



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ESSEX, NY

St. John's Episcopal Church
Essex, NY

The Rev. Lyn Burns
Christmas Eve Service

In-Person & Zoom Worship
December 24, 2023 □ 4:00 P.M.

Loose Plate Offering
Rector's Discretionary Fund

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

Prelude

Processional (please stand)
faithful"

**"O come all ye
Hymn 83**

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.
You have come to your people to 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 Gloria

S278

Presider:

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Let us pray

The Collect of the Day – Christmas Day 2

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The First Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night

they shall never be silent.

You who remind the Lord,

take no rest,

and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem

and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand

and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain

to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine

for which you have labored;

but those who garner it shall eat it

and praise the Lord,

and those who gather it shall drink it

in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,

prepare the way for the people:

prepare the way for the people,
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
The Lord has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
"See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him."
They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken."

Psalm 97

Dominus regnavit

1 The Lord is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.

4 His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.

5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.

7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.

8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O Lord.

9 For you are the Lord,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.

10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

The Epistle: Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Gradual Hymn
midwinter”**

**“In the bleak
Hymn 112**

Verse 1, Carol Harsh, soloist

Congregation v. 2-4 (last verse sung after the reading of the Gospel)

The Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying

host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Homily (*Please be seated*)

The Reverend Lyn Burns

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 Episcopal Church of the Philippines, 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 incarnate 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, with your incarnate love, 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. 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, Anne, and Ella.**

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.**

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.

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

By the light of your countenance this Christmas Eve, 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.*

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.*

Presider says

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.***

The Presider, stands and says

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

Prayer for Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthday this week: Janet Fensterer, Bill Tribou

Watch over our sisters and brothers, 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 if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements (*Please be seated*)

Offertory “The first Nowell” **Hymn 109**

Doxology **Hymn 380**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3**

Eucharistic Prayer 3

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 Presider proceeds

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth

all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

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

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and People

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

The Presider continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with [blessed St John, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Presider and People:

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

Presider: 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.**

Presider: Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Fraction Anthem

S

164

Presider: 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.

Communion Hymn

“What child is this”

Hymn

115

Post Communion Hymn
111

“Silent Night” Hymn

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

Creator of all, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ to one another, and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace, and the blessing of God who created you, Jesus Christ who was born for you and the Holy Spirit who broods over the world like a mother hen over her chicks be with you and those you love this day and always.

Closing Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Hymn
87

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 a fellowship meal in Persell Hall

Ministers of the Service

Presider: The Rev. Lyn Burns

Usher Greeter: Bill & Kristine Tribou

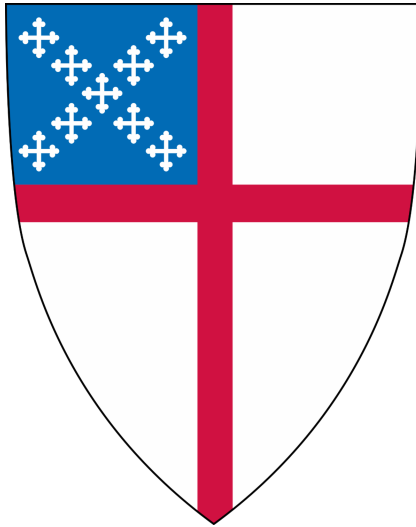
Altar Guild: Bobbi Perez/Anne Zilch

Altar Flowers: Bobbi Perez

Lector: Jim Guinness

Intercessor: Steve Buckner

PRECESSION: STEVE RUCKEL
Crucifer: Linda Rockefeller
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Bill Finucane
Zoom host: Diana Lawrence
Festive Christmas Meal: Bob & Carole Harsh & EVERYONE!!
Instrumentalists: Robin Cameron-Philips, flute; Janice Kyle, oboe; Janine
Scherine, clarinet
Organist & Music Director Jennifer Moore



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



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