

**The Second Sunday of Advent**  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY  
4 December, 2022 Year A  
**10:30 AM**

\* Indicates please stand

**Prelude** Rorate Caeli

Jeanne Demessieux (1921–68)

**\*Processional Hymn** Hail to the Lord's anointed (*Es flog ein kleine Waldvögelein*)

**\*Opening Acclamation**

**BCP 355**

**\*Collect For Purity**

**\*Gloria**

**Hymnal #S-277**

**The First Lesson**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stump  
of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his  
roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and  
understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear  
of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of  
the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the  
poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek  
of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of  
his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he  
shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around  
his waist,

and faithfulness the belt around his  
loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the  
kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling  
together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the  
ox.

The nursing child shall play over the  
hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its  
hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the  
knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand  
as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall  
inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be  
glorious.

## The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

*Deus, judicium*

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, \*  
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.

### The Epistle Reading

**Romans 15:4-13**

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";  
and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**Sequence Hymn** What is crying at Jordan? (*St. Mark's, Berkeley*)

**Hymn #69**

**\*The Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

**Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to.  
Glory to you, Lord Christ**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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.

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  
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**

As we anticipate the glorious birth of the Messiah, let us gather our prayers and thanksgivings as an offering of faith, responding, "O come, O come, Emmanuel."

+ That we may confess our collusion with evil, turn from the wrong we have done, and recommit ourselves to a holy life; let us pray.  
*O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

+ That righteousness may flourish throughout the legislative bodies of our nation, so that integrity overcomes the interests of special groups, and honesty the financial influence of the affluent; let us pray.  
*O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

+ That we be given the faith to go into the wilderness of our time and culture, giving voice to the promises of Christ and the glory of his reign; let us pray.  
*O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

+ That all people everywhere may choose to be washed through the water and fire of baptism, sharing in Christ's death and united in his resurrection; let us pray.  
*O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

+ That we may honor our children, whose keen sense of the mystery of faith leads us to a deeper understanding of the Eucharistic Meal, and the humility to share gifts of hope across all the tables of the world; let us pray.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

+ That those who care for the sick may be given the strength to endure and the patience to carry on in the midst of trials, and that those who have died may rest in peace; let us pray.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

+ In thanksgiving for programs and people who assist those troubled with alcoholism, gambling, and any addiction that holds our souls in bondage; let us pray.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

+ In thanksgiving for those who are generous in their giving for the mission of the Church: its ministry and witness, its temporal responsibilities and spiritual treasures; let us pray.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

As a people ever-watchful for the coming of the Messiah, let us continue our intercessions.

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

Theodore	Sara	Lorraine	Sue	James
Carol	Linda	Charlie	Deborah	Harry
Lorraine	Park	Kathryn	Theresa	Lisa
John	Mark	Richard	Jan	Tracy
Lorraine	Debra	Katie	Linda	
Edith	Shirley	Jason	Jack	
Stanley	Janice	Michele	Julianne	
Dave	Anne	Cale	Maggi	
Joan	Cece	Emily	Chris	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:  
Nancy Leeming, Richard Smith, Nathan Hall, Jeremiah Miller

### **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**

**Anthem** People, look East!

Besancon carol

1. People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.

3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
Guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the bird, is on the way.

4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.

5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)

**\*Presentation Hymn** There's a voice in the wilderness crying (*Ascension*)

**Hymnal #75**

**\*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 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-161**

## **The Communion of the People**

*All people are invited to the Lord's Table.*

*Eucharist will be distributed in the center aisle. Please come forward in a single line to receive.*

*You may either intinct your wafer in the small chalice, or you may drink from the larger common chalice after consuming the wafer.*

*Please replace your mask after receiving the sacrament.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

## **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**

**\*Recessional** Prepare the way O Zion (*Bereden väg för Herran*)

**Hymnal #65**

## **Dismissal**

**Postlude** Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645

J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

**Liturgical Ministers:** Josette Garrison, Jerome Fung, Sally Clayton

**Virtual Vergers:** Virginia McGhee, Ben Dean

**St. John's extends a warm welcome to visitors!**

**May you experience the Lord's presence during worship. Please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate and stay for coffee in the parish hall after the service.**

**LARGE PRINT EDITIONS OF THE SERVICE ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX**

The Eucharistic and Aumbry candles this month are Given to the Glory of God in memory of Rev. Charles Briggs Shaver and Martha Bolles Shaver by Jane Peck

The flowers on the altar are to the glory of God by Christi Sobel and Matthew Sanaker in memory of Nancy Sobel.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from **One License** with license # **A- 724223**

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





St. John's Church  
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"Like" us on facebook @ Saint John's Episcopal Church  
**Office Hours** Monday thru Thursday 10–3

**The Rev. Megan Castellan, Rector**

Cora Yao, Senior Warden  
Parish Administrator, Cathy Wagner  
Director of Music/Organist Anna Stepler

Gwen Freeman, Junior Warden  
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

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.

**Please Join Us:**

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

Morning Prayer Monday – Thursday at 9:30 on Facebook and YouTube.

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

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2023 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).

**Flowers:** If you wish to give Sunday flowers in memory of a loved one, please call the church office (607-273-6532).