

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY

11 December 2022 Year A

10:30 AM

* Indicates please stand

Prelude Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

***Processional Hymn** On Jordan's bank the Baptist cry (*Winchester*)

Hymnal #76

***Opening Acclamation**

BCP 355

***Collect For Purity**

***Gloria**

Hymnal #S-277

The Collect of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be
glad,
the desert shall rejoice and
blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom
abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!"
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
Then the eyes of the blind shall be
opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless
sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the
wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of
water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a
swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and
rushes.
A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no
traveler, not even fools, shall go
astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come
up on it;

they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall
return,
and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee
away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4–9

Lauda, anima mea

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob
for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and
all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
6 Who gives justice to those who are
oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed
down;
8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all
generations.
Hallelujah!

The Epistle Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Sequence** The Lord will come and not be slow (*York*)

Hymnal #462

***The Gospel Reading**

Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to.

Glory to you, Lord Christ

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone

dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Kit Tobin

*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

Be strong, do not fear! Our God is coming. Confident that our waiting is not in vain, let us offer our prayers as we respond, “O come, O come, Emmanuel.”

+ O come Emmanuel, free us from the bondage of our sins, our pride and hypocrisy, our greed and self-serving interests, that we may know your redeeming love and reveal its liberating joy; let us pray.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

+ O Wisdom from on high, show us the path of the Holy Way, and set our feet upon its joy; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

+ O Lord of Might, who gives sight to the blind and opens the ears of those who cannot hear, who heals the sick, raises the dead, and brings good news to the poor, give us a share of your power that we may do the works you do; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

+ O Branch of Jesse's tree, we give thanks for our spiritual ancestors, by whose faith the lamp of truth illumines the disciples of every age; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

+ O Key of David, unlock the doors of oppression and violence that imprison humankind, and set free those living in the bondage of slavery, the victims of abusive relationships, and those chained by poverty; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

+ O Dayspring from on high, may the dawn overcome every darkness, as your messengers plant the barren land with the seeds of hope; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

+ O Desire of Nations, free us from the division that separates nations and peoples, and fill the leaders of the world with a passion for peace; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

+ O Come, Emmanuel, lift up those who are lowly, and raise from the dead those who have fallen asleep; let us pray.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

May we continue to proclaim our trust in the Lord's constant watch, as we add to these prayers and petitions.

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

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

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week

Shirley Durfee, David Faulkner, Beverly Beer, Susan Shell

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 pew. Wave!

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

Announcements & Welcome

Offertory Sentence

Anthem conditor alme siderum

Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)

conditor alme siderum
 aeterna lux credentium
 Christe redemptor omnium
 exaudi preces supplicum

[O generous creator of the stars,
 eternal light for believers, O
 Christ, redeemer of all, hear now
 our prayers]

qui condolens interitu
 mortis perire saeculum
 salvasti mundum languidum
 donans reis remedium

[who, though suffering the decay
 of death to die for all, you have
 saved the suffering world, giving
 us your healing balm]

vergente mundi vespere,
 uti sponsus de thalamo,
 egressus honestissima
 virginis matris clausula

[As the world turned to evening,
 like a bridegroom from his
 chamber, you came forth from
 the most pure cloister of the
 virgin mother]

Te, Sancte fide quesumus,
 venture iudex saeculi
 conserva nos in tempore
 hostis a telo perfidi

[So we pray, holy judge of all the
 ages to come, may you keep us
 safe at that time from the
 weapon of the enemy]

Sit Christe rex piissime
 tibi Patrique gloria
 cum Spiritu Paraclito
 in sempiterna saecula. Amen

[Glory be to Christ, King most
 faithful, and to the Father with
 the Holy Ghost, for ages to
 come. Amen]

***Presentation Hymn** Rejoice, rejoice, believers (*Llanglofan*)

Hymnal #68

***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-124

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** “Thy Kingdom come” on bended knee (*St. Flavin*)

Hymnal #615

Dismissal

Postlude alvus tumescit virgins

Michael Praetorius

Today we welcome The Rev. Kit Tobin as our Celebrant and Preacher.

Liturgical Ministers: Jennifer Dodwell, Margaret Johnson, Stephanie Nevels

Acolyte: Alyssa Green

Virtual Vergers: Matthew Sanaker, Amber Massa

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

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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.

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.