

**The Epiphany**  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY  
January 5, 2025 Year C  
**10:30 AM**

\* Indicates please stand

**Prelude** Fantasy on Two Noëls

Joseph Bonnet (1884–1944)

**\*Processional Hymn** The First Nowell (*The first Nowell*)

**Hymnal #109**

**\*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** On this day earth shall ring (*Personet bodie*)

(*standing*)

**Hymnal #92**

**Hymn** What star is this (*Puer nobis*)

(*seated*)

**Hymnal #124 vv. 1, 4 & 5**

**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.*****Hymn** Earth has many a noble city (*Stuttgart*)*(seated)***Hymnal #127****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.*****Hymn** We three kings of Orient are (*Three kings of Orient*)*(seated)***Hymnal #128 vv. 1, 4 & 5***Verses 1 & 5 and all refrains sung by all; verses 2 & 4: women; verse 3: men***\*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.*

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

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

### **\*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*

### **\*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**

**Anthem** Good King Wenceslas

arr. David Willcocks (1919–2025)

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,  
when the snow lay round about deep and crisp and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night though the frost was cruel,  
when a poor man came in sight gathering winter fuel.

Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou knowst it, telling yonder peasant,  
who is he? Where and what his dwelling?

Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain  
right against the forest fence by Saint Agnes fountain.

Bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither;  
thou and I shall see him dine when we bear them thither.

Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together  
through the rude winds wild lament and the bitter weather.

Sire, the night is darker now and the wind blows stronger.

Fails my heart, I know not how I can go no longer.

Mark my footsteps, good my page, tread thou in them boldly.  
Thou shall find the winters rage Freeze thy blood less coldly.

In his masters step he trod where the snow lay dinted.

Heat was in the very sod which the Saint had printed.

Therefore, Christian men, be sure wealth or rank possessing  
Ye, who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.

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

**Hymnal #119 vv. 1–3**

**Crucifer:** Troy Parish

**Acolyte:** Amber Massa

**Liturgical Ministers:** Lillian Wright, Susie Backstrom

**Virtual Vergers:** Michael Roman, Sara VanLooy

*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  
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**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](mailto: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 Epiphany**  
January 5, 2025 Year C  
**Hymns**

**The First Nowell (*The first Nowell*)**  
**Hymnal #109**

1. The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as  
they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
[Refrain]

3. And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.  
[Refrain]

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
[Refrain]

5. Then entered in those wise men three  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
[Refrain]

6. Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made Heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.  
[Refrain]

**On this day earth shall ring**  
**(*Personet hodie*)**  
**Hymnal #92**

1. In this day earth shall ring  
with the song children sing  
to the Lord, Christ our King,  
born on earth to save us;  
him the Father gave us.  
Refrain  
Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o,  
Id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!

His the doom, ours the mirth;  
when he came down to earth,  
Bethlehem saw his birth;  
ox and ass beside him  
from the cold would hide him.  
Refrain

God's bright star, o'er his head,  
Wise Men three to him led;  
kneel they low by his bed,  
lay their gifts before him,  
praise him and adore him.  
Refrain

On this day angels sing;  
with their song earth shall ring,  
praising Christ, heaven's King,  
born on earth to save us;  
peace and love he gave us.  
Refrain

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**What star is this (*Puer nobis*)**  
**Hymnal #124 vv. 1, 4 & 5**

1. What star is this, with beams so bright,  
more beauteous than the noonday light?

It shines to herald forth the King,  
and Gentiles to his crib to bring.

4. O Jesus, while the star of grace  
impels us on to seek thy face,  
let not our slothful hearts refuse  
the guidance of thy light to use.

5. To God the Father, heavenly Light,  
to Christ, revealed in earthly night,  
to God the Holy Ghost we raise  
our equal and unceasing praise.

**Earth has many a noble city (*Stuttgart*)  
Hymnal #127**

1. Earth has many a noble city;  
Bethlehem, thou dost all excel:  
out of thee the Lord from heaven  
came to rule his Israel.

2. Fairer than the sun at morning  
was the star that told his birth,  
to the world its God announcing  
seen in fleshly form on earth.

3. Eastern sages at his cradle  
make oblations rich and rare;  
see them give, in deep devotion,  
gold and frankincense and myrrh.

4 Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:  
incense doth their God disclose,  
gold the King of kings proclaimeth,  
myrrh his sepulcher foreshows.

5 Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshiped  
at thy glad epiphany,  
unto thee, with God the Father  
and the Spirit, glory be.

**We three kings of Orient are (*Three kings  
of Orient*)  
Hymnal #128 vv. 1, 4 & 5**

1. We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain,  
moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading,  
still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing,  
bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

5. Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
heaven sings alleluia:  
alleluia  
the earth replies. [Refrain]

**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.

**As with gladness men of old (*Dix*)  
Hymnal #119 vv. 1–3**

1. As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped  
to that lowly manger-bed;  
there to bend the knee before  
him whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek the mercy-seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger rude and bare;  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ! to thee, our heavenly King.