

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

\* Indicates please stand

**Prelude** Une Jeune Purcelle (*Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*) arr. Joe Utterback (b. 1944)

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

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

**\*Collect For Purity**

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

**The Collect of the Day**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**The First Lesson**

**Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 126**

*In convertendo*

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of  
Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with  
laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The Lord has done great things for  
them."

4 The Lord has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the  
seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering  
their sheaves.

### **The Epistle Reading**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16–24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**\*Sequence** On Jordan's Stormy Banks

**LEVAS #9**

**\*The Gospel Reading**

**John 1:6–8, 19–28**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to.

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Ed Murphy**

**\*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 Lord God has called us to proclaim his saving message through word and deed. Let us begin by the offering of our prayers, responding, "Come, Lord Jesus."

+ O Emmanuel, give us the courage to admit our sins and shortcomings, the desire to turn to you in faith and repentance, and the grace to accept your gifts of forgiveness and new life; for this we pray.  
*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ O Root of Jesse, remove all prejudice from our hearts, and help us to accept our unity with all humankind; for this we pray.  
*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ O Key of David, unlock the imagination of your Church that we may bring good news to those who live in despair, liberty to persecuted Christians, and relief to children who are victims of abuse and abandonment; for this we pray.  
*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ O Prince of Peace, awaken us to the fruits of concord, that humanity may turn from its destructive vengeance and choose the path that leads to justice and security for all people everywhere; for this we pray.  
*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ O Desire of Nations, lift the vision of our leaders, not to politicize the present challenges, but to resourcefully lead your people to the blessings of your kingdom; for this we pray.  
*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ O Dayspring from on High, put to flight death's dark shadow, and receive into the body of your resurrection those who have departed this life in your faith and fear; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

Mary revealed the greatness of the Lord, and in our gladness we continue our prayers.

Oh God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths—Jews, Muslims, and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and making of peace, we also call to you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honor as your children, for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray.

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	Jane

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:  
Tim Schmidle, Alice Wagner, Phoebe Hain

### **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** O come, O come, Emmanuel (*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*)

**Hymnal #56**

**\*Presentation Hymn** Come, thou long expected Jesus (*Stuttgart*)

**Hymnal #66**

## **\*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    Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (*Hyfrydol*)

Hymnal #460

## 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    Noel Suisse

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)

## Acolyte:

**Liturgical Ministers:**    Josette Garrison, Michael Roman, Sally Clayton

**Virtual Vergers**    Sara VanLooy, Virginia McGhee

*Today we welcome the Rev. Ed Murphy as our celebrant and guest preacher  
This morning we welcome Elisabeth Wang 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**

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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

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**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](mailto:office@stjohnsithaca.org).

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**17 November 2023**  
**Hymns**

**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.

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who 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. [Refrain]

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
your Savior's rule embrace,  
and tidings of salvation  
proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing,  
their adoration voicing. [Refrain]

Words: © 1982, Charles P. Price

**On Jordan's Stormy Banks**  
**LEVAS #9**

1 On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,  
and cast a wishful eye  
to Canaan's fair and happy land,  
where my possessions lie.

Refrain:

I am bound for the promised land,  
I am bound for the promised land;

2 O'er all those wide extended plains  
shines one eternal day;  
there God the Son forever reigns,  
and scatters night away. [Refrain]

3 No chilling winds or poisonous breath  
can reach that healthful shore;  
sickness and sorrow, pain and death,  
are felt and feared no more. [Refrain]

4 When I shall reach that happy place,  
I'll be forever blest,  
for I shall see my Father's face,  
and in his bosom rest. [Refrain]

**Come, thou long expected Jesus**  
**(*Stuttgart*)**

**Hymnal #66**

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art:  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.



**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (*Hyfrydol*)  
Hymnal #460**

1 Alleluia! sing to Jesus!  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation  
hath redeemed us by his blood.

2 Alleluia! not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us,  
faith believes, nor questions how:  
though the cloud from sight received him,  
when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise,  
"I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of Heaven,  
thou on earth our food, our stay!  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
flee to thee from day to day:  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal,  
thee the Lord of lords we own:  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  
thou within the veil hast entered,  
robed in flesh, our great High Priest:  
thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
in the eucharistic feast.

5 Alleluia! sing to Jesus!  
his the scepter his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of holy Zion

thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation  
hath redeemed us by his blood.

**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](mailto:office@stjohnsithaca.org)

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**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](mailto: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

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