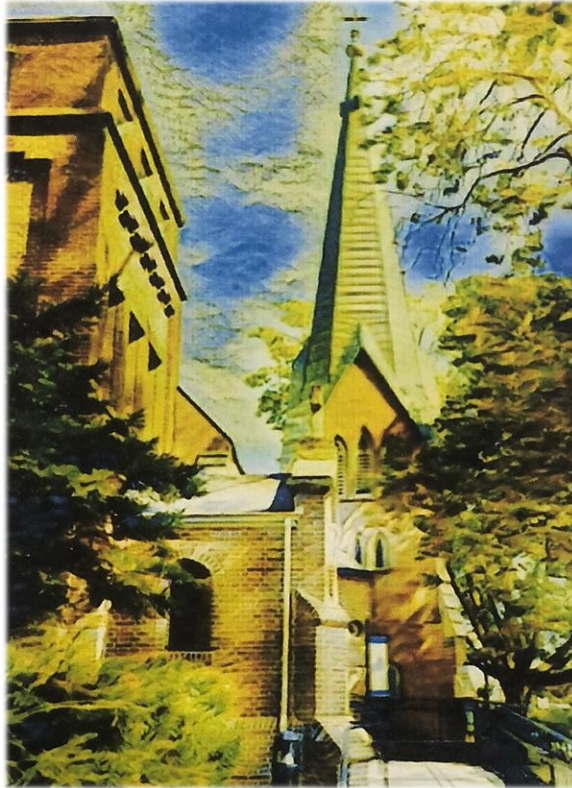


THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
DECEMBER 19, 2021 AT 10:15AM



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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYMN 66

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that always surrounds and fills us, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love because God loves us.

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

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a (*please be seated*)

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

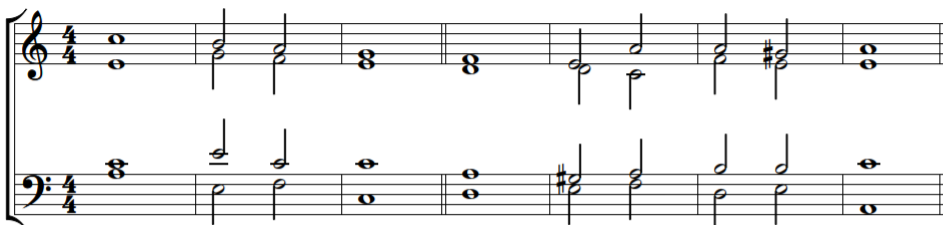
The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15

William Crotch (1775-1847)



46 And Mary said, “My soul magni- / fies the / Lord, *

47 and my spirit rejoices / in / God my / Savior,

48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness / of his / servant. *

Surely, from now on all generations / will / call me / blessed;

49 for the Mighty One has done great / things for / me, *

and / ho-ly / is his / name.

50 His mercy is for those / who fear / him *

from / gener-ation / to gener- / ation.

51 He has shown strength / with his / arm; *
he has scattered the proud in the / thoughts / of their / hearts.

52 He has brought down the powerful / from their / thrones, *
And / lif-ted / up the / lowly;

53 he has filled the hungry / with good / things, *
and sent the / rich / a-way / empty.

54 He has helped his / ser-vant / Israel, *
in re- / mem-brance / of his / mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to / our an- / cestors, *
to Abraham and to his / des-cen- / dants for- / ever.

THE SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

People The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL HYMN *There's a voice in the wilderness*

HYMN 75

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:33-59 (*please remain standing*)

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy

Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

JOHN 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*)

The Mighty One has done great things for us. And so we appeal to God once again,
praying, “Stir up your strength, O Lord; *and come to help us.*”

Prepare in us a mansion for yourself, O Christ. In the Diocesan and Anglican cycle of
prayer, we pray for St. Thomas, Lancaster, and the Province of Central Africa. Stir up
your strength, O Lord.
And come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts. May we know security. May we know peace. May we know
the benefits of the reign of your Christ. We pray for Joe, our President; Tom, our
Governor; Danene, our Mayor, and those serving in the Armed Forces. Stir up your
strength, O Lord.
And come to help us.

Show the strength of your arm, O God: lift up the lowly. Fill the hungry with good things.
Look on your children with favor. We pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Audrey, our Diocesan Bishop; and Amanda, Matt, and
Stacey, our clergy. Stir up your strength, O Lord.
And come to help us.

Have mercy on all captives and prisoners, O God. Remember them and come to their aid. Fill our hearts with mercy. May we learn to forgive even as you forgive us. Stir up your strength, O Lord.

And come to help us.

Hear the prayers of your people, O God of hosts. May those who have fed on the bread of tears, feed instead on your strength, O Lord. Show them the light of your countenance and be their salvation. We pray for Amy Swiernik, Angelica, Carl, Chase, Dave Pennell, Emily Lavender, Ken Kiedrowski, Tiny Nolan, Kathy, Mary Ellen, Sandra Grove, Faith D'Urbano, Paula Wolf, Keith Keiser, and Rich Hartley. Stir up your strength, O Lord.

And come to help us.

Great Shepherd, gather your flock into your eternal kingdom. Bless the dying, embrace the dead, and comfort those who mourn. Stir up your strength, O Lord.

And come to help us.

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.

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 the silence, Now the peace

HYMN 333

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

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers

HYMN 68

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

Lani Smith
Tune: *Gloria*

"Angels We Have Heard on High" is a Christmas carol to the hymn tune "Gloria" from a traditional French song of unknown origin called *Les Anges dans nos campagnes*, with paraphrased English lyrics by James Chadwick. The song's subject is the birth of Jesus Christ as narrated in the Gospel of Luke, specifically the scene in which shepherds outside Bethlehem encounter a multitude of angels singing and praising the newborn child.

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

6:30 p.m. Worship at the Tree
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 23

2:30 p.m. Food Pantry

Tuesday, December 21

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)

Friday, December 24

3:30 p.m. Family Service
9:30 p.m. Candlelight Mass

Wednesday, December 22

12:05 p.m. HE with Healing
3:30 p.m. Eagle's Nest

Saturday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (on zoom)

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.

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,

December 19, 2021

I am wishing you peace and joy on this Fourth Sunday of Advent from Zambia's capital city, Lusaka. Zambia, along with Botswana, Malawi, and Zimbabwe, are the four countries in the Province of Central Africa, and we are praying for them in this week's Anglican Cycle of Prayer. This province is both a beautiful tapestry of languages, cultures, and customs as well as a region that faces many challenges. I admire the resilience and faith of the people here, and I thank God for the opportunity to explore Zambia.

Zambia is a landlocked country in the heart of central Africa, and there is much to see. Lusaka is rapidly becoming industrialized, and I see building and construction everywhere. Last night for dinner I had a traditional meal of nshima, which is made of ground and boiled maize, along with some yams and ground nuts. It was delicious! Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to travel to the border with Zimbabwe, where I saw the majestic Victoria Falls, one of the largest waterfalls in the world. They are much larger than Niagara Falls in North America! Today, I visited an elephant nursery, which provides care for orphaned elephants. Everywhere I go, people say to me, "Mwaiseni", which means "welcome" in Bemba, one of Zambia's most widespread languages. Many people also speak English because Zambia is a former British colony.

Despite the bustling economy in Lusaka and Zambia's natural wonders, I am saddened by the troubles that so many people face in this country. Unemployment and poverty are high. Millions of people must survive on less than \$2 a day, suffer from chronic malnutrition, and do not have access to clean water. Power outages are common, and the healthcare system is struggling. I am ashamed about all that I take for granted sometimes, I ask that you and our St. John's family continue to keep all of those who are in need in your prayers.

On Sunday, I will worship at the Cathedral of Holy Cross. The Cathedral is the national shrine for prayer and reconciliation, and the grounds are lush and green. I am humbled to be in this place and to hear the stories of the Zambian people. I will keep you in my prayers, and I wish you, your family, and St. John's a wonderful Christmas and many blessings in the New Year. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Your friend,
John Traveler

ADVENT ADULT FORUM

Week One: Darkness

Week Two: Desire

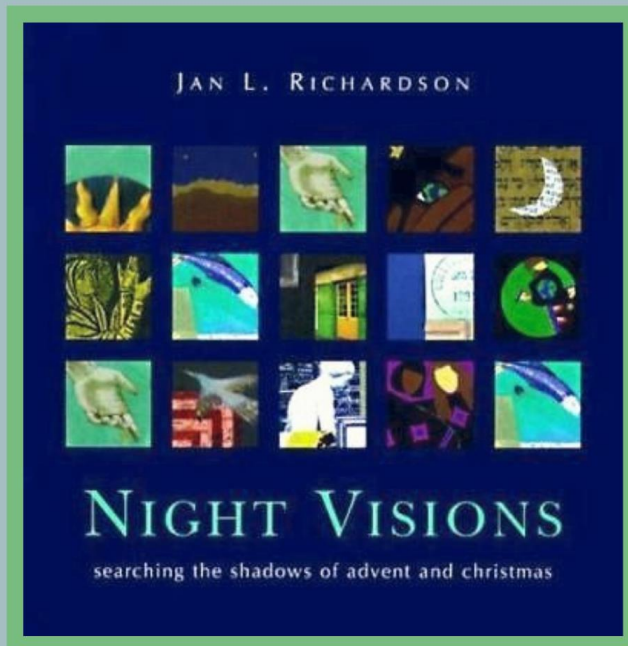
Week Three: Preparing a Space

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

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
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