church of Jesus Christ in every place.
Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For Jeff and Laura our bishops, for presbyters, liturgical ministers, and all the baptized
who minister in Christ.
Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For this holy gathering and for all who are called to follow Jesus.
Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For this country, for all nations and their leaders, and for those who guard the peace. For
ourselves, our families, and those we love. For the safety of all who serve in the Armed
Forces, especially those from our parish including; Douglas Hamillton, Carl Heise,
Molly and Jon Hilzinger, Andrew Moeller, Andy Morgado, Joshua Robeson, Spencer
Russo, Brian Tewart, and Kyle Webb. Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer**

Intercessor For all those in danger and need; the sick and the suffering, the hungry and the oppressed, and those in prison. For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially Kathy Arthur, Jinny Buracchi, Helen Chatman, Connie Cliffe, Sandra and Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Erica, Robert Fresher, Nancy Gould, Mike Hawley, Kelly Kimball, Glenn Jacobsen, Michaela, John Schumacher, Joan Squelia, Donna Stutts, and Kathy Wesch, and those now named either silently or aloud.

Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We thank you, Lord, for the work of our ministry partners, locally and abroad, and we give thanks for the abundant blessings of this life.

Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We pray for those who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom, including those we now name either silently aloud.

Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people kneel as able. A moment of reflective silence is kept.

People **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.**

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

The Peace, *all standing*

Presider The peace of the Lord 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, *you may be seated*

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 **The Pure in Heart** from "Beatitudes"

P. Hawes

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: Enriching our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 3

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.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus S-129

R. Powell

Found in the front of the blue Hymnal 1982

The people stand or kneel, as the Presider continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and People

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Presider continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Presider and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray.

**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

Fraction Anthem S-163

Found in the front of the blue Hymnal 1982

R. Powell

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 656 Blest are the pure in heart

FRANCONIA

Prayer after Communion, standing

Presider Let us pray.

People **God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever
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.**

The Blessing, standing

Presider Let us depart from this place in peace, and as we go on our way, forget not those who
are poor, pray for those who are sick, make no peace with oppression, and love one
another in God as Christ has loved us, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 477 All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine

ENGELBERG

The Dismissal, standing

Presider Alleluia. Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Postlude II. Menuet from Suite Gothique

L. Boëllman

Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are given in memory of Bill and Donna Moeller's dear friend
David Motherly Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 Pledge Envelopes | Pledge envelopes have arrived and are in the Parish Hall. Please **DO NOT** pick up your pledge envelopes by your usual number. In the summer, we merged our database into a new system. Due to the merger, pledge numbers have changed. Please check the sign-out sheet for your envelopes to find your new number. Thank you!

2023 Food Pantry Needs | The Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries continues to need support for those in need. As winter approaches, please donate any non-perishable food items to the pantry. Their current wish list is for the following items: Cereal, juice, soup, peanut butter, tuna, canned fruit, canned corn, pasta, pasta sauce, oatmeal, white rice, dried beans, protein bars, breakfast items.

Sunday Altar Flowers | There are many dates available for 2023! If you are interested in celebrating an anniversary, birthday, or remembering a loved one with your church family, please contact Chelsea DiDonato at 860-767-8095 ext. 10 or chelsea@stjohnsessex.org. *The cost of altar flowers has increased a couple of times over the past year. St. John's covered that increase in 2022. The actual cost in 2023 is \$150/week for the two large altar arrangements.

We recognize that this is a significant increase. Going forward, we invite people to make a donation between \$100-150 as you are able when reserving a date for commemorative altar flowers. Thank you!

February 12th is the last available date for altar flowers until Easter. We do not adorn the altar with flowers during Lent; we look forward to the resurrection on Easter once again, when flowers return. If you would like to schedule a date from after Easter to Advent, please get in touch with the office.

Visio Divina with *The Saint John's Bible*
Saturday, February 18th, from 12:30-3 PM in the Parish Hall

Jennifer Miller, Bible Core Team member leads the workshop with images of the Bible and art supplies. This workshop is open to anyone interested in creating art and you can stop by any time during the class to learn and create. Stay for 30 minutes, an hour, or the whole time. This is also a wonderful time to stop by with friends who would like to see the Bible.

Valentine's Card & Dove Making **Sunday, February 5 at 6 PM**

Join us for intergenerational Valentine's Day card and Dove Making! We will be making Valentine's Day cards and doves for Pentecost on Sunday, February 5th, at 6 PM following the 5 PM service in the Parish Hall. We will make Valentine's Day cards for St. John's parishioners with pastoral care needs and doves for our dove mobile in June. Supplies and dinner will be provided but feel free to bring supplies from home to share as well.

Taizé Service: Feast of the Presentation

Thursday, February 2 at 7 PM

The Taizé service is a uniquely contemplative and gorgeous experience of worshipping God. St. John's had the first one this past September and it is back by popular demand. You are invited to observe the Feast of the Presentation with this exquisite service, a feast of voice and song. This service is not-to-be-missed.

Patricia Pittsinger says, "This is a welcome respite from our busy lives and the chaos of the world. Experiencing the meditative evening prayer that is a Taize Service is to engage in a peaceful and restful form of worshipping God. I love sitting quietly in the candlelit pews of St John's, listening to, and participating in chant-like music and prayers. It is one of my favorite services."

Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 21 at 6 PM

Our annual pancake supper is Tuesday, February 21st, at 6 PM in the Undercroft, and we need your help to pull it together! We need 5-6 volunteers to help set up, cook, serve, and clean up so everyone can enjoy the incredible musical stylings upstairs in the church from The Occasional Jazz Ensemble.

If you would like to volunteer for the pancake supper, please contact the office at 860-767-8095 or chelsea@stjohnsessex.org.

SHROVE TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 21

INTERGENERATIONAL ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE IN THE PARISH HALL

5:30 - 6 PM

ASH WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 22

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES

10 AM & 7 PM

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

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

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS

Allison Fresher, *Liturgical Coordinator & Serving Ministry*
 Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*
 Greg Perruccio, *Stewardship Chair*
 Howard Tuttle, *Treasurer*

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS

Barbara Stacks, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*
 Mary Bowers & Paulette Rider, *Rummage Sale*
 Marlene Going, *Weekly Food Collection*
 Stephanie Patterson, *Altar Guild*
 Peggy Tuttle, *Pastoral Care Card Ministry*
 Jennifer Miller, *Meal Ministry*

THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE CORE TEAM

The Rev. Kate E. Wesch
 Allison Fresher
 Dan Taylor-Stypa
 Jennifer Miller
 Maggie Walden

OUTREACH PARTNERS

Mary Bowers	<i>Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries</i>
David Evangelisti	<i>Middlesex Habitat for Humanity</i>
Ed Shyloski & Charlie Walden	<i>Ministry to Veterans and Active Military Personal</i>
Jenifer Grant	<i>Sister Cities Essex Haiti</i>
Jim Myslik	<i>The Witness Stones Project</i>
Karen van der Horst	<i>Nursing Ministry</i>
Rhode van Gessel	<i>A Sacred Place</i>

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

Serving Today at 10:15 AM

Organist & Choir Director	Anthony Pandolfe, Jr
Lectors	Chris Woodside & Dan Taylor-Stypa
Intercessor	Lois Blood Bennett
Ushers	Ed Shyloski & David Evangelisti
Eucharistic Minister & Crucifer	Nat Eddy
Videographer	Ken Ewell
Saint John's Gospel Bearers	Carey Emig & Dan Taylor-Stypa
Altar Guild	Carol Beisser & Kirsten Wendell
Counters	Ken Ewell & Bill Chatman
Presider & Preacher	The Rev. Kate E. Wesch

WORSHIP & STUDY TIMES

TUESDAYS | Bible Study — 10:30 AM
WEDNESDAYS | Morning Prayer — 10 AM
SUNDAYS | Holy Eucharist — 8 & 10:15 AM
 "Come As You Are" Worship Service — 5 PM

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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