

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY

December 19, 2021 Year C

**10:30 AM**

\* Indicates please stand

**Prelude** *Nun kom, der Heiden Heiland* (Savior of the Nations, Come) J. Pachelbel (1653–1706)

**\*Hymn** Savior of the nations, come (*Nun komm*) **Hymnal # 54**

## **\*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.

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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## The Song of Mary

*Magnificat (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 Epistle Reading

**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.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## \*The Gospel Reading

**Luke 3:7–18**

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

*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."

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**

Let us offer prayers to God our Creator, who prepares us to receive the miracle of new life, as we respond to each petition, saying, "Come, Lord Jesus."

+ O Wisdom, you come from the mouth of the Most High; inspire your Church as we seek to live out our faith on this holy ground and through our sacrificial love of one another; for this we pray.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

+ O Adonai, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush; help us discern your presence through the faith and courage of others, especially the unemployed; the homeless and hungry; children who are abandoned, abused, or unloved; and all for whom Jesus gave his life; for this we pray.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

+ O Root of Jesse, you stand as a firm sign of endurance and hope; give us the perseverance to seek freedom for ourselves and for all who are imprisoned by alcohol, depression, drugs, financial mismanagement, material greed, and discouraging illness; for this we pray.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

+ O Key of David, open wide our hearts that we may be sensitive to the fragility of the earth, learning to live more simply and love more fully; for this we pray.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

+ O King of Nations, bring your clarity and judgment to those who exercise leadership in our government, and to those in service to your Church give the will to proclaim the promises of your kingdom; for this we pray.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

+ O Eternal Light, shine on all who have died in your Name that they, and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, may rest in peace; for this we pray.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

+ O Emmanuel, God with us, dwell in the hearts of those who do not worship you in the community of faith, and fill them with the desire to seek their place in your Church; for this we pray.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

In expectation with Mary, the beloved of God, may we rejoice in the coming of the Messiah as we continue our prayers, either silently or aloud.

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	Sara
Tom	Sarah	Theodore	Tina	Jon
Giovanni	Felice	Margaret	Carl	James
Cindy	Edith	Elaine	Jennifer	

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

Tim Schmidle, Alice Wagner, Phoebe Hain, Gabriel Henry

### **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**

*Please remain in your pews. Wave!*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*And also with you.*

### **Announcements & Welcome**

### **Offertory Sentence**

**Offertory Anthem** *The Linden Tree* 14th C. German tune, arr. by Crawford R. Thoburn, 1993

In heaven stood a linden tree with pure white flowers laden;  
Yet not a bloom was fair as she, sweet Mary, chosen maiden.  
Great Gabriel, God's angel bright, From high above came winging  
To one, the purest in God's sight, a joyful message bringing.  
"Hail, Mary, blessed virgin mild, with God you have found favor;  
You shall conceive and bear a child, to all the world a Savior."  
"My soul does magnify the Lord! I am His servant lowly;  
Be all according to His word," said Mary, meek and holy.  
Away the angel flew to share the news of Mary's duty;  
And heav'n rejoiced that she would bear the Blossom of all Beauty.

[Text translated by K. A. Hindenlang]

**\*Offertory Hymn** Let all mortal flesh (*Picardy*)

**Hymnal # 324**

**\*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**      Oh come, O come, Emmanuel (*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*)

**Hymnal # 56 vs. 1, 5-7**

## **Dismissal**

**Postlude**      *Nun kom, der Heiden Heiland* (Savior of the Nations, Come), BWV 599

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Liturgical Ministers:** Baoboa Zhang, Jerome Fung, Susan Backstrom

**Virtual Vergers:** Sara VanLooy, Virginia McGhee

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



### **St. John's Church**

210 North Cayuga Street Ithaca, NY 14850

(607)-273-6532

[www.stjohnsithaca.org](http://www.stjohnsithaca.org)

Office email: [office@stjohnsithaca.org](mailto:office@stjohnsithaca.org)

"Like" us on facebook @ Saint John's Episcopal Church

**Office Hours** Monday thru Thursday 10-3

### **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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:office@stjohnsithaca.org).

**St. John's Christmas Giving Tree.** If you haven't already mailed or brought your gift cards for the adopted families to the office, please place them on the collection plate **today**.

### **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](#).

**One License # A – 724223**

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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### Extended Greening of the Church

**WHEN:** Drop off your donated greens in the Undercroft on the tarp.

**WHERE:** Email Susie Backstrom <[sebackstrom@aol.com](mailto:sebackstrom@aol.com)> for a time to come by the church this week to decorate. We'll give you a task – any amount of help is useful!

**WHAT TO BRING:** Work gloves, wire cutters, screw drivers, scissors, pruning shears and dress for a mess! The Altar Guild supplies the greens, fir trees, bows and candles.

**WHO:** Everyone is welcome! You don't have to be an interior designer to help; every pair of hands is welcome. Children are welcome to attend and help with their families since there will be no childcare provided. We'll set up the sanctuary trees and nativity scene, too. It will be more fun if you come!

**COME JOIN THE FUN AND BE AMAZED AT HOW BEAUTIFUL OUR SANCTUARY LOOKS WHEN WE ARE DONE!**