

The First Sunday after Christmas Day

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY

31 December 2023 Year B

10:30 AM

* Indicates please stand

Prelude Prelude in No. 2 in C-Sharp Minor

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

***Processional Hymn** Joy to the World! (*Antioch*)

Hymnal #100

***Opening Acclamation**

BCP 355

***Collect For Purity**

***Gloria** Angels we have heard on high (*Gloria*)

Hymnal #96, vs. 1, 3

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:13–21

Laudate Dominum

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

he satisfies you with the finest
wheat.

14 For he has strengthened the bars of
your gates; *
he has blessed your children within
you.

16 He sends out his command to the
earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.

15 He has established peace on your
borders; *

17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He scatters his hail like bread
crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?

19 He sends forth his word and melts
them; *
he blows with his wind, and the
waters flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to
Israel.

21 He has not done so to any other
nation; *
to them he has not revealed his
judgments.
Hallelujah!

The Epistle Reading

Galatians 3:23–25; 4:4–7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Sequence**

LEVAS #23, vs. 1–2

***The Gospel Reading**

John 1:1–18

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

***Sequence**

LEVAS #23, vs. 3

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.

in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.

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

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 pray to God who has given us the revelation of divine grace and truth through the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

+ For hearts and minds open to accepting God's gift of the Word, allowing the light of Christ to enkindle our hearts with love, and to bear its message to one another; let us pray.
Lord, hear our prayer.

+ For faith, that the garments of salvation and righteousness may clothe us, and bring to our outward actions the inner workings of God's joy in our lives; let us pray.
Lord, hear our prayer.

+ For the leaders of our country and our state, that the light of Christ may illumine their hearts, empowering them to boldly proclaim the truth without fear or deception; let us pray.
Lord, hear our prayer.

+ For the victims of war, political upheaval, and economic uncertainty, that we may not forget their needs but continually seek ways to offer the assistance that Christ would have us bring; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ For those who are limited by illness, living with the uncertainty of debilitating diseases or the darkness of mental despair, that they may continue to call upon the hope of God; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ For all who have died, especially Deb Youngling and William Barry, and for all who are lonely or grieving, that they may remain close to the heart of the Risen One, whose presence knows no end; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ For the Church as we move toward the challenges of the future, that we rejoice in the faith of our ancestors and in the ever-present support of our sisters and brothers in this household; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

+ For each of us, that as we enjoy the material blessings of this season, the light and love of Jesus may continually transform us into a spiritual people through whom the Word of God is revealed; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Standing in the midst of the true light that shines upon the face of the universe, let us continue 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.

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

Joan	Shirley	Gerald	Edith	Avery	Chris
Charles	Richard	Cece	Kathryn	Nathan	Carole
Wes	Linda	Theodore	Brenda	Michael	Sandy
Virginia	Jim	Lorraine	Sarah	Jane	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:

David D'Aprix, Elaine LaRocque, Michael Roman

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

Organ Anthem

***Presentation Hymn** How brightly shines the Morning Star (*Wie schön leuchtet*) **Hymnal #497**

***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

Celebrant: *continuing:* 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.

Organ Communion Music

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** Of the Father’s Love begotten (*Divinum mysterium*)

Hymnal #82

Dismissal

Postlude Prelude No. 5 in D Major

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

Acolyte: Sonja Sandstrom

Liturgical Ministers: Ceril Sandstrom, Gwen Freeman, Sara VanLooy

Virtual Vergers Michael Roman, Amber Massa

This morning we welcome The Rev. Kit Tobin as our celebrant and guest preacher.

This morning we welcome Russell Posegate as our guest organist.

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**

The Christmas Flowers 2023 are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of

Rev. W. Aubrey Arlin

Betty Kelts

Sarah C. Richtmyer

Edith N. Arlin

Judy Lutes

Jesse Siemon

Ron Clayton

Eleanore Mikus

Ruth O. Sipos

Margaret Godlove

Mary N. Nungesser

Franklyn Sipos

Peter J. Hedrick

Pam Quirk

Audrey A. Vault

2024 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.



St. John's Church
210 North Cayuga Street
Ithaca, NY
(607)-273-6532

www.stjohnsithaca.org

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).