

**Christmas Day**  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY  
25 December 2022 Year A

**10:30 AM**

\* Indicates please stand

**Prelude** Four Preludes from the Orgelbüchlein: *Vom Himmel Hoch, Der Tag ist so freundenreich, Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schar, Gelobet seist du* J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

**\*Processional Hymn** O come, all ye faithful (*Adeste fidelis*) **Hymnal # 83**

**\*Opening Acclamation** **BCP 355**

**\*Collect For Purity**

**\*Gloria** Angels we have heard on high (*Gloria*) **Hymnal #96**

**The Collect of the Day**

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.*

**The First Lesson**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of  
Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

**Psalm 98**

*Cantate Dominox*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation  
from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be  
praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are  
but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his  
presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his  
sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the  
peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his  
Name;

- bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
\*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
  - 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is  
King! \*  
he has made the world so firm that it  
cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."
  - 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be  
glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is  
therein.
  - 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout  
for joy  
before the Lord when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.
  - 13 He will judge the world with righteousness  
\*  
and the peoples with his truth.

### The Epistle Reading

### 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."

**\*Sequence** Good Christian friends, rejoice (*In dulce jublio*)

**Hymnal #107**

**\*The Gospel Reading**

**John 1:1-14**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
*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 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**

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 beauty of this morning, let us continue to offer our petitions.

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

Theodore	Linda	Kathryn	Jan	Allison
Carol	Park	Richard	Linda	George
Lorraine	Mark	Katie	Jack	Gloria
John	Debra	Jason	Julianne	Wes
Loraine	Shirley	Michele	Chris	Strater
Edith	Janice	Cale	James	Penny
Stanley	Anne	Emily	Lisa	Peter
Dave	Cece	Sue	Tracy	Sandy
Joan	Lorraine	Deborah	Denise	
Sara	Charlie	Theresa	Deb	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:

Jim Johnson, David D'Aprix, Elaine LaRocque

### **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 pen. Wave!*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*And also with you.*

## Announcements & Welcome

### Offertory Sentence

**Offertory** The Dawn of Redeeming Grace

Judith Bingham (b. 1952)

**\*Presentation Hymn** Hark! The herald angels sing (*Mendelssohn*)

**Hymnal #87**

### **\*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 instinct 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 Hymn    In the bleak midwinter (*Cranham*)

Hymnal #112

## 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    Joy to the world (*Antioch*)

Hymnal #100

## Dismissal

Postlude    Voluntary: *In dulci jubilio*  
Toccata

J. S. Bach  
Théodore Debois (1837–1924)

## Greeters:

**Liturgical Ministers:** Sally Clayton, Amber Massa, Susie Backstrom

**Acolytes:** Amber Massa

**Virtual Vergers:** Michael Roman, Matthew Sanaker

**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 clergy and staff would like to thank the parish for the many cards and greetings given them this season. Also, a big thank you for all of you who helped decorate the church and make St. John's celebration of this Holy Season so meaningful.

Your Christmas gifts are important. We thank all the acolytes, greeters, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, altar guild, musicians, and you for your many expressions of generosity.

**The Christmas Flowers 2022 are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of**

Rev. W. Aubrey Arlin	Betty Kelts	Sarah Richtmyer
Edith N. Arlin	Betty Lukins	Nancy Russell
Ron Clayton	Henry W. Murphy	Jesse Siemon
Rev. John & Mary Congdon	Patrice Ardith Neal	Rev. Charles Briggs Shaver
Carl Eckart	Mary N. Nungesser	Martha Bolles Shaver
Margaret Godlove	Maggi Payne	Susan Hedrick Smith
Peter J. Hedrick	Pam Quick	Nancy Sobel
Stacy Smith Hyatt	Heather Raff	Audrey Vault

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

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





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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.

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