

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY

December 5, 2021 Year C

10:30 AM

* Indicates please stand

Prelude Variations on *Psalm 42* (Comfort, comfort ye my people) Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

***Hymn** On Jordan's Bank (*Winchester New*) **Hymnal # 76 vs. 1, 2 & 5**

***Opening Acclamation**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen

***Collect for Purity**

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.*

***Kyrie**

Hymnal # S-91

***The Collect of The Day**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Baruch 5:1-9

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that
come from him.

The Song of Zechariah

Benedictus Dominus Deus

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them
free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of
old,

that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father
Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our
enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of
the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to
prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon
us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and
the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of
peace.

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 Epistle Reading

1 Philippians 1:3–11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***The Gospel Reading**

Luke 3:1-6

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Megan Castellan

***The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

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.

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.

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 worshiped
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.

***The Prayers of the People**

May the anticipation of the Incarnation quicken our spirits as we offer our prayers and thanksgivings, responding, "Come, Lord Jesus."

+ God of hope, your Word came to John in the wilderness; inspire your Church to proclaim the way of the Lord in our community and our world; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ God of liberation, instill a yearning for justice in the leaders of every country, that they may loose the bonds of those bound by poverty, hunger, unemployment, or prejudice; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ God of forgiveness, bring back through repentance those captivated by the enemies that seduce us: money, social position, power, ambition and prestige, that we may experience a unity with you that knows no boundaries; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ God of gratitude, make us thankful for the community we have in each other as companions on the journey of faith; for our diocese, and all our spiritual guides, DeDe, our Bishop, Megan, our priest, and Lynne., our intern; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ God of purification, cleanse us with the vision to see beyond our self-deception and denial, that our souls may be purified in your truth, and we may be prepared for your promise of new life; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ God of salvation receive those who have died in the Lord's possession, may they rest in the joy of eternal life; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

As we turn from our sins and face the light of God's forgiveness, let us continue our prayers.

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

Dave	Dan	Elaine	Pat	Ovie
Amelia	Wes	Joan	Heather	Stanley
Dani	Jean	Cathey	Judy	Carol
Mary	Vivian	Laurie	Lorraine	
Tom	Sarah	Theodore	Tina	
Giovanni	Felice	Margaret	Carl	
Cindy	Edith	Elaine	Jennifer	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week.:

Nathan Hall, Linn Henry, Jeremiah Miller, Shirley Durfee

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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.*

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Please remain in your pew. Wave!

Announcements & Welcome

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem *Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake*

Richard Farrant (c.1530–80)

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake,
lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past,
and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in a perfect heart
before thee, now and evermore.

Text from John Bull's *Christian Prayers and Holy Meditations*, 1568 (based on a 4th C. Latin Hymn)

***Offertory Hymn** *Comfort, comfort ye my people (Psalm 42)*

Hymnal # 67 vs 1 & 2

*The Great Thanksgiving

Expanded Language Prayer A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them to the Lord

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: *continuing:* Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy (Sanctus)

Hymnal # S-114

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and became subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, Sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior 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, Jesus 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day, bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Fraction Anthem **Lamb of God** (*Agnus Dei*)

Hymnal # S-158

The Communion of the People

All people are invited to the Lord's Table. Eucharist will be distributed in the form of the bread with wine available for intincture. Please come forward in a single line in the center aisle to receive. Wait to remove your mask until you return to your seat, and then replace it after consuming the Sacrament.

Post Communion Prayer

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Blessing

***Hymn** Watchman tell us of the night (*Aberystwyth*)

Hymnal # 640 vs. 1 & 3

Dismissal

Postlude Fughetta on *Psalm 42* (Comfort, comfort ye my people)

Alfred Fedak, 1982

Liturgical Ministers: Daniella Ripperton, Michael Roman, Pamela Talbott

Choral Music Sung by the St. John's Cyber Choir

Hymns for the Second Sunday of Advent
5 December 2021

On Jordan's Bank (*Winchester New*)
Hymnal # 76 Vs 1, 2 & 5

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.
2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.
5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

Comfort, comfort ye my people (*Psalms 42*)
Hymnal # 67 vs 1 & 2

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.
2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.

Watchman, tell us of the night (*Aberystwyth*)
Hymnal # 640 vs 1 & 3

1 Watchman, tell us of the night,
what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
promised day of Israel.
3 Watchman, tell us of the night,
for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;
hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,
lo! the Son of God is come!

One License # A – 724223



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The Rev. Megan Castellan, Rector

Matthew Sanaker, Sr. Warden
Parish Administrator
Karen A. Hindenlang, Director of Music/Organist
Lynne Walton, Intern

Cora Yao, Jr. Warden
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton
Crawford R. Thoburn, Assisting Conductor
George E. Damp, Guest Organist

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.

If you would like to contribute to our ministries, you may make a secure donation at <https://stjohnsithaca.org/donate/>. Thank you!

Sign up for our weekly newsletter The Fledgling by contacting the church office.

Cyber Choir continues this Advent and welcomes new participants. For info, see our Director of Music/Organist Karen Hindenlang after the service or contact her through the church office.

Forward Day by Day for November, December, January is available on the table in the rear of the church.

2022 PLEDGE ENVELOPES, for those who use them, are on the table in the back of the nave. They are sorted alphabetically by last name. Please pick up your envelopes and take them home with you at your earliest convenience. If you do not find your envelopes, or have never had envelopes and wish to begin using them, please contact the parish office: (607) 273-6532 or office@stjohnsithaca.org.

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS of St. John's, Ithaca, will be streamed next Sunday, December 12, at 4pm on YouTube and Facebook. Join us online as we continue our preparations for the birth of our savior.

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to donate toward the Christmas flowers and wreaths that adorn the nave during Christmas may do so by placing a check in the offering plate, noted Christmas Flowers; or you can mail a check to the church. If you wish the flowers to be in memory of a loved one, please note that name below, tear off, and return this slip with your check. **All names must be received by December 22nd at the latest to insure inclusion in the bulletin.**

Christmas flowers Donated by _____ in memory of _____

Please Join Us:

Coffee Hour today in the Parish Hall. Please continue to wear your mask when you are not actively eating or drinking.

Join us for Morning Prayer weekdays at 9:30 on FaceBook & YouTube.

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