

The First Sunday of Advent
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY
3 December 2023 Year B
10:30 AM

* Indicates please stand

Prelude *Six Antiennes pour le Temps de Noël* (I. Ecce Dominus veniet), Op. 48
Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)

***Processional Hymn** Before the Lord's eternal throne (*Winchester, New*) **Hymnal #391**

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

***Collect For Purity**

***Kyrie** **Hymnal #S-96**

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 64:1–9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1–7, 16–18

Qui regis Israel

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Sequence** Jesus shall reign where're the sun (*Duke Street*)

Hymnal #544

***The Gospel Reading**

Mark 13:24–37

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

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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**

The Kingdom of God is upon us. Let us put away the works of darkness and be clothed in the brilliance of God's light, as we offer our prayers responding to each petition by saying, "Come, Lord Jesus."

+ Come between the warring nations of the world, enter the chambers of government and the hearts of our leaders, and bring the peace that passes all understanding; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come to those suffering from addiction, free them from falsehood, shame, and guilt, fill them with courage that overcomes temptation, and give them an abundance of your grace; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come to those who sit alone in empty rooms, who suffer from the pain of hunger and grief, and who live with anxiety and fear, and invite them into the glorious fellowship of the blessed Trinity; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come, spare us from our deceit and selfishness, from our attachment to the false idols of our age, from our excuses for not living the gospel, and awaken us to your hope that we may keep watch for your appearing; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come in the Eucharistic Meal, that strengthened by your Body and Blood, we may proclaim your kingdom in our daily lives; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come and open wide the gate of heaven, that the faithful departed may find themselves in the arms of your mercy; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus, dwell in our hearts, as we continue the offering of our prayers.

We pray without ceasing for justice, reconciliation, peace, and an end to hatred and war. We also pray for God to change the hearts of all the leaders and decision-makers in our countries and around the world. For we are in dire need of hearts that love, show mercy, and are willing to live in unity with others; hearts that respect human dignity and choose life rather than death.

God of peace and justice, hear our prayers. *Amen*

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

Joan	Wes	Shirley	Linda	Gerald
Charles	Virginia	Richard	Jim	Cece

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:

Nancy Leeming, Richard Smith, Nathan Hall

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 A Musician's Prayer

Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

***Presentation Hymn** O heavenly Word, eternal Light (*Verbum supernum prodiens*) **Hymnal #63**

*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-130

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.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music "Sleeper's Wake" A voice astounds us (*Wachet auf*)

Hymnal #62

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** Soon and very soon

LEVAS #14

Dismissal

Postlude Praeludium in C Major, BWV 846

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

Acolyte: Chris Way

Liturgical Ministers: Muriel Everhart, Daniella Ripperton, Pamela Talbott

Virtual Vergers Michael Roman, Virginia McGhee

*This morning we welcome The Rev. Kit Tobin as our celebrant and guest preacher.
This morning we welcome guest organist Elisabeth Wang.*

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 BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

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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 Tuesday, December 19th at the latest to insure inclusion in the bulletin.**

Christmas flowers Donated by _____ in memory of

The First Sunday of Advent
Hymns

Before the Lord's Eternal Throne
(Winchester, New)
Hymnal #391

1 Before the Lord's eternal throne,
ye nations, bow with sacred joy;
know that the Lord is God alone;
he can create, and he destroy.

2 His sovereign power without our aid
formed us of clay and gave us breath;
and when like wandering sheep we strayed,
he saved us from the power of death.

3 We are his people, we his care,
our souls, and all our mortal frame:
what lasting honors shall we rear,
almighty Maker, to thy Name?

4 We'll crowd thy gates with thankful songs,
high as the heavens our voices raise;
and earth, with her ten thousand tongues,
shall fill thy courts with sounding praise.

5 Wide as the world is thy command,
vast as eternity thy love;
firm as a rock thy truth must stand,
when rolling years shall cease to move.

Jesus shall reign where're the sun *(Duke Street)*
Hymnal 544

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
doth his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his Name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

3 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;

and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his Name.

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honors to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

O heavenly Word, eternal Light *((Verbum supernum prodions))*
Hymnal #63

1 O heavenly Word, eternal Light,
begotten of the Father's might,
who in these latter days wast born
for blessing to a world forlorn;

2 pour light upon us from above,
and fire our hearts with ardent love,
that, as we hear thy truth today,
all wrong desires may burn away;

3 and when, as judge,
thou drawest nigh
the secrets of our hearts to try,
to recompense each hidden sin
and bid the saints their reign begin;

4 O let us not, for evil past,
be driven from thy face at last,
but with thy saints for evermore
behold thee, love thee, and adore.

5 To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, ever One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.

“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us
(*Wachet auf*)
Hymnal #62

1 “Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us.
The shout of rampart guards surrounds us:
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”
Midnight’s peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken:
“The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up, and give us light.
The Bridegroom is in sight.
Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there,
that you the wedding feast may share.”

2 Zion hears the watchman singing,
her heart with joyful hope is springing;
she wakes, and hurries through the night.
Forth he comes her Bridegroom glorious
in strength of grace, in truth victorious;
her Star is risen, her light grows bright.
Now come, most worthy Lord,
God's Son, Incarnate Word,
Alleluia!
We follow all and heed your call
to come into the banquet hall!

3 Lamb of God, the heavens adore you,
let saints and angels sing before you,
as harps and cymbals swell the sound.
Twelve great pearls, the city’s portals
through them we stream to join the immortals
as we with joy them your throne surround.
No eye has known the sight,
no ear heard such delight:
Alleluia!
Therefore we sing to greet our King
for ever let your praises ring.

Soon and very soon
LEVAS #14

1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the
King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the
King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the
King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!

2 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the
King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the
King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the
King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!

3 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the
King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the
King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the
King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!

4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the
King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the
King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the
King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're are goin' to see the King!



St. John's Church
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Office email: office@stjohnsithaca.org

"Like" us on facebook @ Saint John's Episcopal Church

Office Hours Monday thru Thursday 10–3

Rector

Gwen Freeman, Senior Warden
Cathy Wagner, Parish Administrator
Director of Music/Organist

Beverly Way, Junior Warden
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

If you need pastoral assistance, please call the Senior Warden at 607-351-0595, or e-mail lavendrsage@yahoo.com.

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. Masks are optional when you are not actively eating or drinking.

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).

New Prayer List If you didn't hear a name you expected to hear, please call the church office to have the name added.