

The Epiphany
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY
7 January 2024 Year B
10:30 AM

* Indicates please stand

Prelude Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern Johann Pachelbel (1643–1706)

***Processional Hymn** Brightest and best of the stars of the morning (*Morning Star*) **Hymnal #117**

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

***Collect For Purity**

***Gloria** **Hymnal #S-129**

The Collect of the Day

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1–7, 10–12

Deus, iudicium



- 1 Give the King your | justice, O |
God, *
and your | righteousness to the |
King's | Son;
- 2 That he may rule | your people
righteously *
and the | poor with | justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring pros- |
perity to the | people, *
and the | little | hills bring |
righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy a- | mong
the | people; *
he shall rescue the | poor and |
crush the op- | pressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and |
moon en- | dure, *
from one gene- | ration | to an- |
other.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon
the | möwn | field, *
like | showers that | water the |
earth.
- 7 In his time shall the | righteous |
flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace
till the | moon shall | be no |
more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the |
isles shall pay | tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and | Saba
| offer | gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow | down be- |
fore him, *
and all the | nations | do him |
service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who
cries | out in dis- | tress, *
and the op- | pressed who | has
no | helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the | lowly
and | poor; *
he shall pre- | serve the | lives of
the | needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from op-
| pression and | violence, *
and dear shall their | blood be | in
his | sight.

The Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:1–12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Sequence** We Three Kings of Orient are (*Three Kings of Orient*)

Hymnal #128, vs. 1–3

***The Gospel Reading**

Matthew 2:1–12

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

***Sequence** We Three Kings of Orient are (*Three Kings of Orient*)

Hymnal #128, vs. 4–5

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**

It is in following the Light that we discover the truth. With the love of God to guide our footsteps, let us journey to the new Bethlehem and offer our prayers to the Holy Child, responding, "Hear us, God of Glory."

+ For the light of hope which illumines the depths of reality and releases our hearts to offer the treasures of our souls; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ For the fragile stirrings of peace sown in troubled places throughout the world, that freedom may flourish, and its fruits bring hope to those most in need; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ For the forgiveness of our sins: our greed and narrow-mindedness, our selfishness and misuse of power, our misjudgment of one another, that we may acknowledge our faults and turn to the all-merciful love of God; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ That we may be humbled in the presence of the poor, bending the knee of our hearts to those who have no defender, and to those whose economic and personal distress pains us to encounter; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ For those who are suffering with illness and for those who bear a private grief, that the Holy Comforter may bring them relief from their burdens; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ For all that is to be revealed to us during this new year: the joys, the disappointments, the struggles, the new directions and insights; that through all our journeys we may know the Messiah as our constant companion; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ For a generosity of spirit, that through the delight of giving treasures rich and rare, we may share a common bounty and support a shared mission; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ In thanksgiving for the Body and Blood of Christ, a foretaste of that heavenly banquet upon which the faithful departed continually feast; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

In companionship with the angels of light, 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	Richard	Theodore	Sarah	Chris
Charles	Linda	Lorraine	Avery	Carole
Wes	Jim	Edith	Nathan	Sandy
Virginia	Gerald	Kathryn	Michael	Jack
Shirley	Cece	Brenda	Jane	Amelia

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:
Chavon Bunch

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 pews. Wave!

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements & Welcome

Offertory Sentence

Anthem The Shepherd's Farewell

Hector Berlioz (1803–69)

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling,
The humble crib, the stable bare,
Babe, all mortal babes excelling,
Content our earthly lot to share,
Loving father, loving mother,
Shelter thee with tender care!

May the shepherd's lowly calling
Ever to thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure,
Thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure,
The Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you,
Guide you safely through the wild!

Blessed Jesus, we implore thee
With humble love and holy fear,
In the land that lies before thee,
Forget not us who linger here!

Trans. Paul England

***Presentation Hymn** What star is this, with beams so bright (*Puer nobis*)

Hymnal #124

***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 Humbly I adore thee (*Adoro devote*)

Hymnal #314

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** As with gladness men of old (*Dix*)

Hymnal #119

Dismissal

Postlude Fanfare

Jacques-Nicholas Lemmens (1823–81)

Acolyte: Ceril Sandstrom

Liturgical Ministers: Jennifer Dodwell, Stephanie Nevels, Beverly Way

Virtual Vergers Matthew Sanaker, Virginia McGhee

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