

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

9:00 AM

* Indicates please stand

Prelude *Nu komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 599 (Savior of the Nations, Come) J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

Nu komm, der Heiden Heiland, HoWV VIII.27

Gottfried August Homilius (1714–85)

***Processional Hymn** O come, o come, Emmanuel (*Veni, veni Emmanuel*) **Hymnal #56 vs. 1, 6–8**

***Opening Acclamation**

BCP 355

***Collect For Purity**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

***Kyrie**

Hymnal #S-96

The Collect of the Day

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15, Magnificat

Hymnal S-243

The Epistle Reading

Romans 16:25–27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Sequence** The angel Gabriel from heaven came (*Gabriel's Message*)

Hymnal #265

***The Gospel Reading**

Luke 1:26–38

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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**

Purify our conscience, O Lord, so that we may offer our prayers and petitions with a wholesome heart, responding, "Come, Lord Jesus."

+ O Emmanuel, visit those who do not know of your coming, and who have not been told of your presence, open their minds to your merciful love and be born in their hearts; for this we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Key of David, unlock our complacency, that we may tend to the fearful and lowly, lift up the poor and downtrodden, fill the hungry with good things, and serve your beloved with mercy and love; for this we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Root of Jesse, be with scientists and medical teams as they discover life- enhancing treatments, and grant them the wisdom to use their findings for the good of all people; for this we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Desire of Nations, bring peace to our families, churches, schools, and nations, that the whole world may know of your eternal harmony; for this we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Wisdom, give your gift of insight to all who are responsible for the governance of our Church, corporations, national governments, social agencies, schools, armed forces, and medical facilities, that through their faith and dedication, all the peoples of the world may prosper; for this we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Dayspring from on High, to the sick bring healing, to the dying relief, and to the dead your everlasting arms of mercy; for this we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus.

With the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Elizabeth, blessed John the Baptist, blessed Zechariah, blessed Anna, and all the saints, let us continue 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 | |
| Wes | Linda | Theodore | Brenda | Michael | |
| Virginia | Jim | Lorraine | Sarah | Jane | |

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:
Gabriel Henry, Jim Johnson

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 *Ave Marie*

Jacques Arcadelt (1507–68); arr. Pierre-Louis Dietsch (1808–65)

*Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis. Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, pray for us. Amen.

*Presentation Hymn We're marching to Zion

LEVAS #12

*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 Hymn Let all mortal flesh keep silence (*Picardy*)

Hymnal #324

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** Savior of the nations, come (*Nun komm, der heiden Heiland*)

Hymnal #54

Dismissal

Postlude *Besañon*: People, Look East

Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

Greeters: Dani Wassink, Gwen Freeman

Acolyte:

Liturgical Ministers: Muriel Everhart, Sara VanLooy, Lloyd Hall

Virtual Vergers Matthew Sanaker, Michael Roman

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

This morning we welcome guest organist Jerome Fung.

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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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.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

24 December 2023 Year B

Hymns

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

Hymnal #56

1 O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

8 O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. Refrain

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came
(*Gabriel's Message*)**

Hymnal #265

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as
flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden
Mary,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!
2. "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt
be,

all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers
foretold,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her
head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy
Name."

Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world
will ever say—

"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

We're Marching to Zion

LEVAS #12

1 Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known,
Join in a song with sweet accord,
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne,
And thus surround the throne.

Refrain:

We're marching to Zion,
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion
The beautiful city of God.

2 Let those refuse to sing
Who never new our God;
But children of the heav'nly King,
But children of the heav'nly King,
May speak their joy abroad,
May speak their joy abroad. Refrain

3 The hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Or walk the golden streets,
Or walk the golden streets. Refrain

4 Then let our songs abound,
And ev'ry tear be dry;
We're marching through Immanuel's
ground,
We're marching through Immanuel's
ground,
To fairer worlds on high,
To fairer worlds on high. Refrain

**Let all mortal flesh (*Picardy*)
Hymnal #324**

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the Body and the Blood
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of Light descendeth

from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4 At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim, with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

**Savior of the nations, come (*Nun
komm, der Heiden Heiland*)
Hymnal #54**

1 Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.

2 Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
of the Virgin undefiled!
Mighty God and Mary's son,
eager now his race to run!

3 Thus on earth the Word appears,
gracing his created spheres;
hence to death and hell descends,
then the heavenly throne ascends.

4 Come, O Father's saving Son,
who o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be;
grant that its glories see.

Words: Sts. 3-4 © 1982, James Waring McCrady



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).