

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
DECEMBER 10TH AT 10:15 A.M.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Our Rite II service comes from the Book of Common Prayer and is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. This service is filled with the joyful sound of children rustling in the pews, anthems sung to the glory of God, and the heartfelt prayers of those gathered. With acolytes and processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.

TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING

We are so glad you are here! Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after the service in the courtyard. A nursery is available every Sunday for our littlest members next to the Parish Hall. Thank you for being here!

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Thank you to those who have submitted their 2024 pledge cards! To date, 92 members have pledged for a total of \$403,609. Our 2024 goal is \$425,000. If you haven't submitted your card yet, please do so as soon as possible so the vestry can move forward with 2024 plans! Thank YOU for sharing your ABUNDANCE!

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement, you would like the clergy to share, please fill out the form on our website or let the office know no later than Thursday.

PRELUDE *O Word of God Incarnate* James Mansfield

OPENING HYMN *Savior of the nations, come!* **HYMN 54**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader 1: In days when God’s people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins” (Isaiah 40:1).

Reader 2: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

People: *We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.*

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of God’s shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

OPENING ACCLAMATION (*please remain standing as you are able*) **BCP 355**

Officiant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People *His mercy endures for ever.*

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.*

TRISAGION

HYMNAL S-100

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: Isaiah 40:1-11 (*please be seated*)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13 (*chant led by choir*)

T. Kempton.

VENITE.



The musical score is written for a choir and piano. The vocal line is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The score consists of 13 measures. The first measure is a whole note chord (F3, A2, C3, E2). The second measure is a half note chord (F3, A2, C3, E2). The third measure is a half note chord (F3, A2, C3, E2). The fourth measure is a half note chord (F3, A2, C3, E2). The fifth measure is a half note chord (F3, A2, C3, E2). The sixth measure is a half note chord (F3, A2, C3, E2). The seventh measure is a half note chord (F3, A2, C3, E2). The eighth measure is a half note chord (F3, A2, C3, E2). The ninth measure is a half note chord (F3, A2, C3, E2). The tenth measure is a half note chord (F3, A2, C3, E2). The eleventh measure is a half note chord (F3, A2, C3, E2). The twelfth measure is a half note chord (F3, A2, C3, E2). The thirteenth measure is a half note chord (F3, A2, C3, E2).

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

THE EPISTLE: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus

HYMN 383

Verses 1 & 2 before the Gospel Reading; Verse 3 after the Gospel Reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8 (*please remain standing as you are able*)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

SERMON

THE REV. JEN TREINARY

THE NICENE CREED (*please rise in body or spirit*)

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*please kneel as you are able*)

In this season of waiting, let us pray together in thanksgiving as we gather in holy patience, saying, “God, be with us.”

In the Diocesan and Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for St. James Church, Lancaster; and The Church of Pakistan. For the church and all its people, the gathering of those called to wait in anticipation of your revelation, that we may be alert so when the time comes for us to behold you among us, we see you and receive you with prayers and praises of gratitude and thanksgiving, we pray: *God, be with us.*

For all the nations of the world and those who bear the authority of leadership, especially Joe, our President; Josh, our Governor; Danene, our Mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces; that the powers of this world may entrust our futures not to their own understanding, but to your ever unfolding wisdom, charity, and generosity, as you are made known to us again and again in new ways that call us to give thanks, we pray: *God, be with us.*

For the whole world, that in this season of hearing proclamations of the power of God, we would begin to see the song of Mary taking on flesh in our world, calling us to give of ourselves out of our spirit of gratitude, we pray: *God, be with us.*

We pray for our friends at home, especially Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Peter Plaxa, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove, Carole Humphrey, Darlene Bentley, and Peggy Zuke. For our neighbors and our communities, that our hearts may be sensitive to the needs of the people in our midst and overcome with gratitude for them, so that we, as one people bound to each other, may wait together for the unfolding kingdom of God, we pray: *God, be with us.*

For those we love and care for, especially Pat Pankey, Jeannie Zeller, Kent Strickler Nancy Strasburg, Justin & Lisa, Ella & Colleen, Matt Patterson, Michael Yoder, Kevin, Judy Modene, Angie Stamm, Andrew Gilpin, Jesse Rutledge, Ann Marie, Cheryl & Rhoda, Lynn Hayford, Erin Potts, Dave, Colleen Murphy, Joan Inshetski, and Grant Hansel. For all human suffering of all kinds and conditions, that we may be comforted by the almost here presence of a God who took on flesh to know our suffering, to bear our suffering, and to give us - even in our suffering - a grace that calls us to give thanks, we pray: *God, be with us.*

For all who have died, those who have removed the veil and seen you face to face, that we may be inspired by the lives they lived on this earth, as they are now reminders that you will call us into a heavenly home, where our praises and our thanksgivings are brought into your nearer presence, we pray: *God, be with us.*

For the ways in which you are waiting with us, sitting beside us as we celebrate the joys of this life, giving thanks especially for those joys we now name, either aloud or in the silence of our hearts...(silence is kept) In our gratitude, we pray: *God, be with us.*

Celebrant God of wisdom, bring us into awareness of your presence, as we wait to become so close to you that we may touch even the hem of your cloak. Give us a patience only you can give, slow our hurried hearts, give peace to our anxious minds, and draw us into such a heart of gratitude that we may be caught serving one another when you arrive. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Assured that God hears our repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth, confessing our sins to God and one another.

People Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were not justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. *Amen.*

Celebrant Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, you are forgiven all your sins. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

Advent Jubilate
Heather Trenary, flute

Victoria Schwartz

PRESENTATION HYMN

Come, thou long expected Jesus

HYMNAL 66, vs. 4

Celebrant 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 God thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might* **HYMNAL S-129**
 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.

It is customary to kneel during Advent.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BCP 364

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

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.

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.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. If you wish to receive, please come forward to the altar rail when the usher indicates. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. For the wine, you can receive by guiding the chalice to your lips or by dipping your wafer into the separate intinction cup. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest when the wine passes. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest. When finished, please exit to your right. Gluten free wafers are also available.

COMMUNION HYMNS *Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness
Savior, again, to thy dear Name we raise*

HYMN 339
HYMN 345

SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

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.
People We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

Rejoice! rejoice, believers

HYMN 68

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

Celebrate Christ's Coming with Joy!

Rex Koury

CHRISTMAS GREENS AND POINSETTIAS

Would you like to help us adorn our church with greenery and poinsettias in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one this Christmas? Make a donation to St. John's Episcopal Church and email the following information to office@stjohns-lancaster.org or fill out a card in the pew and place it in the offertory plate! The deadline is Sunday, December 17!

In Memory of:

In Thanksgiving for:

Given by:

St. John's Traveler Letter:

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,

I'm used to travelling around the world by plane, but I only needed to hop on a bus to get from India last week to Pakistan this week. Now, to be clear, it was a 16 hour bus ride, but we were able to make plenty of stops at different temples along the way. We even were able to see a rare Asiatic Lion along the border – I didn't know you could find them in the wild outside Africa!

On our drive to Hyderabad, which is in the southern part of the country near the coast, we passed through areas hit really hard terrible floods last year. During last year's rainy season, the Indus River overflowed its banks and about 10% of the country was underwater. It the deadliest flood to ever hit Pakistan. Many that were spared the loss of their loved ones still lost their homes and belongings. One girl lost her only two toys – a homemade doll and a Rubik's cube – to the floodwaters. She told me that even though she lost everything, she was one of the lucky ones, because she still had her mom and dad. Think about that!

That girl was on my mind as we spent the rest of the day building homes in the area around Digri. This is pretty rich farmland, but because it is so low-lying, it was one of the hardest hit places in the country when the floods came. I worked alongside not just other Christians, such as Lutherans and Methodists, but also a few Hindus and a bunch of Muslims, with Islam being the most common religion here. Despite our differences, we were able to make great progress toward the completion of four new homes for displaced families here.

Helping those in need always makes me feel closer to God in a figurative sense. I'll be closer to Him in a more literal sense when I attend a sunrise service at the base of K2, a 28,251 foot mountain in the north that's the second tallest in the world after Everest. While I won't be summiting, our base camp is at 20,000 feet, and it's known as the first place to see the sun rise in all of Pakistan. God is good!

Wishing you all a blessed and expectant Advent season,
John Traveler

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:

TODAY

Coffee Hour to follow each service

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
- 11:30 AM Adult Forum
- 3:00 PM Fulton Elementary School
Christmas Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 6:00 PM Caring Ministry Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 1:30 PM Martha's Ministry
- 2:30 PM Food Pantry
- 4:00 PM Finance Committee
- 6:30 PM Capital Campaign

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 12:00 PM Healing Service
- 6:30 PM Worship in the Courtyard
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 9:00 AM Ministers' Meeting
- 1:00 PM Clergy Council
- 2:30 PM Food Pantry
- 7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

Rector's Day Off

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 9:00 AM Community Breakfast
at First Reformed Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Coffee Hour to follow each service

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
- 11:30 AM Adult Forum
- 12:00 PM Vestry Meeting

ADULT FORUM: WHY WE WORSHIP

Join St. John's Director of Music Douglas Beach as he leads a four week series on the history and practical understanding of music in worship!

Sessions will take place in the Parish Hall from 11:30AM-12:30PM on Sundays December 10th & 17th and January 7th & 14th!

WORSHIP IN THE COURTYARD

Every Wednesday of Advent at 6:30 PM

Join us each week, around the Community Christmas Tree, for outdoor worship! Our J2A class (the Youth Group) will be leading our worship this year. See you at the tree!

WELCOME

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

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

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

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

The Rev. Jen Trenary, Assistant Rector
jen@stjohns-lancaster.org

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

VESTRY

Mary Waskowicz (Senior Warden), Leslie Morgan (Junior Warden),
Nick DiPace, Andy Welaish, John Modene
Liz West, Ted Loose, Kathy Kyper

DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Drew Dorgan, Webb Cook,
David Rutledge, Heather Trenary, Sue Heilman

STAFF

Douglas Beach, Minister of Music & Communications
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper
John Knouse, Property Manager
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Ellia Osofsky, Nursery Care

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