

**The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY  
29 January 2023 Year A  
**10:30 AM**

\* Indicates please stand

**Prelude** Adoration

Florence Price (1887–1953)

**\*Processional Hymn** Hail to the Lord's Anointed (*Es Hug ein kleins Waldvögelein*) **Hymnal #616**

**\*Opening Acclamation**

**BCP 355**

**\*Collect For Purity**

**\*Gloria**

**Hymnal #S-280**

**The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The First Lesson**

**Micah 6:1-8**

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the  
mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of  
the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of  
the earth;

for the Lord has a controversy with his  
people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer  
me!

For I brought you up from the land of  
Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house  
of slavery;

and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King  
Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered  
him,

and what happened from Shittim to  
Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts  
of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before  
the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on  
high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-  
offerings,  
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands  
of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of  
oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my  
transgression,

the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

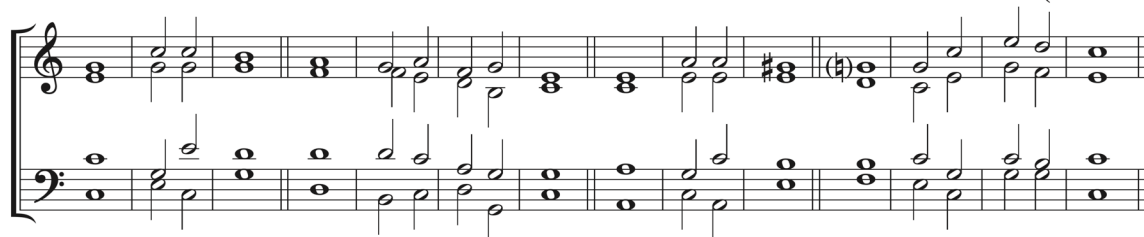
He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you

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

## Psalm

## *Domine, quis habitabit?*

T. A. Walmisley  
(1814-56)



- 1 Lord, who may | dwell in ° your | tabernacle? \*  
who may abide u- | pon your | holy | hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does | what is | right, \*  
who speaks the | truth | from his | heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil | to his friend; \*  
he does not heap con- | tempt u- | pon his | neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked | is re- | jected, \*  
but he honors | those who | fear the | LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to | do no | wrong \*  
and does | not take | back his | word.
- 6 He does not give his money in | hope of | gain, \*  
nor does he take a | bribe a- | gainst the | innocent.
- 7 Whoever | does these | things \*  
shall | never ° be over- | thrown.

## The Epistle Reading

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**\*Sequence** What does the Lord require (*Sharptborne*)

**Hymnal #605**

**\*The Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 5:1-12**

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

***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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**

Let us offer our prayers to God, who calls us to do justice, and to love kindness, and to humbly walk in his footsteps, responding, "Hear us, God of Glory."

+ For the grace to balance worldly life with divine wisdom, seeing in holy foolishness the strength and conviction that overpowers our attachments to false treasures; let us pray.

*Hear us, God of Glory.*

+ For those who are prisoners throughout the world, especially in our community; those whom society has spurned; those in the darkness of despair; all who are living with disease and pain; and those who are unable to share burdens too deep to reveal, that God's love may be found by all who wait in hope; let us pray.

*Hear us, God of Glory.*

+ That we will open our hands and hearts to do God's work, reaching out to others so that God's love is revealed through our ministry and devotion; let us pray.

*Hear us, God of Glory.*

+ For our President, those who serve in our national and local legislative bodies, and those who sit on courts of justice, that they may be given godly wisdom and insight for those decisions which fall into shadows of uncertainty; let us pray.

*Hear us, God of Glory.*

+ For Congress to renew the Farm Bill programs that make fresh fruits and vegetables affordable to SNAP participants, and protect SNAP from cuts to the Thrifty Food Plan.

*Hear us, God of Glory.*

+ For those considering the rites of baptism and confirmation during the season of Easter, that they may consider seriously what it means to be transformed by God's word, revealed through holy scripture and the Church; let us pray.

*Hear us, God of Glory.*

+ In thanksgiving for the new life that awaits all who engage in the daily reality of death and resurrection, remembering especially all who have died; let us pray.

*Hear us, God of Glory.*

In purity of heart and generosity of spirit, let us continue our prayers.

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

Joan	Rebecca	Deb	Lorraine	Julianne
Richard	Strater	Allison	Edith	Faicia
Shirley	Penny	Elizabeth	Kathryn	
Wes	Peter	Katie	Ruth	
Charles	Dave	Theodore	Frank	
Dick	Cece	Carol	Jack	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:

Kristen Park, Brigitte Wilkin, Mary Beth James

### 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 The Beatitudes

George W. Chadwick (1854-1931)

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.  
Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.  
Rejoice, rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in Heaven. Amen.

**\*Presentation Hymn** Blessed are the pure in heart (*Franconia*)

**Hymnal # 656**

**\*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-125**

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**

**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.*

**Communion Music**    The Call

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

**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**    In the cross of Jesus I glory (*Rathbun*)

**Hymnal #441**

**Dismissal**

**Postlude**    Sonata 1, Finale

Florence Price

**Liturgical Ministers:** Ian Lundberg, Gwen Freeman, Sally Clayton

**Acolyte:** Susie Backstrom

**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**

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**

Gwen Freeman, Senior Warden  
Parish Administrator, Cathy Wagner  
Director of Music/Organist, Dr. Anna Stepler

Beverly Way, 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 **February**, **March**, and **April** is available on the table in the rear of the church.

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

Saint John's Episcopal Church presents,  
**"The Diary of Adam and Eve"**  
Written by Mark Twain, adapted by Gerald P. Murphy  
**Starring:** Gwen Freeman and Lloyd Hall

**February 10, 2023, 7:00 PM,**  
St John's Church  
\$10 at the door