

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY  
December 22, 2024 Year C  
**10:30 AM**

\* indicates please stand

**Prelude** from *Magnificat*

Jean Guilain (1680–1739)

**\*Processional Hymn** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (*Stuttgart*)

**Hymnal #66**

**\*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.*

Purify our conscience, Almighty God;

*Enlighten us by your daily visitation.*

Make your eternal home among us,

*That we may be bearers of your light.*

*(Four candles are lit on the Advent wreath.)*

Grant this until the day of your Son Jesus Christ's coming,

*May he find in us a mansion prepared for himself;*

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

*one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

**The First Lesson**

**Micah 5:2–5a**

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

### Canticle 3

### The Song of Mary *Magnificat* (Sung by the Choir)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, \*  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded \*  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth \*  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, \*  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him \*  
throughout all generations.  
He hath showed strength with his arm; \*  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, \*  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, \*  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.  
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.*

### The Epistle Reading

Hebrews 10:5–10

When Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

\*Gradual Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus (*Julian*)

Hymnal #268 vv. 1–2

### \*The Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39–55

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as

soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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

**\*Sequence** Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus (*Julian*)

Hymnal #268 vv. 3–4

**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**

Let us offer prayers to God our Creator, who prepares us to receive the miracle of new life, as we respond to each petition, saying, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

+ O Wisdom, you come from the mouth of the Most High; inspire your Church as we seek to live out our faith on this holy ground and through our sacrificial love of one another; for this we pray.  
*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ O Adonai, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush; help us discern your presence through the faith and courage of others, especially the unemployed; the homeless and hungry; children who are abandoned, abused, or unloved; and all for whom Jesus gave his life; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+O Root of Jesse, you stand as a firm sign of endurance and hope; give us the perseverance to seek freedom for ourselves and for all who are imprisoned by alcohol, depression, drugs, financial mismanagement, material greed, and discouraging illness; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ O Key of David, open wide our hearts that we may be sensitive to the fragility of the earth, learning to live more simply and love more fully; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ O King of Nations, bring your clarity and judgment to those who exercise leadership in our government, and to those in service to your Church give the will to proclaim the promises of your kingdom; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ O Eternal Light, shine on all who have died in your Name, that all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, may rest in peace; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

+ O Emmanuel, God with us, dwell in the hearts of those who do not worship you in the community of faith, and fill them with the desire to seek their place in your Church; for this we pray.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

In expectation with Mary, the beloved of God, may we rejoice in the coming of the Messiah as we 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 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. *Amen.*

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

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

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:

Tim Schmidle, Alice Wagner, Phoebe Hain, Gabriel Henry, Jim Johnson

### **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** People, Look East Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)  
 People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able,  
 Trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.  
 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
 That in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.  
 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen  
 God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.  
 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
 Bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

**\*Presentation Hymn** Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel (*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*) **Hymnal #56 v. 7**  
*O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;  
 Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.  
 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**    Once He Came in Blessing (*Gottes Sohn ist kommen*)

Hymnal #53

## 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

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**\*Recessional** Of the Father's Love Begotten (*Divinum mysterium*)

**Hymnal #82**

## Dismissal

**Postlude** Dialogue, from *Magnificat*

Jean Guilain

**Crucifer:** Amber Massa

**Acolyte:** Chris Way

**Liturgical Ministers:** Jennifer Dodwell, Margaret Johnson, Sally Clayton

**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 PRAYER BOOK ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX**

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from  
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**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.

**Greening of the Church.** Join us today after the 10:30 service in the church sanctuary The Altar Guild supplies the greens, fir trees, bows and candles. Everyone is welcome! You don't have to be an interior designer to help; every pair of hands is welcome. Children are welcome to attend and help with their families. We'll set up the sanctuary trees too. It will be more fun if you come, and it's a great way to meet other parishioners!

***Come join the fun and be amazed at how beautiful our sanctuary looks when we are done!***



St. John's Church  
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(607)-273-6532

[www.stjohnsithaca.org](http://www.stjohnsithaca.org)

Office email: [office@stjohnsithaca.org](mailto: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).

#### **Christmas Schedule:**

**Christmas Eve** Tuesday, December 24  
4 pm Holy Communion with Carols and Organ; Blessing of the Crèche  
10 pm Festive Choral Eucharist

**Christmas Day** Wednesday, December 25  
10 am Holy Eucharist with Hymns



## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024 Year C

### Hymns

#### **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** *(Stuttgart)*

##### **Hymnal #66**

1 Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

#### **Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus** *(Julian)*

##### **Hymnal #268**

1 All who claim the faith of Jesus  
Sing the wonders that were done  
When the love of God the Father  
O'er our sins the vict'ry won,  
When God made the Virgin Mary  
Mother of the only Son.

2 Blessed were the chosen people  
Out of whom the Lord did come;  
Blessed was the land of promise  
Fashioned for His earthly home;  
But more blessed far the mother,  
She who bore Him in her womb.

3 Therefore let all faithful people  
Sing the honor of her name;  
Let the Church, in her foreshadowed,  
Part in her thanksgiving claim;

What Christ's mother sang in gladness  
Let Christ's people sing the same:

4 "Magnify, my soul, God's greatness;  
In my Savior I rejoice;  
All the ages call me blessed,  
In His praise I lift my voice;  
God has cast down all the mighty,  
And the lowly are His choice."

#### **Once He Came in Blessing** *(Gottes Sohn ist kommen)*

##### **Hymnal #53**

1 Once he came in blessing,  
All our ills redressing;  
came in likeness lowly,  
Son of God most holy;  
bore the cross to save us,  
hope and freedom gave us.

2 Still he comes within us,  
still his voice would win us  
from the sins that hurt us,  
would to Truth convert us:  
not in torment hold us,  
but in love enfold us.

3 Thus if thou canst name him,  
not ashamed to claim him,  
but wilt trust him boldly,  
nor dost love him coldly,  
he will then receive thee,  
heal thee, and forgive thee.

4 One who thus endureth  
bright reward secureth.  
Come then, O Lord Jesus,  
from our sins release us;  
let us here confess thee  
till in heaven we bless thee.

**Of the Father's Love Begotten**  
*(Divinum mysterium)*  
**Hymnal #82**

1. Of the Father's love begotten,  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore.
2. At his word the worlds were framèd;  
He commanded, it was done:  
Heav'n and earth and depths of ocean,  
In their threefold order one;  
All that grows beneath the shining  
Of the moon and burning sun—  
[Evermore and evermore.]
3. He was found in human fashion,  
Death and sorrow here to know,  
That the race of Adam's children,  
Doomed by law to endless woe,  
May not henceforth die and perish  
In the dreadful gulf below—  
[Evermore and evermore.]
4. O that birth forever blessèd,  
When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed his sacred face—  
[Evermore and evermore.]

5. This is he whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word;  
Now he shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord—  
[Evermore and evermore.]
6. O ye heights of Heav'n adore him!  
Angel hosts his praises sing!  
All dominions bow before him  
And exalt our God and King.  
Let no tongue on Earth be silent,  
Every voice in concert ring—  
[Evermore and evermore.]
7. Christ! to thee with God the Father,  
And O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unwearied praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory—  
[Evermore and evermore.]