



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ESSEX, NY

St. John's Episcopal Church
Essex, NY

The Very Rev. Diane Nancekivell
The Third Sunday of Advent

In-Person & Zoom Worship
December 17, 2023 □ 10:00 A.M.

Loose Plate Offering
Food Shelves

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

Prelude – *Please use this time in silence and to pray*

Processional (*Please stand*) “**Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!**” Hymn 59

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

People of God: Awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face. Remember the ways and the works of God. God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming. You are God's children. Lord, make us one as we walk

**coming, YOU ARE GOD'S CHILDREN. LORD, MAKE US ONE AS WE WALK
with Christ today and for ever. *Amen***

**Blessed are you, holy and living One.
You come to your people and set them free.**

The Collect of 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.***

The Kyrie Eleison S91

**The Lord be with you
And also with you
Let us pray**

The Collect of the Day - The Third Sunday of Advent

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and,
because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and
mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to
whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for
ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,

they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
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.

Canticle 15 – The Song of Mary

Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *

in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *

and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *

to Abraham and his children 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: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gradual Hymn “O come, O come Emmanuel” Hymn 56 1& 2, 6 & 7, last vs after the Gospel

The Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me: I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This

coming after me, I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal. This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Homily (*Please be seated*)

The Very Rev. Diane Nancekivell

The Nicene Creed (*Please stand*)

BCP 358-359

The intercessor then leads **The Prayers of the People** (*Intercessor*)

The people stand or kneel as is their custom or take a posture of prayer as able.

This week in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea and we pray for the ministry of our bishop-elect Jeremiah Williamson.

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed: Hear us when we pray to you.

Blessed are you who join us together in the communion of Christ's Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service. Hear us when we pray to you.

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labors to the work of Providence. Hear us when we pray to you.

O Deliverer, you unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit, especially Resurrect their hope, grant them peace and refreshment, and restore their joy. Hear us when we pray to you.

O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle. Hear us when we pray to you.

O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illumining all things with your radiance: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise. Hear us when we pray to you.

your unending promise. Hear us when we pray to you.

O Lover of souls, when we wander far away, lead us back to you; when we refuse your embrace, do not give up on us; when we forget you, do not forget us. Hear us when we pray to you.

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: you are the strong force that draws us into the mystery of love divine. Forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the Truth and the Life. Hear us when we pray to you.

God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive you in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare you room. Hear us when we pray to you.

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

Dear people of God, what else, or who else, should we pray for?

Silence is kept, during which time all are invited to offer their own intercessions either silently or aloud

“Show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.” 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.*

All: Preserve us all, O Christ and take us home to your heart, so that all our lives may be woven together in prayer and praise, in your ever merciful name we pray. *Amen.*

Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

join together in saying this dedication prayer

O Lord, Giver of Life and Source of Freedom. We know that all we have is received from your hand. Gracious and loving God, you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship be a witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B**

Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

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 him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus S 130

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.. On the night before he died for us, our Lord 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 he 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to

that heavenly country where, with blessed St. John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**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.***

Celebrant: Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Fraction Anthem
164

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Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving

Congregation comes forward at this time to receive communion.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us Pray
Almighty and everliving God,

we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE 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*

Closing Hymn “Hark! The glad sound”

Hymn 72

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God

Postlude (*Please be seated*)

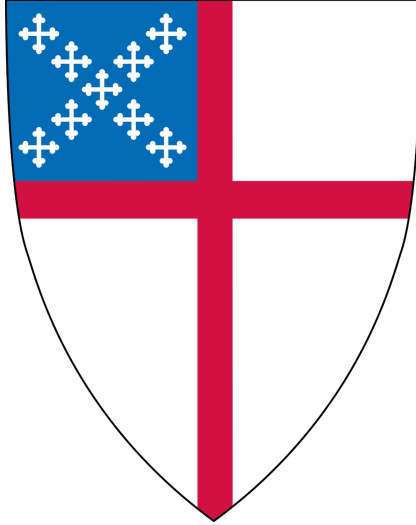
The ringing of the bell signals the end of the service.

Please join us for coffee in Persell Hall

Ministers of the Service

Usher Greeter. Bruce Hale
Altar Guild. Bobbi Perez/Anne Zilch
Lector. Steve Rucker
Intercessor. Kristine Tribou
Crucifer. Darcey Hale
Lay Eucharistic Minister. Bill Tribou
Zoom host. Dick Perez
Coffee Hour Host. Linda Rockefeller, Mo Ecclesine, Kathy Schoolcraft
Organist & Music Director .Jennifer Moore

Organist & Music Director: [REDACTED]



St. John's Episcopal Church | 4 Church Street, Essex, NY 12936



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