

**The First Sunday of Advent**  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY  
December 1, 2024 Year C  
**10:30 AM**

\* indicates please stand

**Prelude** Now Come, Savior of the Nations J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

**\*Processional Hymn** Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes (*Richmond*) **Hymnal #72**

**\*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-91**

**\*Collect/Lighting of Advent Candle**

God be with you.

*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

*Silence.*

God of Light, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness;

*Give us grace to put on the armor of light.*

Give us your grace and light now in the time of this mortal life,

*Just as when your Son Jesus came to visit us in great humility.*

*Silence: One candle is lit on the Advent wreath.*

Be present with us until Christ shall come again in his glorious majesty,

*When he will judge both the living and the dead;*

So that in the last day, we may rise to the life immortal;

*Through Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

**The First Lesson**

**Jeremiah 33:14–16**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm 25:1–9**

*Sung by the choir*

*Ad te, Domine, levavi*

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
 my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
 let me not be humiliated,  
 nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
 let the treacherous be disappointed in their  
 schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
 and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
 for you are the God of my salvation;  
 in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and  
 love, \*  
 for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my  
 transgressions; \*  
 remember me according to your love  
 and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
 therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
 and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and  
 faithfulness \*  
 to those who keep his covenant and his  
 testimonies.

**The Epistle Reading**

**1 Thessalonians 3:9–13**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**\*Gradual** Watchman, Tell Us of the Night (*Aberystwyth*)

**Hymnal #640 vv. 1–2**

**\*The Gospel Reading**

**Luke 21:25–36**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live

on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**\*Sequence** Watchman, Tell Us of the Night (*Aberystwyth*)

**Hymnal #640 v. 3**

**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 Lord will come and will not keep silent, gathering us into the kingdom of his love. In anticipation of the one who saves, we offer our prayers, responding to each petition by saying, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

+ Architect of creation, channel our vision, that the perplexities and distresses of this age may call forth our creative response as we await the age to come; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ Physician of the sick, assist those who suffer from diseases that ravage body and soul, enlighten the understandings of research scientists, and guide us into models of effective health care for all people; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, that we may be signs of hope to the hungry, the homeless, and all who live with unrelenting fear and anxiety; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ Eternal Wisdom, pour upon the leaders of Church and state the wise judgment needed in these challenging times, and awaken them to the truth and power of your word; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ Holy Lord, keep us awake to the signs that are placed before us, strengthen us in our life of prayer and devotion, and give us the integrity to stand firm in your presence; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ Gracious God, be with those who have died in the faith, and welcome them into your eternal rest; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ God of earthly rhythms, arouse us to the movements of the natural order and to the spiritual voices of this Advent season, instilling within us a deep longing for the birth of Christ within our hearts; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

In confidence that the turmoil of the present age will usher in the new order of God's reign and dominion, let us continue our prayers, either silently or aloud.

Almighty God of mercy and compassion, you sent your Son Jesus to teach us the things that make for peace; help the leaders of this world to lay down their weapons of war. Help those who make decisions on behalf of the people of Israel and of Gaza to safeguard human life and flourishing and turn away from death and destruction. Help us living in the US to use our liberty and safety to speak on behalf of those who live in deprivation and danger, and save us from denial and complicity in the evils we deplore, and as we labor, give comfort, strength, and safety to all of your children in the land we call Holy. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, and especially for:

|          |          |           |          |          |         |
|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Joan     | Gerald   | Jane      | Julianne | Cheryl   | Roger   |
| Charles  | Cece     | Chris     | Lisa     | Isabella | Sara    |
| Wes      | Lorraine | Carole    | Ira      | Shawn    | Denis   |
| Virginia | Edith    | Amelia    | Jan      | Rebekah  | Roxanne |
| Shirley  | Kathryn  | Susan     | Nick     | Libby    | Cathey  |
| Linda    | Sarah    | Mary Beth | Ann      | Joanne   | Jeanne  |
| Jim      | Avery    | Jack      | David    | Olivia   | Cindy   |

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:

Jerome Fung, Mattison Oakes, Nancy Leeming, Richard Smith, Nathan Hall

### **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**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*And also with you.*

**Announcements & Welcome**

**Offertory Sentence**

**Anthem** And the Glory of the Lord (*Messiah*) G. F. Handel (1685–1759)  
*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

**\*Presentation Hymn** Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel (*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*) **Hymnal #56 v. 1**  
*O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**\*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-114**

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**      **O Lamb of God** (*Agnus Dei*)

**Hymnal #S–158**

### **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 or you may drink from the common chalice after consuming the wafer.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

**Communion Music**    **Creator of the Stars of Night** (*Conditor alme siderum*)

**Hymnal #60**

*Stanzas 1 & 6: all*

*Stanzas 2 & 4: men*

*Stanzas 3 & 5: women*

### **Post Communion**

*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**    **Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending** (*Helmsley*)

**Hymnal #57**

**Dismissal**

**Postlude** O Christ, Who Art the Light of Day

J. S. Bach

**Crucifer and Acolyte:** Amber Massa

**Liturgical Ministers:** Josette Garrison, Stephanie Nevels, Pam Talbot

**Virtual Vergers** John Jackson, Amber Massa

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

**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  
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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 Wednesday, December 18th at the latest to insure inclusion in the bulletin.**

**Christmas flowers:**

Donated by \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**2025 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  
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**

Beverly Way, Sr. Warden  
Ilze Lemesis, Parish Administrator  
Timothy E. Smith, Director of Music/Organist

Pamela Talbott, Jr. Warden  
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

If you need pastoral assistance, please call or text the Senior Warden at 607-232-4465.

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.

**Forward Day by Day** for **November, December, and January** is available on the table in the rear of the church.

**Please Join Us** for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the service.

**St. John's Choir Presents:** A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent; Sunday, **December 15<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m.** Music of Bach, Handel, Mathias, and Manz; Hymns sung by all. The words of ancient prophecy fill us with hope. Join us as we prepare for The Holy Season

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



# The First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024 Year C

## Hymns

### **Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes**

*(Richmond)*

**Hymnal #72**

1 Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

2 He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure;  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved Name.

### **Watchman, Tell Us of the Night**

*(Aberystwyth)*

**Hymnal #640**

1 Watchman, tell us of the night,  
what its signs of promise are.  
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,  
see that glory-beaming star.  
Watchman, does its beauteous ray  
aught of joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,  
promised day of Israel.

2 Watchman, tell us of the night;  
higher yet that star ascends.  
Traveler, blessedness and light,  
peace and truth its course portends.  
Watchman, will its beams alone  
gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Traveler, ages are its own;  
see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

3 Watchman, tell us of the night,  
for the morning seems to dawn.  
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,  
doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;  
hie thee to thy quiet home.  
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,  
lo! the Son of God is come!

### **Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel (*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*)**

**Hymnal #56 v. 1**

1 O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom  
captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son  
of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to  
thee, O Israel.

### **Creator of the Stars of Night**

*Conditor alme siderum*

**Hymnal #60**

1. Creator of the stars of night,  
Your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
We pray you hear us when we call.

2. In sorrow that the ancient curse  
should doom to death a universe,  
You came, O Savior to set free  
your own in glorious liberty.

3. When this old world drew on toward night,  
You came; but not in splendor bright,  
not as a monarch but the child  
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

4. At your great Name, O Jesus now,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
All on Earth with one accord  
like those in heaven shall call you Lord.

5. Come in your holy might, we pray,  
redeem us for eternal day;  
defend us while we dwell below,  
from all assaults of our dread foe.

6. To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
praise, honor, might, and glory be,  
from age to age eternally.

**Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending**  
*(Helmsley)*  
**Hymnal #57**

1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,  
once for our salvation slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2 Every eye shall now behold him,  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at nought and sold him,  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshipers;  
with what rapture, with what rapture, with  
what rapture,  
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory;  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.