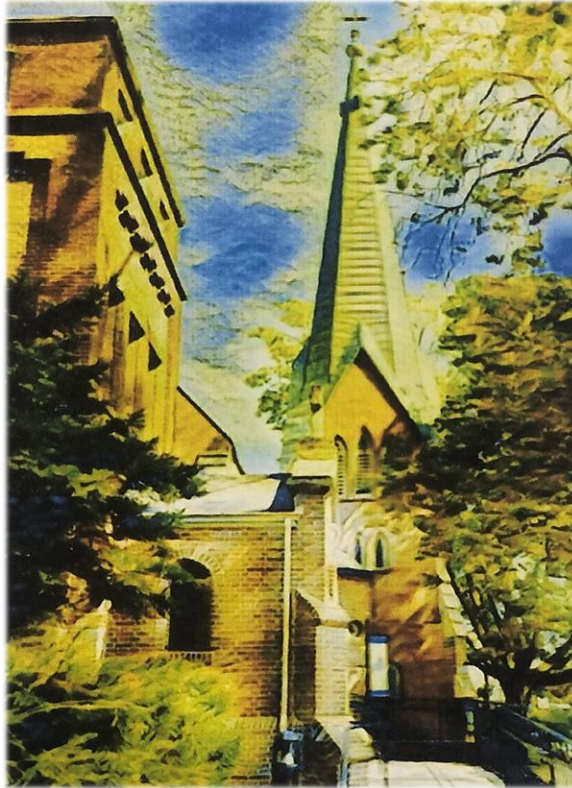


THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
DECEMBER 5, 2021 AT 10:15AM



Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church. We pray you experience the love of God through our worship and fellowship. For those who are new to our community, restrooms can be found on the other side of the parish hall. Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have. In addition to worship, Sunday School for all ages takes place at 9:00AM and opportunities for fellowship exist between our services. Our nursery is available for our youngest members during the 10:15AM service. During this global pandemic, we require masks to be worn as we seek to protect the most vulnerable among us. Thank you for helping us love our neighbors and thank you for being here!

THE WORD OF GOD

INTROIT *Rejoice at all times in the Lord*

OPENING HYMN *Christ, whose glory fills the skies*

HYMN 7

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities. (*The second candle is lit while the choir sings.*)

*Light the candle of peace today, the Giver of peace is here!
Welcome the peace we fight and cry for, but only Christ can give.
Flicker and flame and glow with peace, light up the world around you.
Flicker and flame and glow with peace, light up the world around you.*

OPENING ACCLAMATION (*please remain standing*)

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

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 TRISAGION

Holy God

S-102

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

THE FIRST LESSON: Malachi 3:1-4 (*please be seated*)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

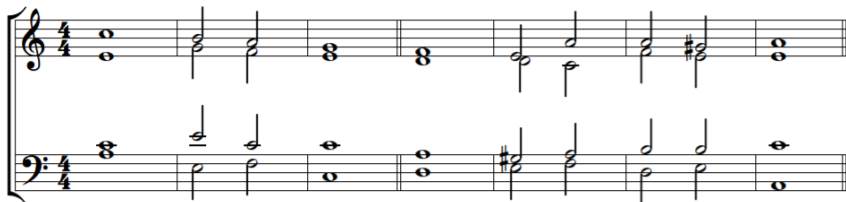
The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 16

William Crotch (1775-1847)



68 “Blessed be the Lord / God of / Israel, *
for he has looked favorably on his people / and re- / deem-ed / them.

69 He has raised up a mighty / sa-vior / for us *
in the house / of his / ser-vant / David,

70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets / from of / old, *
71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the / hand of / all who / hate us.

72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to / our an- / cestors, *
and has remembered / his / ho-ly / covenant,

73 the oath that he swore to our an- / ces-tor / Abraham, *
to grant us

74 that we, being rescued from / the hands / of our / enemies,

might serve him / with-out / fear, *

75 in holiness and righteousness be- / fore him / all our / days.

76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of / the Most / High; *
for you will go before the Lord / to pre- / pare his / ways,

77 to give knowledge of salvation / to his / people *
by the for- / give-ness / of their / sins.

78 By the tender mercy / of our / God, *
the dawn from on high / will break / u-pon / us,

79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the / shadow of / death, *
to guide our feet in / to the / way of / peace.

THE SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:1-3

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL HYMN

Blessed be the God of Israel

HYMN 444

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6 (*please remain standing*)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

SERMON

THE REV. AMANDA KNOUSE

THE NICENE CREED (*please stand*)

BCP 358

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man. (*pause*)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: PLANNING FOR RITES AND RITUALS (*please kneel*)

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Prepare your hearts for his arrival, praying, “Fill the valleys, make low the hills; *come, great Redeemer, come.*”

Merciful God, increase our love to overflowing. Make your Church pure and blameless that we may greet with joy the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the Diocesan and Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. James’, Lancaster, and the Anglican Church of Burundi. Fill the valleys, make low the hills;
Come, great Redeemer, come.

Merciful God, we long for the light of hope to break into our world, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide us into the way of peace. We pray especially for Joe, our President; Tom, our Governor; and Danene, our Mayor, and for all those serving in the Armed Forces. Fill the valleys, make low the hills;
Come, great Redeemer, come.

Merciful God, give us grace to heed the warnings of those calling us to be better stewards of your creation. We thank you for all you have made, especially those things that sustain and better our lives. Fill the valleys, make low the hills;
Come, great Redeemer, come.

Merciful God, you lead us with joy; you delight in our joy. You clothe us in beauty. We give you thanks for your tender care. Fill the valleys, make low the hills;
Come, great Redeemer, come.

Merciful God, you remember your children. You do not leave us in sorrow or affliction. Crown your children with glory; clothe them with righteousness. Amy Swiernik, Angelica, Carl, Chase, Dave Pennell, Emily Lavender, Joanna Torres, Ken Kiedrowski, Pablo Gouveia, Tiny Nolan, Mary Ellen, Lamar Swisher, Kathy, Sandra Grove, Paula Wolf, Faith D'Urbano, Keith Keiser, John Graeter. Fill the valleys, make low the hills;
Come, great Redeemer, come.

Merciful God, you have raised up for us salvation through your Son. Keep us, with all your saints, in the eternal life of Christ. Fill the valleys, make low the hills;
Come, great Redeemer, come.

Celebrant Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; through Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.

THE CONFESSION

BCP 360

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant 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

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

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Watch over your children, 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 understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY *A shoot shall come forth* *Richard Horn*

PRESENTATION HYMN *On Jordan's Bank* **HYMN 76** (vs. 4)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: FEASTING ON THE WORD

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And with your Spirit.*
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 our thanks and praise.*

It is right and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You call all people to follow your paths of justice and peace, beating their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. In the light of your holy Word, we look for the day when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, or learn war anymore. Therefore, with the entire company of heaven, and with your people on earth who live in this hope, we praise you and join in the never-ending hymn:

*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.

Please kneel if able.

Holy are you and blessed is Jesus Christ your Son, for he is Immanuel, God with us. Fulfilling the expectations of the prophets he healed the blind and the lame, cleansed the lepers, opened the ears of the deaf, raised the dead, and brought good news to the poor. Through his life, death, and resurrection you manifest your new covenant with humankind, and through the church of his disciples you give testimony to the power of your salvation for the world.

For on the night he was betrayed he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was over, he took the cup and gave thanks, saying, Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

Therefore in remembrance of all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we give ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for the world as we declare:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, gathered here out of love for you, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Let the bread we break be a true fellowship in the body of Christ. Let the cup we share be a true participation in the new covenant in his blood. By your Spirit empower us to be Christ for the world, serving in his name until the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

S-149

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing...

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 364

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast.

THE INVITATION

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Here, O my Lord

HYMN 318

SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS (*standing*)

Celebrant In the name of God and on behalf of this parish, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body.
People Because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. 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.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

THE CLOSING HYMN *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry* **HYMN 76**

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE *Carols of Joy and Gladness* *Lani Smith*

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN'S:

Today

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:00 a.m. Parish Breakfast
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II
6:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling!

Monday, December 6

7:00 p.m. Ministries Council

Tuesday, December 7

1:30 p.m. Martha's Ministry
2:30 p.m. Food Pantry
5:00 p.m. VH Dance
6:30 p.m. Advent Adult Forum
(zoom)

Wednesday, December 8

12:05 p.m. HE with Healing
3:30 p.m. Eagle's Nest
6:30 p.m. Worship at the Tree
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 9

2:30 p.m. Food Pantry

Friday, December 10

9:00 a.m. Community Meal Prep

Weekly Support Ministries

AA: Tuesday 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
NA: Mon., Wed., & Fri. 12:00 p.m

ADVENT ADULT FORUM

Week One: Darkness

Week Two: Desire

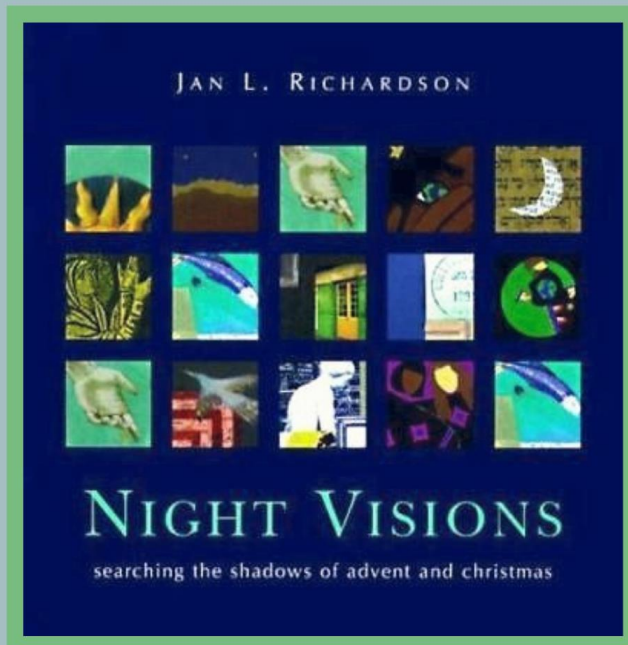
Week Three: Preparing a Space

Week Four: Hope

Week Five: Birthing

Week Six: Welcoming

Week Seven: Thresholds



Sundays at 9:15AM in the All Purpose Room

Tuesdays at 6:30PM on Zoom

Meeting ID: 833 7360 7182

Passcode: 523928



Community Christmas Tree

Join us every Wednesday in December for worship and fellowship at our Community Christmas Tree!

Don't forget to bring an ornament to help us decorate the tree!

Schedule

December 1: Advent Event at 6PM
Join us for dinner, wreath making, Advent crafts, and the blessing of our Christmas tree.

Wednesdays, December 8, 15, and 22, we will gather at the tree for worship at 6:30PM!

The Courtyard
321 W. Chestnut St.
Lancaster, PA 17603



Choral Evensong

December 12th, 4:00PM

Join us for a meaningful time of music and worship as St. John's Chancel Choir leads the community in a traditional service of Anglican Evensong. All are welcome to a reception following the service in the Parish Hall.

St. John's Episcopal Church
321 W Chestnut St, Lancaster PA 17603

St. John's Traveler Letter: Connecting us to our siblings in Christ across the world

Did you know St. John's has a team of pilgrims who travel every week to the very places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares a little bit about the church and the places he visits! These letters are read in our Sunday School classrooms each week and are a reminder that our church extends far beyond St. John's and Lancaster!

Dear Pastor Amanda,

December 5, 2021

Bwakeye from Burundi! I'm writing to you from Gitega, the capital of this tiny country in eastern Africa near Tanzania. Just like in other countries I've visited, I've been overwhelmed by the kindness and hospitality I've received from churches and people across this small but beautiful nation.

All that said, it's been a really difficult 60 years since Burundi became independent in 1962. There's been a civil war and the government has done terrible things to regular, ordinary citizens like you and me. Most people are very poor and many people have AIDS, a terrible disease that affects so many. But do you want to know the good news? The Anglican Church of Burundi, in addition to being a place for people to come every Sunday, has been working hard to battle AIDS as well bring peace – peace all the people in this country deserve.

It doesn't happen overnight, but I've seen firsthand small steps by the church and other groups to help everyday people. Many young people in Burundi leave school at an early age, and the Church is working with the United Nations on a "Back to School" campaign to keep kids in school to help them learn and make their lives better.

In my free time, I've been seeing all sorts of animals out on the savannah – hippos, lions, cheetahs, and chimpanzees! God's beautiful creation is on full display, and it's a great reminder that even amidst trouble you can always find something to smile about.

I hope you had a restful beginning to your Advent season. I continue to keep you all in my prayers!

John Traveler



WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church. We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by clicking the QR Code or by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Matt MacDougall, Associate Rector
matt@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Stacey Catigano, Deacon
scatigano@gmail.com

VESTRY

Webb Cook (Senior Warden), Leslie Morgan (Junior Warden),
Debbie Carter, John Gouveia, Annie Lattanzio-Hale, Tim Huber,
Molly Moyer, Marylee Sauder, Mary Waskowicz, Joe Way

STAFF

Gina Keiser, Financial Secretary
Richard Kuhn Sr., Sexton
Douglas Beach, Minister of Music

PRIESTS AND CANONS ASSOCIATED WITH ST. JOHN'S

Canon William F. Honaman, DHL
The Rev. Faith D'Urbano
The Rev. Elizabeth Mollard

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE
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