

Advent Lessons & Carols



Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022 | 10:30 AM



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28)
This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available from the ushers and a professionally staffed nursery is available from 7:45 AM to 11:45 AM. Follow the signs or ask any member for directions.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and the pastors will be happy to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen. Individual wired devices coming soon!



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor
Vicar Naeem Harry, Intern
Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music
Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator
Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator
Andrew Schanstra, Livestream Coordinator
Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation
Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton
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We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes.
For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

The Recorder Choir

- II. Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland
- III. Wachtet auf ruft uns die Stimme
- IV. Vom Himmel hoch da komme ich her

WELCOME

Please stand.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 259 Fling Wide the Door



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, in this Advent season, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with our hymns and carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity within the Church for which he died; and for protection for all in this city and in this nation.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**



YOU WILL KNOW THAT
THE LORD IS COMING
TO SAVE US AND IN
THE MORNING YOU
WILL SEE HIS GLORY.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:1–24

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸They heard the sound of the Lord GOD walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden.

⁹But the Lord GOD called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the Lord GOD said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The Lord GOD said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers, he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,

“I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷And to the man he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the Lord GOD made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them. ²²Then the Lord GOD said, “See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” — ²³therefore the Lord GOD sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

St. John's Choir

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkës finden written
In their book.
Nor had one apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Then had never Our Lady
A-been heaven's queen.
Blessed be the time
That apple taken was.
Therefore we may singen
Deo gratias!

Traditional 15th Century English

SECOND LESSON Matthew 3:1–12

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

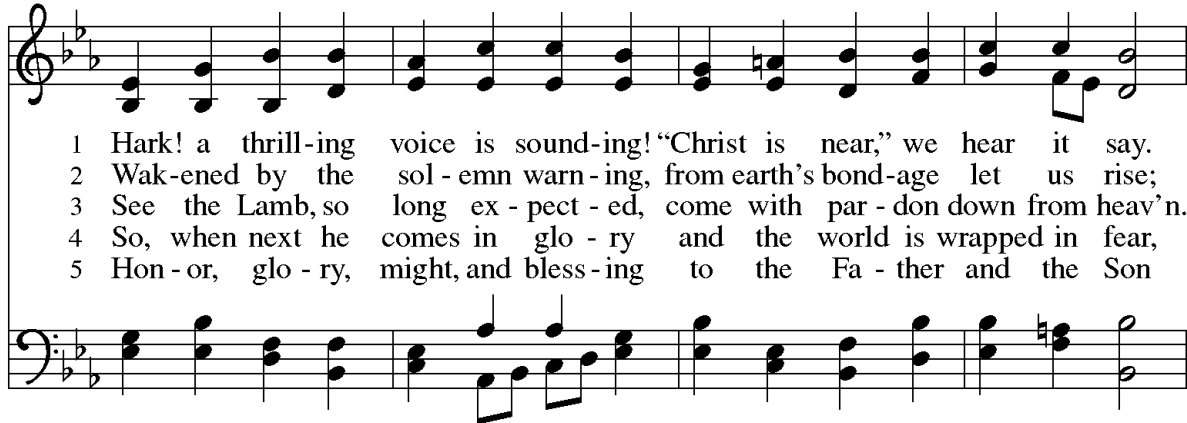
⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even 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.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

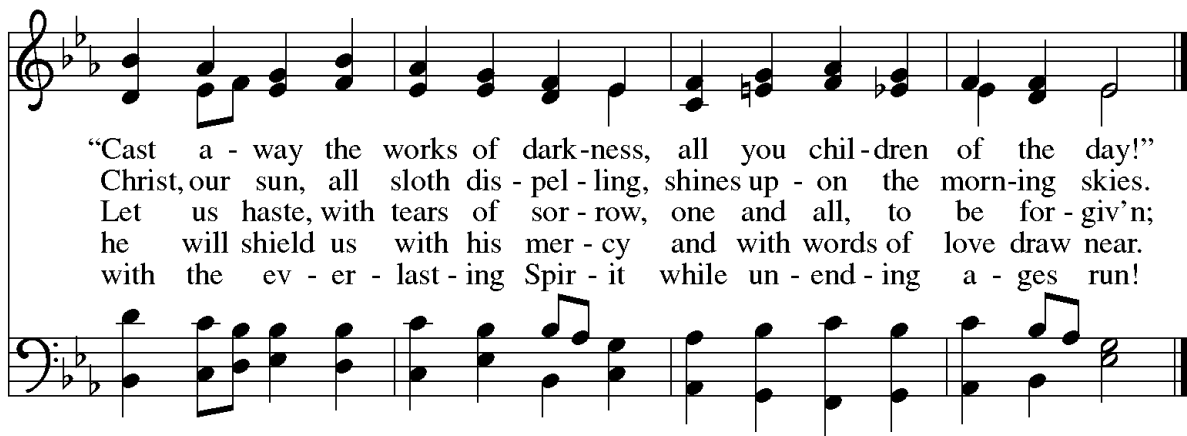
Please stand.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL ELW 246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Verse 1: All Verse 2: Upper voices Verse 3: Lower voices Verse 4: Choir only Verse 5: All



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, come with par-don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo-ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son



"Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all, to be for-giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer-cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev-er-last-ing Spir-it while un-end-ing a-ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Please be seated.

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 40:3-11

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get 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!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He 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.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL ELW 255 There's a Voice in the Wilderness



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988
 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1–9

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

CHOIR CAROL Sing a Little Song

Paul Whitaker

St. John's Children's Choir

Sing a little song of joy and gladness,
sing a little song of peace and love,
sing a little song to tell the world about our God above.

Sing a little song of his great mercy,
sing a little song of prayer and praise,
sing a little song to Father, God, our voices raise.

He hears our song,
our every little prayer,
he knows our need,
he's with us everywhere.

Sing a little song of hope and comfort,
Sing a little song of faith and power,
Sing a little song to worship God this hour,
God of peace, god of joy, god of love.

Sing a little song...

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26–38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CHOIR CAROL Mary's Magnificat

Andrew Carter

St. John's Choir Rachel Clark, soprano

Softly the light is stealing,
sweetly a maiden sings
ever wakeful, ever wistful
watching faithfully, thankfully,
tenderly her king of kings.

My soul doth magnify,
doth magnify the Lord
and my spirit hath rejoiced
in God my Savior.

Mary sang to Jesus,
softly the Lady sings,
I will love you, I will serve you,
make my lullaby
glorify, magnify the King of Kings
Lullaby, lullaby, lullaby

Andrew Carter



Please stand.

SIXTH LESSON John 1:1–18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL ELW 490 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Verse 1: All Verse 2: Upper voices Verse 3: Lower voices Verse 4: All



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

COLLECT

Let us pray. O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present monetary, food, and other offerings for God's mission and this congregation's ministry. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC Hornpipe


The Luther Ringers

John S. Dixon

Please stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN ELW 258 Unexpected and Mysterious

Verse 3



3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the
com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -
sion for each frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us
in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we
watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961
Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984
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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

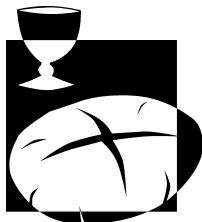
The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and', 'might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -', 'san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.', 'Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -', and 'san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



Please be seated.

COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

*The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.
The vicar serves the wine from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.*

The assisting minister serves the wine/grape juice in pre-filled individual cups.

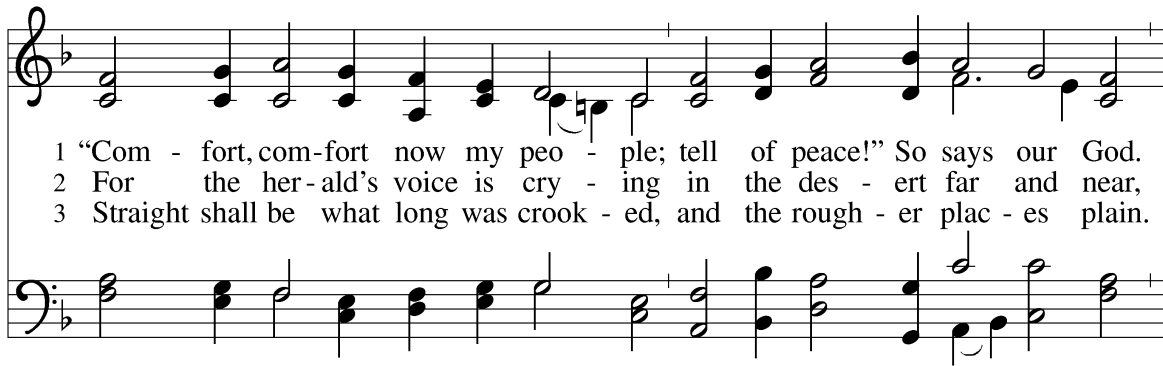
All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



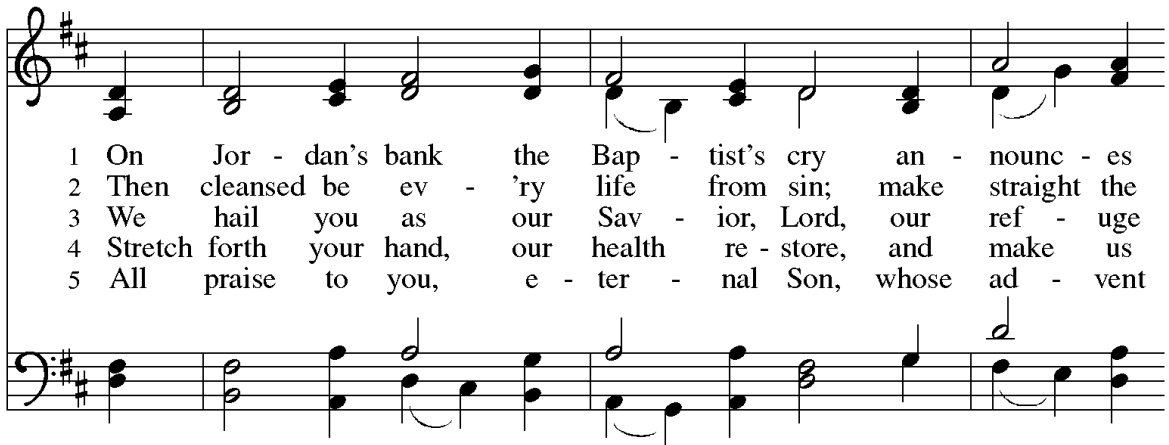
To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

SEVENTH LESSON Revelation 21:1–7, 22:12–13, 16–17, 20

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

¹²See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” ¹⁶It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” ¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let everyone who hears say, “Come.” And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.” ²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

ADVENT RESPONSORY I Look from Afar

Anthony Piccolo

St. John’s Choir

I look from afar:
and lo, I see the power of God coming,
and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say:
Tell us, if thou he that should come to rule thy people Israel?
All ye inhabitants of the earth and ye children of earth,
go ye out to meet him and say:
Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel:
Thou that leadest Joseph like a flock.
Tell, if thou art he,
Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors:
and the King of glory shall come in
who shall reign over the people of Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.

Advent Matins Responsory, adapt. by John Uhrig

Please stand.

COLLECT AND BLESSING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the † Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 435 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

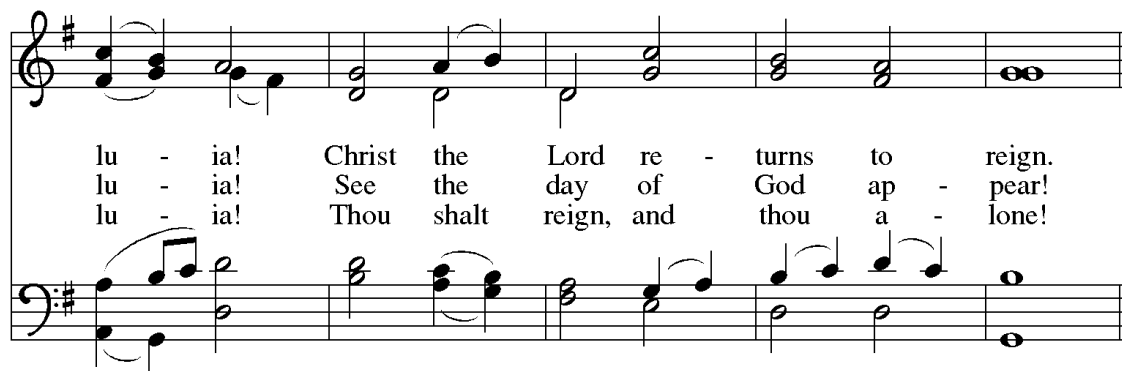
1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
 claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
 Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

J.S. Bach



Advent & Christmas Schedule

December 11	3 rd Sunday in Advent (Gaudete) 8:00 & 10:30 AM Intergenerational Advent Activities at 9:00 AM Dinner Church at 6:00 PM
December 18	4 th Sunday in Advent 8:00 & 10:30 AM Intergenerational Advent Activities at 9:00 AM Decorating the Church Caroling at 4:00 PM
December 20	Blue Christmas at 7:00 PM
December 24	Christmas Eve 4:40 PM Brass & Organ Festival Prelude 5:00 PM Candlelight Communion with Brass 9:40 PM Choir & Organ Festival Prelude 10:00 PM Candlelight Communion with Brass
December 25	Christmas Day 10:30 AM
January 1	Christmas 1 10:30 AM

December 4, 2022

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Shirley Paulson by the Miller and McNulty families.

2023 Pledge Update: We have received **71 pledges** for a total of **\$380,720** toward our goal of **\$480,000**, and World Hunger pledges are **\$15,120**. Please submit your 2023 pledge today!

Advent Faith Formation, TODAY at 9:00 AM. It will include singing carols, a short lesson, seasonal crafts, and snacks. All ages are welcome to join in the fun!

Children's Choir rehearsal TODAY, 9:30 to 10:00 AM in the Choir Room.

Advent Devotionals, "Naming Jesus," World Hunger devotions, and Advent calendars can be picked up in the narthex. We also have an Advent Calendar on St. John's Facebook.

Advent Sale running through **December 18** in the chapel.

The Mitten Tree: We are collecting hats, mittens, scarves, and winter apparel for St. Stephan's-Grace, Newark. Bring in new/gently-used items to help our neighbors in need.

LSM Christmas Gifts We are again partnering with LSMNJ to support children and seniors in affordable housing. Purchase gift cards (Walmart, Target or grocery stores) and bring to church by **December 11**. Suggested amount is \$50, or you may purchase gifts from LSMNJ's Christmas Gift List. Please take a notecard from the bulletin board in the narthex with gift information and print your name on the corresponding gift list. Bring unwrapped gifts to church by **December 11**. For any additional questions, contact Helen Dachowicz.

Christmas decorations: Recommended donations of \$25-\$100 are appreciated, but we will receive donations of any amount. To be included in the Christmas worship bulletins, dedications must be received in the church office by **December 11**. Sign up in the rear entryway.

Christmas Bridges Donations: On **Sunday, December 18 at 9:00 AM** we will have a fun intergenerational event packing 200 sustainable lunches. Sign up in the narthex or online to donate items, which must be delivered to church by **8:00 AM on December 18**.

Intergenerational Christmas Choir will sing at the 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service. Open to all children (4+), youth, and adults. The choir will rehearse on Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM. We will learn the carol at Faith Formation on Sundays at 9:00 AM.

Cross Roads is currently accepting applications for their Summer 2023 staff. They are a professional, vibrant and close-knit community that is hired from mid-June to late-August. Visit www.crossroadsretreat.com to apply.

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, our Nursery Attendant, will be retiring at the end of this year after 44 years of faithful service. The Christmas Eve 5:00 PM service will be Anne's last day serving among us. We will hold a **Retirement Celebration for Anne on January 15, 2023**. More details about the celebration and ways for you to express your gratitude will be forthcoming. In the meantime, thank Anne for her amazing commitment to our congregation and saying unequivocally "Well done, good and faithful servant of God."