

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
CHRISTMAS DAY

Service of Antecomunion
St. John's Episcopal Church
Ithaca, NY 14850
December 25, 2020 10:30 am Year B
stjohnsithaca.org

Prelude: *Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen* (Lo, how a rose e're blooming) Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Opening Acclamation BCP 355

Gloria BCP 356

Collect of the Day BCP

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born [this day] of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Lesson Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98 *Cantate Domino*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: Whence comes this lovely fragrance (*Quelle est cette odeur agréable*)

French Carol, arr. by C. R. Thoburn, 1989

Gospel

John 1:1-14

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Megan Castellan

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Prayers of the People

The Word has been made flesh, the light of God's love has broken through our darkness, the Daystar from on high now shines in our hearts. Filled with the joy of Jesus' birth, let us pray together in the power of his Spirit, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

+ That the Prince of Peace may guide the leaders of the nations, and all men and women everywhere, into the ways of freedom and truth; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, Presiding Bishop of our Church, and DeDe, our Bishop, that they may guide us in our journey to Bethlehem, uniting the whole Church as we live into our spiritual kinship with one another; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ For those for whom the darkness has suffocated hope: the lonely, the fearful, the hungry, and those who

bear a private grief; that they may see the dawn of God's love, and revive the eternal hope that never fades away; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ For our families and friends, and for all our absent sisters and brothers; for those who are sick, and for those who have died and who now feast at the heavenly banquet of God's grace; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ That we may be released from the captivity of our sins, the places of interior blindness that cause us to choose darkness over light; that we may be forgiven by the power of the Holy Spirit; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ That we who gather to share the Holy Eucharist, and those throughout the world who come to receive this sacrament of Holy Presence, may bear witness to Christ born in our hearts; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In the wonder of this night, [or In the beauty of this morning,] let us continue to offer our petitions.

For the special needs and concerns of our congregation, and especially for:

Wes	Dhara	Theodore	Virginia	Joell	Jeanne
Jean	Julee	Paul	John	Linda	Josephine
Susan	Lorraine	Louis	Jimmy	James	Fred
Joan	Edith	Kay	Ruth	Lisa	Amy
CeCe	Libby	Joyce	June	Keith	Dick
Elizabeth	John	Sue	Mary	Shella	Karen
Richard	Kathleen	Skip	Clare	Alana	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week: Tim Schmidle, Alice Wagner, Phoebe Hain, Gabriel Henry, Jim Johnson.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

Peace

Dismissal

Postlude: Meditation on *Divinum Mysterium* (Of the Father's love begotten) - Charles Callahan, 1993

SPECIAL THANKS to guest organist George Damp and assisting conductor Crawford R. Thoburn for their performances shared in our worship this morning.

Christmas Memorial Flowers

Our Christmas poinsettias are offered in loving memory of:

The Rev. W. Aubrey Arlin, Edith N. Arlin, Audrey A. Vault, Margaret Godlove, Mary Nungesser, Ron Clayton, Ruth & Franklin Sipos, Sarah Richtmyer, Peter J. Hedrick, Stacey Hyatt



St. John's Church

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The Rev. Megan Castellan, Rector

Sara Van Looy, Sr. Warden

AnnMarie Hautaniemi, Parish Administrator

Karen A. Hindenlang, Director of Music/Organist

Matthew Sanaker, Jr. Warden

Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES All services will be online at stjohnsithaca.org.

First & Second Sundays After Christmas

10:30 am live stream

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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