



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ESSEX, NY

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Essex, NY

**Darcey Hale, Officiant**  
**The Second Sunday of Advent**  
In-Person & Zoom Worship  
December 10, 2023 □ 10:00 A.M.

Loose Plate Offering  
**AFRI**

Zoom Link for Sunday Worship:  
<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/worshipmeet>

The Service will begin with the singing of the following hymn

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN 76 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry"**

*(Please stand as the Crucifer and Officiant enter)*

**OPENING SENTENCE: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

*Isaiah 40:3*

*Officiant:* 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.***

*Officiant:* 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.

***People: Amen.***

## **THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER**

*All stand*

*Officiant:* Lord, open our lips.

***People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise***

***All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

## **ANTIPHON**

Our King and Savior now draws near; Come let us adore him.

VENITE Psalm 95:1-7

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it, \***

**and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the  
sheep of his hand. \***

**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

**PSALM 85: 1-2, 8-13**

*Benedixisti, Domine*

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

**A READING FROM Isaiah 40: 1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”  
See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

*The word of the Lord*  
**Thanks be to God**

*After the reading the reader says "Here ends the lesson"*

**CANTICLE 11**

**The Third Song of Isaiah** *Surge, illuminare*

*Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19*

**Arise, shine, for your light has come, \***  
**and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.**  
**For behold, darkness covers the land; \***  
**deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.**  
**But over you the Lord will rise, \***  
**and his glory will appear upon you.**  
**Nations will stream to your light, \***  
**and kings to the brightness of your dawning.**  
**Your gates will always be open; \***  
**by day or night they will never be shut.**  
**They will call you, The City of the Lord, \***  
**The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.**  
**Violence will no more be heard in your land, \***  
**ruin or destruction within your borders.**  
**You will call your walls, Salvation, \* And all your portals,**  
**Praise.**  
**The sun will no more be your light by day; \***  
**by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.**  
**The Lord will be your everlasting light,**  
**And your God will be your glory.**  
**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it**  
**was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

**MEDITATION HYMN 56 "O Come O Come Emmanuel"**

**Vs. 1,2, 6 & 7**

**THE GOSPEL Mark 1: 1-8**

*NB. The Gospel is not proclaimed in MP it is read just as the other lessons. Therefore, The Reader Says "A Reading from Matthew etc. & concludes with "Here ends the reading"*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight'"

make his paths straight,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Canticle 16 The Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies, \*

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \*

holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation \*

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God \*

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death, \*

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it  
was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen**

**REFLECTION**

**Darcey Hale**

**THE APOSTLE'S CREED** *(Please stand)*

**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.**

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

### **Announcements**

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE:** “O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power: because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

**OFFERTORY Hymn 343 “Shepherd of souls refresh and bless”**

### **THE PRAYERS**

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you

*People:* And also with you.

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

**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  
and all your portals, Praise.**

**from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**SUFFRAGE B**

Save your people. Lord, and bless your inheritance:

**Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

Day by day we bless you;

**We praise your name for ever.**

Lord, keep us from all sin today;

**Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, show us your love and mercy;

**For we put our trust in you.**

In you. Lord, is our hope;

**And we shall never hope in vain.**

**COLLECT**

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

**Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: 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.**

**Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**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.**

**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND ANNOUCEMENTS** (*Please be seated*)

The Rev. Bill Fensterer, Edward O'Neill

**Watch over our brothers and sisters, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up when they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Give grace to all those whose lives are linked with ours. We **pray especially for: Geoffry, Lois, Art, Joyce, Abra, Mike, Beverly, Noa, Lillian, Chris, Rae, Olivia, Cheryl, Larry, Steven, Tom, Karen, Sally, Chris, Lynne, Eve.**

**We especially wish to extend our sincere condolences to Anne Zilch and family at the passing of Anne's Mother, Bobby Garber.**

**May we serve Christ in one another, and love as Christ loves us.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*[Here other intercessions may be offered]*

**Dear Lord, grant us your wisdom and guidance as we embark upon our search process. Help us to humbly discern and accomplish your will for St. John's. We know this will be a challenging journey for all of us, but we pray that it will strengthen our faith, and our respect and love for each other. Help us to share more deeply our faith in you as we learn to listen to each other with open hearts and minds and to hear your voice in all that we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.***

**THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING (please stand)**

**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 ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our**

through Jesus Christ our  
Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory  
throughout all ages.  
*Amen.*

#### **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.**

Officiant concludes with the Ephesians 3:20, 21

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we  
can ask or Imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the  
Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.  
*Amen*

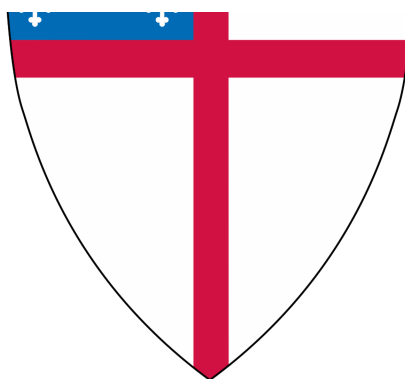
#### **RECESSIONAL HYMN 66 “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”**

*Please join us for fellowship and coffee in Persell Hall following the  
service.*

#### **Ministers of the Service**

**Usher/Greeter Megan Harris-Pero  
Altar Guild Bobbi Perez/Anne Zilch  
Lector Lee Maxey  
Intercessor Bob Harsh  
Crucifer Joel Pero  
Zoom Host Heather Maxey  
Coffee Hour Hosts Steve Rucker and the Pero Family**





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