

The Second Sunday of Advent
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY
December 8, 2024 Year C
10:30 AM

* indicates please stand

Prelude Savior of the Nations, Come!

Hugo Distler (1908–42)

***Processional Hymn** Prepare the Way, O Zion (*Bereden vag*)

Hymnal #65

***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.

Merciful God, you sent us your messengers the prophets;

They preached repentance, and prepared the way for our salvation:

They called us from error into truth, from sin into righteousness,

From death into life, from darkness into light.

Two candles are lit on the Advent wreath.

Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,
that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;

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

The First Lesson

Baruch 5:1–9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please remain seated and join in singing

1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2. With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3. My child, as proph-et of the Lord, you will pre - pare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm
 that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and right - eous-ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989
 MUSIC: Traditional English melody

KINGSFOLD
 C.M.D.

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The Epistle Reading

Philippians 1:3–11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gradual** Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding (*Merton*)

Hymnal #59 vv. 1–3

***The Gospel Reading**

Luke 3:1–6

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

***Sequence** Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding (*Merton*)

Hymnal #59 vv. 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**

May the anticipation of the Incarnation quicken our spirits as we offer our prayers and thanksgivings, responding, "Come, Lord Jesus."

+ God of hope, your Word came to John in the wilderness; inspire your Church to proclaim the way of the Lord in our community and our world; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ God of liberation, instill a yearning for justice in the leaders of every country, that they may loose the bonds of those bound by poverty, hunger, unemployment, or prejudice; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ God of forgiveness, bring back through repentance those captivated by the enemies that seduce us: money, social position, power, ambition and prestige, that we may experience a unity with you that knows no boundaries; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ God of gratitude, make us thankful for the community we have in each other as companions on the journey of faith; for our diocese, and all our spiritual guides, DeDe, our Bishop, Kit, our priest; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ God of purification, cleanse us with the vision to see beyond our self-deception and denial, that our souls may be purified in your truth, and we may be prepared for your promise of new life; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

+ God of salvation receive those who have died in the Lord's possession, may they rest in the joy of eternal life; for this we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

As we turn from our sins and face the light of God's forgiveness, let us continue our prayers.

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	Shirley	Cece	Sarah	Carole	Jack	Jan
Charles	Linda	Lorraine	Avery	Amelia	Julianne	Nick
Wes	Jim	Edith	Jane	Susan	Lisa	Ann
Virginia	Gerald	Kathryn	Chris	Mary Beth	Ira	David

Cheryl Shawn Libby Olivia Sara Roxanne Jeanne
Isabella Rebekah Joanne Roger Denis Cathey Cindy

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:
Jeremiah Miller, Shirley Durfee, David Faulkner

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 E'en So, Lord Jesus Paul Manz (1919–2009)
Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood,
That we might saved be. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God who was, and is, and is to come
Sing Holy, Holy Lord. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming soon. E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come and night shall be no more.
They need no light nor lamp nor sun for Christ will be their All!

***Presentation Hymn** Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel (*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*) **Hymnal #56 v. 5**
*O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
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 Savior of the Nations, Come! (*Nun komm*)

Hymnal #54

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** On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry (*Winchester New*)

Hymnal #76

Dismissal

Postlude Toccata on *Savior of the Nations*

Hugo Distler (1908–42)

Liturgical Ministers: Lillian Wright, Amber Massa, Beverly Way

Virtual Vergers Sara VanLooy, John Jackson

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
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“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 15th 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

Giving Tree: St John's supports local people during the holiday season through our Giving Tree ministry. This year we are partnering with GIAC (Greater Ithaca Activities Center) and Ithaca Welcomes Refugees. Gift needs and instructions are on the tags. Take as many tags as you wish! Return the gifts to the church or to the office by **Tuesday Dec. 17**. Thank you for supporting this annual St John's tradition!

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 Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024 Year C

Hymns

Prepare the Way, O Zion (*Bereden vag*) Hymnal #65

1 Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

2 He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

Words: © 1982 Charles P. Price

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding (*Merton*) Hymnal #59

1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding.
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day."

2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

4. So when next he comes with glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
With his mercy he may shield us,
And with words of love draw near.

5. Honor, glory, might, and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit,
While eternal ages run.

Savior of the Nations, Come! (*Nun komm*) Hymnal #54

1 Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here your home!
Marvel now, both heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 Wondrous birth! Oh 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 we its glories see.

Words: St. 3-4 © 1982 James Waring McCrady

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
(*Winchester New*)
Hymnal #76

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.