

The Second Sunday of Advent
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY
10 December 2023 Year B

10:30 AM

* Indicates please stand

Prelude Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele, Op. 65, No. 5 Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877–1933)
Variations on “Winchester New” Nigel Williams (b. 1953)

***Processional Hymn** Comfort, comfort ye my people (*Psalm 42*) **Hymnal #67**

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

***Collect For Purity**

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

The Collect of the Day

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1–11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John Goss



- 1 You have been gracious to your | land, O | Lord, *
you have re- | stored the good | fortune of | Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the in- | iquity of your | people *
and | blotted out | all their | sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord | God is | saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to | those who | turn their | hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who | fear him, *
that his | glory may | dwell in our | land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have | met to- | gether; *
righteousness and | peace have | kissed each | other.
- 11 Truth shall spring | up from the | earth, *
and righteousness shall | look | down from | heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed | grant pros- | perity, *
and our | land will | yield its | increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall | go be- | fore him, *
and peace shall be a | pathway | for his | feet.

The Epistle Reading

2 Peter 3:8–15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Sequence On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry (*Winchester New*)

Hymnal #76

***The Gospel Reading**

Mark 1:1–8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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 voice of God cries out in the wilderness, calling us to a transformed way of living. Let us respond to this invitation through the offering of our prayers, responding to each petition by saying, "Come, Lord Jesus."

+ Come with your promise to bring a new heaven and a new earth to your people, saving us from the fires of sin and despair, and offering to us the solemn gifts of grace and salvation; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come into the hearts of your people, that we may turn from our selfish consumption of fossil fuels, our waste of food and clothing, our recklessness with money, and our carelessness with the gifts of creation; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come into the body of the Church and make us a baptizing community, that multitudes may hear your message of repentance and hope, and receive your free gift of eternal love; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come with your Holy Spirit, into the hearts of those who are unemployed, abused, poorly educated, and who are persecuted for their faith, and awaken hope; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come to young people everywhere, that they may have a desire to study your commandments and to exercise ministry in the world outside the Church; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come to Michael, our Presiding Bishop, to Joseph, President of the United States, and to all who exercise offices of authority; may wisdom be their guide, and the true love of their people direct their decisions; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ Come to those whom we love but see no more, and gather them into your heavenly rest; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus, and help us to be a people who honor your commandments and who live by your law of love, as we continue our prayers and petitions.

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	Shirley	Gerald	Edith	Avery
Charles	Richard	Cece	Kathryn	Nathan
Wes	Linda	Theodore	Brenda	Michael
Virginia	Jim	Lorraine	Sarah	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:
Jeremiah Miller, Shirley Durfee, Susan Shell

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 Come, Jesus, Holy Son

G. F. Handel (1685–1759), arr. Hal Hopson

Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God, come,
Thy truth unseal. Thy love reveal.
Lord, hear Thou in mercy our prayer to Thee.
Come in Thy might. Send forth Thy light.
For Thee we long. Hear Thou our prayer.
To Thee be glory now and evermore.

*Presentation Hymn Once he came in blessing (*Gottes Sohn ist kommen*)

Hymnal #53

*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 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 Break thou the bread of life

LEVAS #146

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** Prepare the way, O Zion (*Bereden väg för Herran*)

Hymnal #65

Dismissal

Postlude Basse et Dessus de Trompette

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault (1676–1749)

Acolyte: Chris Way

Liturgical Ministers: Lillian Baptist, Margaret Johnson, Sally Clayton

Virtual Vergers Matthew Sanaker, Amber Massa

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

*The altar flowers are offered to the Glory of God in honor of Shirley Durfee on her 90th birthday by Linda Durfee,
Paul Henneberger, and Katherine.*

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**

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from **One License** with license # A
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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 Second Sunday of Advent

10 December 2023

Hymns

Comfort, comfort ye my people (Psalm 42)

Hymnal #67

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.

3 Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken.

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (Winchester New)

Hymnal #75

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
Mary A. Lathbury glad tidings of the King of
kings.

2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away

like flowers that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

Once he came in blessing (Gottes Sohn st kommen)

Hymnal #53

1 Once he came in blessing,
All our ills redressing;
came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
bore the cross to save us,
hope and freedom gave us.

2 Still he comes within us,
still his voice would win us
from the sins that hurt us,
would to Truth convert us:
not in torment hold us,
but in love enfold us.

3 Thus if thou canst name him,
not ashamed to claim him,
but wilt trust him boldly,
nor dost love him coldly,
he will then receive thee,
heal thee, and forgive thee.

4 One who thus endureth
bright reward secureth.
Come then, O Lord Jesus,
from our sins release us;
let us here confess thee
till in heaven we bless thee.

**Break thou the bread of life
Lift Every Voice and Sing #146**

1 Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord;
my spirit pants for thee, O Living Word!

2 Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
a thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

3 Teach me to live, dear Lord, only for thee,
as thy disciples lived in Galilee
then, all my struggles o'er, then vict'ry won,
I shall behold thee, Lord, the living one.

Words: © Mary A. Lathbury

**Prepare the way, O Zion (Bereden väg för
Herran)
Hymnal #65**

1 Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.

Oh blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

2 He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.

Oh blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace.

His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.

Oh blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.



St. John's Church
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"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.