

**The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY  
12 February 2023 Year A  
**10:30 AM**

\* Indicates please stand

**Prelude** Prayer: and Elevation

George Walker (1922-2018)

**\*Processional Hymn** Lord, make us servants of your peace (*Dickinson College*) **Hymnal # 593**

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

**\*Collect For Purity**

**\*Gloria** **Hymnal #S-280**

**The Collect of the Day**

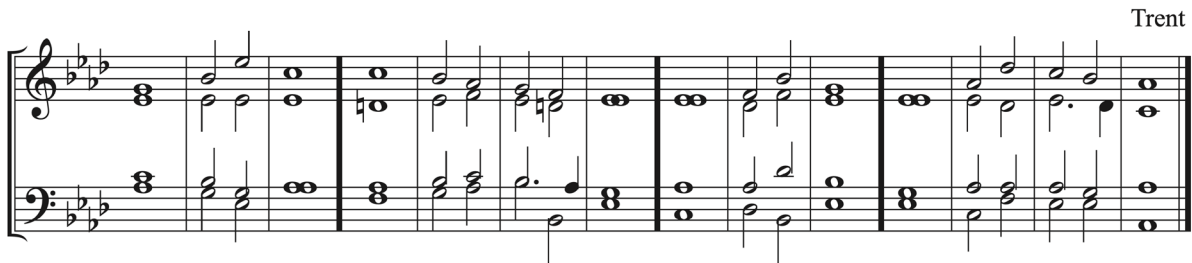
O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The First Lesson**

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

Moses said, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lordy our God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

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



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Happy are they whose   way is   blameless, *<br/>who walk in the   law   of the   Lord!</p> <p>2 Happy are they who observe   his de-   crees *<br/>and seek   him with   all their   hearts!</p> <p>3 Who never do   any   wrong, *<br/>but always   walk in   his   ways.</p> <p>4 You laid down   your com-   mandments, *<br/>that   we should   fully   keep them.</p> <p>5 Oh, that my ways were made   so di-   rect *<br/>that   I might   keep your   statutes!</p> | <p>6 Then I should not be   put to   shame, *<br/>when I regard   all   your<br/>  commandments.</p> <p>7 I will thank you with an   unfeigned   heart, *<br/>when I have   learned your   righteous  <br/>  judgments.</p> <p>8 I will   keep your   statutes; *<br/>do not   utter-   ly for-   sake me.</p> |
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**The Epistle Reading**

**1 Corinthians 3:1-9**

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

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

**\*Sequence** Almighty God your word is cast (*Walden*)

**Hymnal #589**

**\*The Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 5:21-37**

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

Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your

gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

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**

May the Lord, who tests our minds and searches the deepest recesses of our hearts, be present in the prayers and thanksgivings which we offer this day, as we respond, "Hear us, God of glory."

+ God of our salvation, touch every wound within us, and in your mercy heal us of the pain that wracks our inmost thoughts; for this we pray.

*Hear us, God of glory.*

+ Christ the worker, let our feet stand amidst the great multitude, that our hands may work for the relief of all who are troubled: the homeless, the hungry, the distressed, the sick, and the imprisoned, and those whose darkness knows no name; for this we pray.

*Hear us, God of glory.*

+ For Congress to renew Farm Bill programs that eliminate barriers to SNAP for marginalized populations: former drug offenders, legally present immigrants, eliminate work requirements for college students, and the entire population of Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories who receive an inferior version of nutrition assistance.

*| Hear us, God of glory.*

+ Creator of the universe, give us a voice of thanksgiving to praise the beauty of your handiwork in the world about us, and help us live in ways that protect the fragility of our environment for generations to come; for this we pray.

*Hear us, God of glory.*

+ Blessed One, reveal to us the blessedness with which you have endowed all human life, that we may see ourselves and others as bearers of your image; for this we pray.

*Hear us, God of glory.*

+ God of all gratitude, may our lips recite songs of thanksgiving, as we acknowledge the abundance of riches that you have bestowed upon us, and may we joyfully share these gifts with others; for this we pray.

*Hear us, God of glory.*

+ Risen Lord, be present with those who have departed this life in the certain hope of your resurrection, and comfort all who mourn for those they love but see no more; for this we pray.

*Hear us, God of glory.*

With God ever present in the midst of our lives, let us continue our prayers, either silently or aloud.

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	Jim
Wes	Peter	Katie	Ruth	Eleanor
Charles	Dave	Theodore	Frank	Bob
Dick	Cece	Carol	Jack	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:

Kalena Henry, Eric Blair-Joannou, Erik Wagner

## 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** Teach me, O Lord

Thomas Attwood (1765–1838)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes,  
And I shall keep it unto the end.  
(Ps 119 v. 33)

**\*Presentation Hymn** Take my life, and let it be consecrated (*Hollingside*)

**Hymnal # 707**

## \*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**

**Fraction Anthem**      **Lamb of God** (*Agnus Dei*)

**Hymnal #S-163**

## **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**    Lead me Lord

S. S. Wesley (1810–76)

## **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** Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing (*Sicilian Mariners*)

**Hymnal #344**

## **Dismissal**

**Postlude** Invocation

George Walker

**Liturgical Ministers:** Muriel Everhart, Stephanie Nevels, Sara VanLooy

**Acolyte:** Ian Lundberg

**Virtual Vergers:** Michael Roman, 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**

## **Organ Music for Black History Month**

I am taking this February as an opportunity to highlight some of the wonderful – and often underplayed - repertoire written for the organ by Black composers in our preludes and postludes throughout the month. Composers include my own compatriot from England, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor; Pulitzer-prize winning American composer George Walker; composer of the Harlem renaissance William Grant Still; and the incomparable Florence Price (whose bravura music charmed some of you last week... she is a favorite of mine!). This has been an inspiring project for me, and I am keen to share this beautiful music with you over the next few weeks-- please do come and talk to me over coffee if you want to find out more!

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## Hymns

### **Lord, make us servants of your peace Hymn 593**

1 Lord, make us servants of your peace:  
Where there is hurt, may we forgive;  
Where there is strife, may we make one.  
2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;  
Where all is gloom, may we sow hope;  
Where all is night, may we sow light;  
Where all is tears, may we sow joy.  
3 Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek  
To be consoled, but to console,  
Nor look to understanding hearts,  
But look for hearts to understand.  
4 May we not look for love's return,  
But seek to love unselfishly,  
For in our giving we receive,  
And in forgiving are forgiven.  
5 Dying, we live, and are reborn  
Through death's dark night to endless day;  
Lord, make us servants of your peace,  
To wake at last in heaven's light.

### **Almighty God, your word is cast Hymn 589**

1 Almighty God, your word is cast  
like seed upon the ground,  
now let the dew of heaven descend  
and righteous fruits abound.  
2 Let not our selfishness and hate  
this holy seed remove,  
but give it root in every heart  
to bring forth fruits of love.  
3 Let not the world's deceitful cares  
the rising plant destroy,  
but let it yield a hundredfold  
the fruits of peace and joy.

### **Take my life, and let it be Hymn 707**

1. Almighty God, your word is cast  
like seed upon the ground,  
now let the dew of heaven descend  
and righteous fruits abound.  
2 Let not our selfishness and hate  
this holy seed remove,  
but give it root in every heart  
to bring forth fruits of love.  
3 Let not the world's deceitful cares  
the rising plant destroy,  
but let it yield a hundredfold  
the fruits of peace and joy.

### **Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing Hymn 344**

1 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing;  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, thy love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace:  
O refresh us, O refresh us,  
traveling through this wilderness.  
2 Thanks we give and adoration  
for thy Gospel's joyful sound:  
may the fruits of thy salvation  
in our hearts and lives abound:  
ever faithful, ever faithful  
to thy truth may we be found;  
3 so that when thy love shall call us,  
Savior, from the world away,  
fear of death shall not appall us,  
glad thy summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever  
reign with thee in endless day.





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**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).