

Christmas Day
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY
25 December 2023 Year B
10:30 AM

* indicates please stand

***Opening Hymn** O little town of Bethlehem (*St. Louis*)

Hymnal #79

***Opening Sentence**

Behold I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for unto you I born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Officiant

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Confession

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 us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

***The Invitation**

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Alleluia. To us a child is born. Come let us adore him. Alleluia

*The Venite

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his
salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be
praised; *
he is more to be feared than all
gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they
are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the
heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of
his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of
his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the
peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and
power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his
Name; *

Cantate Domino

- bring offerings and come into his
courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of
holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before
him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations:
"The Lord is King! *
he has made the world so firm that
it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with
equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the
earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in
it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is
therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood
shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with
righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2–7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Third Song of Isaiah

Isaiah 60: 1–3, 11a, 14c, 18–19

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.

The Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11–14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Hymnal #96

*The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1–20

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

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

Matthew Sanaker

*Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the
dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Suffrage A

- V.** Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
- R.** And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collect of the Day

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Collects

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*The Peace

Please remain in your pew. Wave!

Announcements & Welcome

Offertory Sentence

*The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your

praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

***A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Closing Hymn** Joy to the world (*Antioch*)

Hymnal #100

***Dismissal**

Greeters

Liturgical Minister: Gwen Freeman

Virtual Verger: Michael Roman

Today we welcome Matthew Sanaker as Officiant and Guest Preacher.

St. John's extends a warm welcome to our visitors!

We are happy to have you joining our parish family around the Lord's table.

Please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate.

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 – 724223**

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 Hedrick

Pam Quirk

Audrey A. Vault



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 candles or Sunday flowers in memory of a loved one, please call the church office (607-273-6532).

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.