



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ESSEX, NY

St. John's Episcopal Church
Essex, NY

**The Rev. Jeremiah
Williamson, Bishop-Elect**

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

**In-Person & Zoom Worship
January 28, 2024 □ 10:00 A.M.**

**Loose Plate Offering
Bishop-Elect's Discretionary
Fund**

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

Prelude “Silver Rain” by Valerie Coleman (from “Portraits of Langston”)

Processional (Please stand) “O Love, how deep, how broad, how high
”
Hymn 448

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 – Epiphany 4

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated for the readings

The First Reading: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 111 *we will read it by alternating half verse.*

1 Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the deeds of the Lord! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.

3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.

4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

5 He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise endures for ever.

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone

who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Hear what the spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“ At the Name of Jesus”

Hymn 438

**last verse after the Gospel*

reading

The Gospel **Mark 1:21-28**

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Presider:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark

~~The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to Mark~~
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

The Homily (Please be seated)

The Rev. Jeremiah Williamson

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 Church of
Southern Africa.

Hear us when we pray to you.

Prayer for the Bishop Elect

**Pray for the Bishop-Elect Eternal God, our Shepherd and Guide,
we bless and thank you for your servant, Jeremiah,
Bishop-Elect of your Episcopal Diocese of Albany.**

**By the working of your Holy Spirit grant him grace and every
spiritual gift**

**as he prepares to take up his role as our chief pastor and
teacher.**

**Make him a shepherd after your own heart,
who will walk in your ways and watch over your people with
loving care.**

Strengthen and guide him to lead in vision.

Fill him with courage to teach your truth.

**Prepare our hearts to welcome Father Jeremiah, Jennifer,
Oscar, and Isaiah
joyfully into our Diocesan community.**

**Continue to purify our intentions, and lead us into holiness,
that we may bear witness to your Son without shame or fear,
in unity, humility, and mutual charity,
devoted to your will for the good of the world.**

This we ask in Jesus' name and for the sake of his love. Amen.

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 of St John's, 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, We pray especially for the people of Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine that they may be lead to peace. And 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, Ella, Lois, Art, Joyce, Abra, Beverly, Noa, Chris, Olivia, Larry, Steven, Tom, Karen, Sally, Lynne, Eve, Matt, Thomas, Frederick, Carolyn, Jim, Lee, Betsy, and Ron.**

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; as you led the Wise Men of old, 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 a light filled 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.

Dear Lord, grant us your wisdom and guidance as we undergo 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.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
resisting your will in our lives.
We have not honored you in ourselves, in each other,
And in the world which you have made.
Reach out your saving arm
And rescue us from our sin.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will
for your people and all creation. 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

Birthdays this week: Rex Whicker, James McElhinney
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.

Offertory "Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord" **Hymn 438**

Doxology

Hymn 380, v. 3

**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 (Enriching our Worship)

Presider:

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider:

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:

Sanctus S114

The Presider 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

Gift 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.
Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem

S158

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 "Simple Song" from MASS by Leonard Bernstein

The 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, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world, and band 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

“O Praise thee the Lord”

Hymn 432

Dismissal

Presider:

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude “A Clair Benediction” by John Rutter

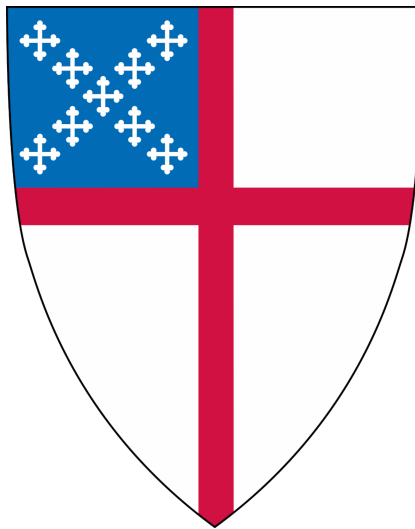
*The ringing of the bell signals the end of the service.
Please join us for a celebration brunch in Persell Hall to welcome
Bp.-Elect Jeremiah & his family*

Ministers of the Service

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop-Elect
Interim-Priest-in-Charge: The Very Rev. Diane Nancekivell

Usher Greeters: Darcey & Bruce Hale
Altar Guild: Bobbi Perez
Altar Flowers: Anne Zilch
Lector: John McBride & Anne Zilch
Intercessor: Steve Rucker
Crucifer: Joel Pero
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Carole Harsh
Acolytes: Louisa & Lauren Pero
Zoom host: Heather Maxey or Diana Lawrence
Coffee Hour Hosts: Darcey Hale, Carole Harsh & everyone

Michael Bergman, baritone, Robin Cameron-Phillips, flute; Elisha
Harrington, soprano;
Janine Scherline, clarinet
Organist & Music Director: Jennifer Moore



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



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