

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A FESTIVAL OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY
December 20, 2020 10:30 AM

ORGAN PRELUDE *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the nations, come)*, BWV 661 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

INTROIT *Thou shalt know him when he comes- Paul Lohman, 2009*

In the stillness is the Word: bearing promise and comfort and hope for which we wait, but how long this time of waiting for the One who's coming soon, for the dawning, the knowing, the Light, the Way, the Word?

Thou shalt know Him when he comes, not by any din of drums, not his manners nor his airs, nor by anything he wears. Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by his crown or by his gown, but his coming known shall be by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.

But how long this time of waiting for the One who's coming soon, for the dawning, the knowing. Thou shalt know him not by crown, thou shalt know him, not by gown, but his coming known shall be by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee. [Anonymous, 15th C.]

HYMN *O come, O come Emmanuel (Veni, Emmanuel)*

HYMNAL # 56 vs. 1-3

* THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Our Father... (*The Lord's Prayer in unison*)

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

HYMN *O come, O come Emmanuel (Veni, Emmanuel)*

HYMNAL # 56 vs. 5-7

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of Eden

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
 cursed are you among all animals
 and among all wild creatures;
 upon your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.
 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and hers;
 he will strike your head,
 and you will strike his heel."

Thanks be to God

ANTHEM *Adam lay y-bounden* - Crawford R. Thoburn, 2003

Adam lay y-bounden, bounden in a bond;
 Four thousand winter thought he not too long.
 And all was for an apple that he took
 As clerkes finden written in their book.
 Ne had the apple taken been,
 Ne had never our lady a been heavene queen.
 Blessed be the time that apple taken was,
 Therefore we may singen Deo Gracias!

[Anonymous, 15th C. English]

SECOND LESSON

BARUCH 4:36-5:9

Salvation is at hand

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Thanks be to God

ANTHEM *Arise, shine, for thy light is come*- George Elvey (1816-1893)

Arise, shine for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people;
but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee,
And the gentiles shall come to thy light And kings to the brightness of thy rising. [Isaiah 60: 1-3]

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 6:1-11

God reveals his glory to the prophet and calls him to be his messenger.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" And he said, "Go and say to this people:

'Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.'
Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,

so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed."
Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said:
"Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;

Thanks be to God

HYMN *Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding (Merton)*

HYMNAL # 59

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-15

God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us."

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

Thanks be to God

HYMN *The great forerunner of the morn (Truth from above)*

HYMNAL # 272

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:5-24

An angel announces to Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth will bear a son.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *I sing of a maiden*- Crawford R. Thoburn, 2003

I sing of a maiden that is makeless,
King of all kings to her son she ches.
He came all so still, where his mother was,
As dew in April that falleth on the grass.
He came all so still to his mother's bow'r
As dew in April that falleth on the flow'r.
He came all so still where his mother lay,
As dew in April that falleth on the spray.
Mother and maiden was never none but she.
Well may such a lady Goddes mother be.
Anonymous, 15th C. English]

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-44

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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:

Thanks be to God

ANTHEM *Magnificat*- Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty has magnified me; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath helped his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

PRAYER

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

HYMN *Midnight Clear*

HYMNAL # 89

Alternate third verse

3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

BLESSING

Christ 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.*

ORGAN POSTLUDE *In dulci jubilo* (In sweet jubilation) - D. Buxtehude

Cyber Singers: Megan Castellan, Sally Clayton, Ben Dean, Jerome Fung, Josette Garrison, K. A. Hindenlang, Mary Beth James, Michael Roman, Amelia Paulson, Matthew Stedinger, Skye Steuteville, Constance Stirling-Engman, Crawford R. Thoburn, Sara Van Looy, Beverly G. Way, John Wootton, Baobao Zhang, with Trumpeter Charlotte Hoekenga and Organist / Director of Music Karen A. Hindenlang plus the Chancel Choirs of 2018 and 2019

Readers: Matthew Stedinger, Baobao Zhang, Mike Roman,
Mary Beth James, K. A. Hindenlang, Crawford R. Thoburn

Photos by Pam Talbot (outdoors) & Sara Van Looy (indoors)
Music Videos created by K. A. Hindenlang
Video compilation by Mtr. Megan Castellan

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

All services will be online at stjohnsithaca.org.

Christmas Eve

5 pm live stream

7 pm with music

Christmas Day

10:30 am live stream

First & Second Sundays After Christmas

10:30 am live stream

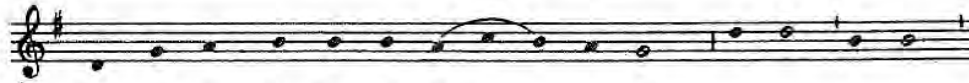




1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind 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
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 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.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!
 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 stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.;
 adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

LM with Refrain

59

Advent

Descant

2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye chil - dren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.

Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)

87. 87

Holy Days and Various Occasions

272

Unison or harmony

1 The great fore - run - ner of the morn, the
 2 With heaven - ly mes - sage Ga - briel came, that
 *3 John, still un - born, yet gave a - right his
 4 His might - y deeds ex - alt his fame to
 *5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and

1 her - ald of the Word, is born; and faith - ful hearts shall
 2 John should be that her - ald's name, and with pro - phet - ic
 3 wit - ness to the com - ing light; and Christ, the Sun of
 4 great - er than a pro - phet's name; of wo - man born shall
 5 God the Spi - rit, Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and

1 nev - er fail with thanks and praise his light to hail.
 2 ut - terance told his ac - tions great and man - i - fold.
 3 all the earth, ful - filled that wit - ness at his birth.
 4 nev - er be a great - er pro - phet than was he.
 5 glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (June 24).

Words: The Venerable Bede (673-735); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: *The Truth From Above*, English melody; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

LM

HYMN Midnight Clear HYMNAL # 89

89

Christmas

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly
 pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er

near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt.
 Music: Carol, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)

CMD

St. John's Church

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The Rev. Megan Castellan, Rector

Sara Van Looy, Sr. Warden

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AnnMarie Hautaniemi, Parish Administrator

Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

Karen A. Hindenlang, Director of Music/Organist

Crawford R. Thoburn, Assisting Conductor

Office Hours: M-W-F 1pm- 4pm, Tu- Thurs 10am-2pm

Although the office has limited hours* for the duration of the pandemic, e-mail, regular mail and phone messages will be monitored. If you need pastoral assistance, or just want to reach out to Mtr. Megan, please call her at 315-757-0251, or e-mail mtrmegan@stjohnsithaca.org.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING IN JANUARY 2021 please take note that qualified voters are defined by NYS law and the canons of the Diocese as follows: persons of full age belonging to the parish, who have been baptized and are in regular attendance at its worship and contributors to its support for at least twelve months prior (i.e., since January 2020).

If you have any question about your membership at St. John's, please contact AnnMarie in the office for clarification. If you are new to St John's since February 2020, and have not yet transferred your membership in writing, please contact the office so that you will be eligible to vote in 2021. If you have not been a regular contributor (i.e. made and fulfilled a pledge or been a regular contributor of record), please contact the Treasurer (Mary Arlin) to rectify this before December 31.

Anyone standing for election as a vestry member must meet these same qualifications. Wardens and delegates must also be confirmed members of The Episcopal Church.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL DONATIONS time is here! Please donate in memory of a loved one. Just drop a note to the office, or e-mail names to office@stjohnsithaca.org. You can also [donate on-line](#), and mark your donation "Christmas Flowers." The names will be published in the Christmas bulletins.

IMAGES needed — digital photos of local scenes, seasonal artwork, historic sites, natural beauty — to accompany the instrumental music in our worship! If you have graphics that our Director of Music could use, please forward them to the church office; thank you!

If you would like to contribute to our ministries, you may [make a secure donation here](#). Thank you! Sign up for our weekly newsletter [The Fledgling](#) by contacting the church office.

Please Join Us

Coffee Hour, today at 11:30 on zoom <https://zoom.us/j/91221585167>

Join us for Morning Prayer weekdays at 9:30 on [FaceBook](#) & [YouTube](#).

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