

The First Sunday after Christmas Day

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY

December 29, 2024 Year C

10:30 AM

* indicates please stand

Prelude Noël for Full Organ

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

***Processional Hymn** Once in royal David's city (*Irby*)

Hymnal #102 vv. 1–2, 5–6

***Opening Sentences**

Confession

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*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.*

Hymn Good Christian friends rejoice (*Was frag' ich nach der Welt*) (*standing*) **Hymnal #107**

Hymn 'Twas in the moon of wintertime (*Une jeune pucelle*) (*seated*) **Hymnal #114**

The First Lesson**Isaiah 61:10–62:3**

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. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn It came upon the midnight clear (*Carol*)

(*seated*)

Hymnal #89

The Epistle Reading**Galatians 3:23–25; 4:4–7**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn While shepherds watched their flocks by night (*Winchester Old*)

(*seated*)

Hymnal #94

The Gospel Reading*John 1:1–18**

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

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

The Sermon

Gwen Freeman

*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

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Suffrage A

- V.** O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
R. And grant us thy salvation.
V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
R. And make thy chosen people joyful.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in thee can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let thy way be known upon earth;
R. Thy 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 thy Holy Spirit.

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 United States 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. *God of peace and justice, bear our prayers. Amen*

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

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

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:
David D'Aprix, Elaine LaRocque, Michael Roman

*Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Collects

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through 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**

Announcements & Welcome

Offertory Sentence

Hymn O little town of Bethlehem (*Forest Green*) (*seated*) **Hymnal #78**

***Presentation Hymn** In the bleak midwinter (*Cranham*) **Hymnal #112 v.4**

***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.

***Dismissal**

***Recessional Hymn** Joy to the world! (*Antioch*) **Hymnal #100**

Crucifer: Troy Parish

Liturgical Ministers: Muriel Everhart, Pamela Talbott

Virtual Vergers Sara VanLooy, Amber Massa

Today we welcome Gwen Freeman as officiant 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
One License with license # **A – 724223**

The Christmas Flowers 2024 are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of:

Rev. W. Aubrey Arlin	LaRose Meyer	Betty Kelts
Edith N. Arlin	Genevieve Linderman	Jeffrey Bowen
Audrey Vault	Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Sipos	Grif and Emma Bowen
Penny Ciccone	Margaret Godlove	John and Marion James
Jesse Siemon	Sarah Richtmeyer	Peter Hedrick
Ron Clayton	Mary Noss	Donald W. and June B. Miller
William and Edward Barry	Pamela Quirk	Lou and Charlotte Ettinger

Prayer list: On Sunday January 12, 2025, we will have a **new prayer list**. If you put a name on the current prayer list and want it to remain on the list, please call the office at 607-273-6532 or send us an email to 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.

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 after Christmas Day

December 29, 2024 Year C

Hymns

Once in royal David's city (*Irby*)

Hymnal #102 vv. 1–2, 5–6

1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall: with the poor, and meek, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for the child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children onto the place where he is gone.

6 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round, we shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround: Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

Words: St.3 © 1982, James Waring McCrady.

Good Christian friends rejoice

(*Was frag' ich nach der Welt*)

Hymnal #107

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave:

Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

T'was in the moon of wintertime

(*Une jeune pucelle*)

Hymnal #114

1 'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled, that God the Lord of all the earth sent angel choirs instead; before their light the stars grew dim, and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain: Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria!

2 Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found; a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round; but as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high: [Refrain]

3 The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there. The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. [Refrain]

4 O children of the forest free, the angel song is true; the holy child of earth and heav'n is born today for you. Come, kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. [Refrain]

Words: English text by J.E. Middleton Used by permission of the Fredrick Harris Music Co Limited.

It came upon the midnight clear (*Carol*)

Hymnal #89

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."

The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3 And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

**While shepherds watched their flocks by
night (*Winchester Old*)
Hymnal #94**

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by
night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2. "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3. "To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4. "The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid."

5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

6. "All glory be to God on high and on earth be
peace; good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease."

**O little town of Bethlehem (*Forest Green*)
Hymnal #78**

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4. Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessed Child,
where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
where charity stand watching
and faith holds wide the door,

the dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.

5. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

**In the bleak midwinter (*Cranham*)
Hymnal #112 v.4**

4. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

**Joy to the world! (*Antioch*)
Hymnal #100**

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.