

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024



## 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. To ensure newcomers feel welcomed, position prompts are provided throughout our bulletins. If standing or kneeling is uncomfortable for you, please know it is fine to remain seated.

**Prelude**      **Fugues on the Magnificat primi toni**  
Fugues I.1 - I.22

**J. Pachelbel**

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

**Hymn 278, standing**      **Sing we of the blessed Mother**

**RUSTINGTON**

*Presider*      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.**

**Trisagion S-102**      *Holy God*  
Sung 3 times

**A. Archangelsky**

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

### The Collect of the Day

*Presider*      God be with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

*Presider*      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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

*You may be seated.*

### **The First Lesson: 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.

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

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

*The Canticle is sung by the choir.*

**Canticle 15**                      *Magnificat in G*

**H. Sumsion**

*Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

**The Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10**

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.

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

**Hymn 265, standing** The angel Gabriel from heaven came

**GABRIEL'S MESSAGE**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-45, standing**

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*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."

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

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Carol Gadsden**

*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 Form III, *standing***

**BCP Pg. 387**

<i>Intercessor</i>	Let us pray.
	Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
<i>People</i>	<b>That we all may be one.</b>
<i>Intercessor</i>	Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
<i>People</i>	<b>That your Name may be glorified by all people.</b>
<i>Intercessor</i>	We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
<i>People</i>	<b>That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.</b>
<i>Intercessor</i>	We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
<i>People</i>	<b>That there may be justice and peace on the earth.</b>
<i>Intercessor</i>	Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
<i>People</i>	<b>That our works may find favor in your sight.</b>
<i>Intercessor</i>	Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief, sickness or trouble; we pray for Amanda Archangelo,, Jen Benevento, Jinny Buracchi, Connie Cliffe, Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Pedro Frigola, Raymond Guarino, Nancy Gould, Mindy Hoffman, Erna Jensen, Chris Miller, Vicki Morrison, Gianna Porcelli, Marguerite Quigley, Dorothy Rider, Chantal Volcy, and Jerry Williams.
<i>People</i>	<b>That they may be delivered from their distress.</b>
<i>Intercessor</i>	Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Pat Atkinson and Timothy Connelly;
<i>People</i>	<b>Let light perpetual shine upon them.</b>

*Intercessor* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*People* **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

*Intercessor* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
*The People may add their own petitions.*

*Intercessor* Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

### **Confession of Sin**

*Presider* Let us confess our sins to God.  
*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 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 "Hail, Blessed Virgin Mary"**

**C. Wood**

*"Hail blessed virgin Mary," For so when he did meet thee, Spake mighty Gabriel, And thus we greet thee. Come weal, come woe, our hymn shall never vary: "Hail blessed virgin Mary, Hail blessed virgin Mary!" Ave, ave Maria, To gladden priest and people, The Angelus shall ring From every steeple; To sound his virgin birth, Alleluia, Ave, ave Maria, Ave, ave Maria. Archangels chant, "Osanna", And, "Holy, holy, holy", Before the infant born Of thee, thou lowly; Aye maiden child of Joachim and Anna, Archangels chant, "Osanna," Archangels chant, "Osanna!"*

**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 B**

*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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every- where 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**        *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*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Presider and People*

**We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;**

*The Presider continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary and Elizabeth and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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.**

*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**



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:—

have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

world:— grant us peace.

**The Invitation to Communion**

*Presider*

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. For a blessing, place your hands across your chest. 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 268 Ye who claim the faith of Jesus**

**JULION**

**The Prayer after Communion, standing**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*People*

**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.**

**Sending of Eucharistic Visitors, as requested**

**The Blessing, standing**

Hymn 56, *standing* O come, O come, Emmanuel - VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The Dismissal, *standing*

*Presider* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!  
*People* Thanks be to God.

**Postlude** **Fugues on the Magnificat primi toni** **J. Pachelbel**  
*Fugue I.23*

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*Altar Flowers*

*Today's Altar Flowers are given by Susan Raible Birch in loving memory of Michael Birch.*

*Coffee Hour*

*Directly following the service, all are invited to attend coffee hour in the Parish Hall.*

**Today's Sunday Forum: December 22 at 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall**  
**How the Episcopal Church Operates — An Overview**

What is the relationship of a parish to a diocese; the General Convention and all things connected to it; religious orders in the Episcopal Church; where the Church stands on major policy issues, et al.

**Christmas Services**

*All services are in person. If you choose to livestream with us at 10 p.m., please visit our website [stjohnsessex.org](http://stjohnsessex.org) and click the livestream.*

**Christmas Eve | December 24**

*St. John's Episcopal Church, Essex CT will be hosting Christmas Eve lunch for any Shoreline Soup Kitchen guests at noon in the Undercroft. No identification is necessary to receive a meal. All are welcome.*

**4 p.m. | Intergenerational Christmas Eve Service with Communion & Special Music**

Celebrate the birth of Christ. This service is designed with children in mind and yet is for all ages.

**6 & 10 p.m. | Christmas Eve Service with Communion & Special Music**

Celebrate the birth of Christ at our festival Eucharist, open to all. The 10 p.m. service features Christmas carols led by the St. John's Choir, and both services conclude with a candlelight singing of Silent Night.

**Christmas day | December 25**

**10 a.m. | Christmas Service with Communion & Special Music**

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

**Christmas Flower Delivery**  
**December 16 through December 19**

We need help with delivering Christmas flowers. Flowers may be picked up the week leading into Christmas beginning December 16 through December 19, and you may also take them on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day in the Parish Hall. **There are about 5 deliveries left. Cards with the names of those to receive plants will be located on the counter in the Parish Hall.** Please sign your name on the clipboard next to the names of those to whom you will be delivering flowers. Thank you so much for your help!

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**CLERGY & PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Carol Gadsden, *Interim Co-Pastor*  
[carol@stjohnsessex.org](mailto:carol@stjohnsessex.org) / 860-767-8095 x.12

The Rev. Wilk Miller, *Interim Co-Pastor*  
[wilk@stjohnsessex.org](mailto:wilk@stjohnsessex.org) / 860-767-8095 x.12

Chelsea DiDonato, *Communications Director & Parish Administrator*  
[chelsea@stjohnsessex.org](mailto:chelsea@stjohnsessex.org) / 860.767.8095 x. 10

Anthony Pandolfe Jr., *Director of Music & Organist*  
[anthony@stjohnsessex.org](mailto:anthony@stjohnsessex.org) / 860.767.8095 x.17

Allison Fresher, *Minister of Worship Life*  
[allison@stjohnsessex.org](mailto:allison@stjohnsessex.org)

Meghan Wrinn, *Program & Events Coordinator*  
[meghan@stjohnsessex.org](mailto:meghan@stjohnsessex.org)

Manuel Matute, *Sexton*  
Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

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**VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS**

Nancy Haslam, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*  
Marlene Going, *Weekly Food Collection*  
Stephanie Patterson, *Altar Guild*  
Peggy Tuttle, *Pastoral Care Card Ministry*  
Jennifer Miller, *Meal Ministry*  
Ernie Brainard, *Candle Master*  
Paulette Rider, *Outreach Committee*  
Jan Perruccio, *Newcomers Committee*

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**VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS**

Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*  
Greg Perruccio, *Stewardship Chair*  
Dave Rogers, *Treasurer*  
Clio Coles, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Shawn Honan, *Investment Oversight Committee*

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**VESTRY** Scott Konrad, *Warden*; Sandy Loether, *Warden*; Anne Littlefield, *Vestry Clerk*;  
Dave Rogers *Treasurer*; Carol Beisser, Lois Blood Bennett, Tony Custodio, Nat Eddy,  
Wesley Henry, Stephanie Patterson, Patti Pickering, Rob van der Horst, Kevin Walsh

**WORSHIP**

**SUNDAYS** | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

**TUESDAYS** | Bible Study — 10:00 a.m.

**WEDNESDAYS** | Midweek Holy Eucharist — 12:00 p.m.

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

3 Cross Street, / (P.O. Box 422) Essex, CT 06426  
860.767.8095 | [www.stjohnsessex.org](http://www.stjohnsessex.org)