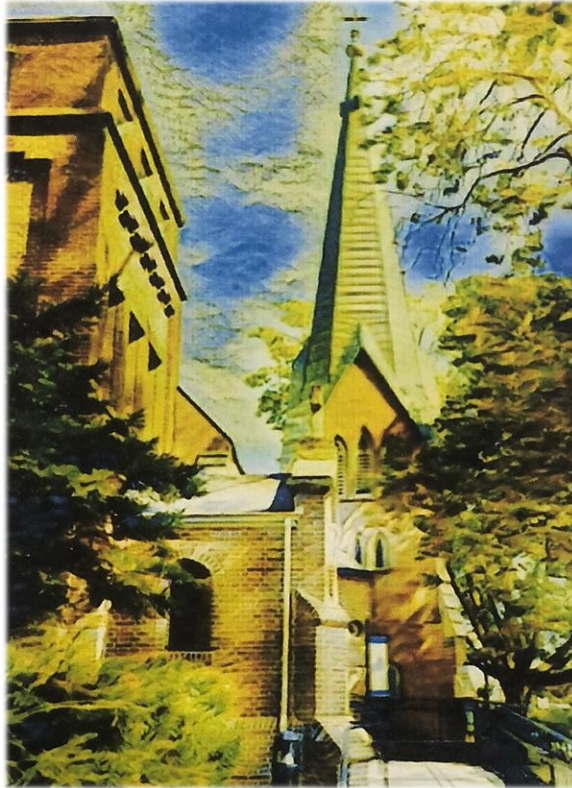


THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
DECEMBER 12, 2021 AT 10:15AM



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

Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending

HYMN 58

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share. (*Three candles are lit while the choir sings.*)

Light the candle of joy today, the Giver of joy is here!

Welcome the joy we crave and pray for, but only Christ can give.

Flicker and flame and glow with joy, light up the world around you.

Flicker and flame and glow with joy, 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.

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 LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (*please be seated*)

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

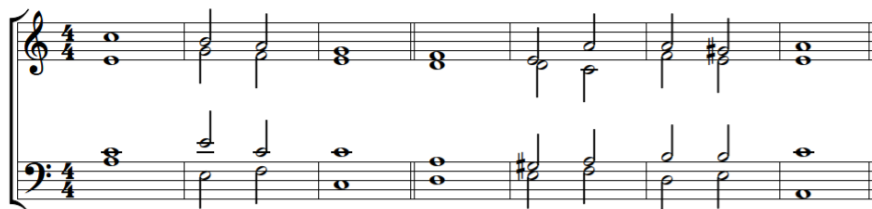
The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9

William Crotch (1775-1847)



2 Surely God is / my sal- / vation; *
I will trust, and / will not / be a- / fraid,

for the Lord God is my strength / and my / might; *
he has / be-come / my sal- / vation.

3 With joy you will draw water from the wells / of sal- / vation. *

4 And you will say in that day: / Give thanks / to the / Lord,

call on his name; make known his deeds a- / mong the / nations; *
proclaim that / his name / is ex- / alted.

5 Sing praises to the Lord, for he / has done / gloriously; *
let this be / known in / all the / earth.

6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O / ro-ya / Zion, *
for great in your midst is the / Ho-ly / One of / Israel.

THE SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come!

HYMN 54

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18 *(please remain standing)*

Celebrant

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People 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*)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Surely, it is God who saves us;
therefore, we joyfully pray to the Lord, “God of our salvation: *thank you.*”

Though we are hindered by our sins and in need of your bountiful grace and mercy, you
never leave us. You are ever in our midst. Renew your Church in love. In the Diocesan
and Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. John’s, Lancaster and the Anglican Church
of Canada God of our salvation:

Thank you.

Make your deeds known among the people, O God. Save the lame; gather the outcast.
May the exiles know home and all people know your peace. We pray especially for Joe,
our President; Tom, our Governor; and Danene, our Mayor. God of our salvation:

Thank you.

May your springs of salvation renew the earth. Heal our planet and restore in us a sense
of responsibility and gratitude. God of our salvation:

Thank you.

Merciful God, in this month of great excess and consumerism, call the financial and
business communities to act justly and generously. Grant that those without coats be
clothes and those without food be fed. God of our salvation:

Thank you.

O God, you have done great things. With thankful hearts we pray to you for those burdened by suffering, grief, or weakness, especially Amy Swiernik, Angelica, Carl, Chase, Dave Pennell, Emily Lavender, Ken Kiedrowski, Pablo Gouveia, Tiny Nolan, Kathy, Mary Ellen, Sandra Grove, Faith D’Urbano, Paula Wolf, John Graeter, Keith Keiser, Rich Hartley. Be for them a stronghold and a sure defense. God of our salvation:
Thank you.

God our salvation, gather us, with all those who have died, especially Lamar Swisher, into your sacred heart. Grant us to sing your praises for all eternity. God of our salvation:
Thank you.

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

OFFERTORY

Fling wide the door

John Yarrinton

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:

SANCTUS

HYMN S-129

*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

Now, my tongues, the mystery telling

HYMN 331
(vs. 1, 2, 4, & 6)

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

Sleepers, wake!

HYMN 61

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

Anthony Giamanco

*Follow, follow, Rise up shepherd and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up shepherd and follow.*

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN’S:

Today

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II
4:00 p.m. Advent Evenson

Tuesday, December 14

1:30 p.m. Martha’s Ministry
2:30 p.m. Food Pantry
4:00 p.m. Finance Committee
5:00 p.m. VH Dance
6:30 p.m. Advent Forum (on zoom)

Wednesday, December 15

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 16

2:30 p.m. Food Pantry

Friday, December 17

9:00 a.m. Community Meal Prep

Saturday, December 18

8:00 a.m. Community Breakfast

Weekly Support Ministries

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

Adult Forum: Please join us Sundays at 9:15AM or Tuesday evenings at 6:30PM on zoom as we continue our study on “Night Visions” by Jan Richardson. Each week we explore the shadows of Advent and Christmas through poetry, art, and scripture.

Gifts that Give Hope: An opportunity awaits, St. John’s! Check out the Gifts that Give Hope at the Farm & Home Center TODAY for the 14th annual alternative gift fair where you can purchase meaning-filled gifts for everyone on your shopping list! Alternative gifts, social enterprise, fair trade, business for good, environmentally & ethically sourced gifts available. The event will run from 10am-3pm, so there is still time!



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!

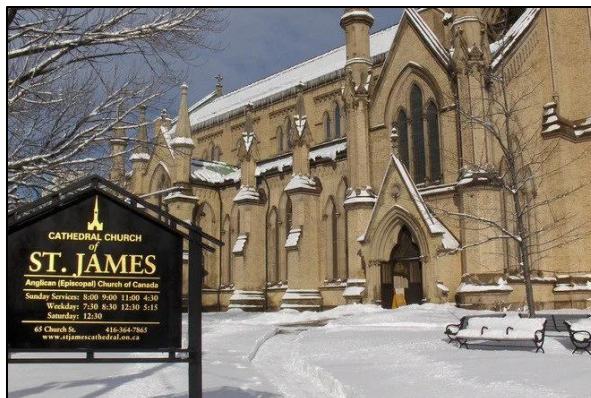
Dear Pastor Amanda,

Greetings to you on our journey through Advent! While my travels take me around the world, sometimes they bring me close to home and today I'm writing to you from Toronto, the seat of the Anglican Church of Canada. As most of the children will know, the lands that are now America and Canada were both largely conquered by English and other European settlers. Canada remained loyal to England longer than did the United States, and so the church here was known as the Church of England as recently as the 1950's. The liturgy and services here would be very familiar to American Episcopalians, although some parishes in the eastern provinces worship in French.

The Anglican Church of Canada has developed their Five Marks of Mission, and one of those is **To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.** It is currently working on this by trying to reconcile Canada's past history of requiring native indigenous children to attend schools designed to convert them from their heritage and culture and make them "more European." That's something people in Pennsylvania are coming to grips with, too, concerning the history of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School. We often read Bible stories of peoples who were persecuted several thousand years ago, but those lessons and that work of reconciliation through God's love continues today. Let's continue to pray for peace and justice for all as we approach Christmas.

Blessings always,

John Traveler





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

ADVENT ADULT FORUM

Week One: Darkness

Week Two: Desire

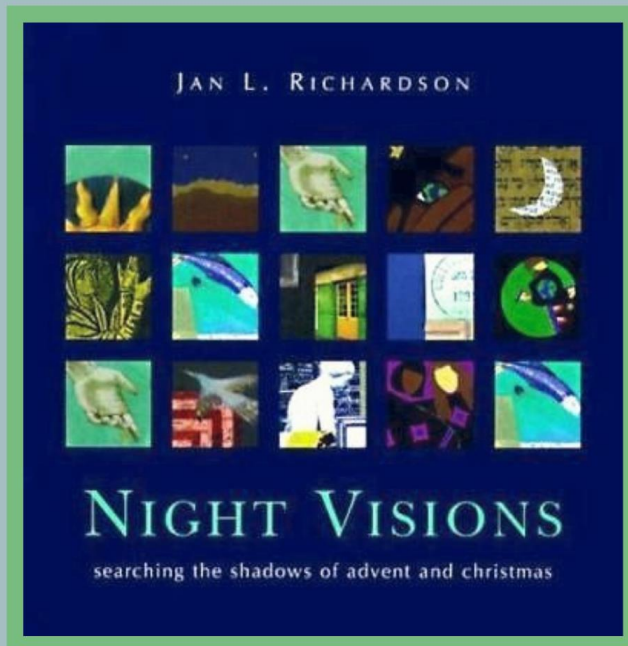
Week Three: Preparing a Space

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

Christmas Eve Services at St. John's Church

3:30 P.M.

A family celebration of Holy Eucharist
with Christmas Hymns and special music
by the Hand Bell Choir

9:30 P.M.

Prelude of Carols with Brass
A festive candlelight Holy Eucharist with
Christmas carols led by the Chancel Choir

Christmas Day Service

10:00 A.M.

Morning Prayer on Zoom
After the presents have been unwrapped
and the coffee enjoyed, join us for a time
of prayer and reflection from wherever
you are on Christmas morning!

Sunday, December 26 Celebrating the feast of St. John

9:00 A.M.

(Joint worship service!)
Holy Eucharist: Rite II, The Presentation of
the St. John's Award, and the singing of carols



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
WWW.STJOHNS-LANCASTER.ORG / 717.299.1188