



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020
9:00AM

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!
WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

FACEBOOK LIVE ON ST. JOHN'S
CONFERENCE CALL: (978) 990-5000; ACCESS CODE: 893082

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

(Per the Bishop, currently we will not be singing during services)

PRELUDE

ORGAN PROCESSIONAL

(please stand as you are able)

Veni Emmanuel

THE INTROIT

Our King and Savior now draws near.

Come let us adore him.

Lord, grant us your light, that being rid of the darkness of our hearts, we may come to the true light which is in Christ.

Amen

THE TRISAGION

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I

am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: 89: 1-4, 19-26, *Misericordias Domini*

- 1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

- 20 I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 16: 25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1: 26-38

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Christ

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The

angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The 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. And 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then 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.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev'd. Mark Brown

THE NICENE CREED (*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE*)

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. 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

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop(s) Andrew, Allen and Mary; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed especially for those who have died from complications due to COVID-19 or other illness.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those who suffer from any grief, trouble, or illness especially for **Mother Rhoda, Fr. Roy Cole, Arthur Ellwell, Trevor Chase, Jennifer Sprosty, John Owens, Fr. Free, Nelly Johnson, Rev. Roslyn Dimerson, Maggie White, Violet Cheeks and all those on our prayer list** and for all who are suffering from Covid-19.

Silence

I ask your prayers of thanksgiving for **Kimberly Holder, Samantha Kline, Patricia Norton, Jasmine Salomon, Eileen Kline, Eleanor Romano, Diane Sprosty** and all others celebrating birthdays; or anniversaries this week.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored and whom we remember today. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION

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.

THE ABSOLUTION

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING A

The Lord be with you.
And also 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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfilment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations. 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, 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.

The Celebrant continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues:

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.*

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.

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast, Alleluia!

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

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.

THE COMMUNION

*Note: As mandated by The Bishop, only the Celebrant will administer Communion (Bread Only). The Clergy's hands have been properly washed and sanitized.
Please wait to be directed.*

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

ORGAN RECESSIONAL

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Celebrant and Preacher The Rev'd. Mark Brown

Organist Stephen Hetzel

Cantor Richard Sigona

Lector Hunter Jordan

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSISTANCE OR PASTORAL CARE – during these challenging and difficult times, we know things can be difficult. If you or a family member may be in need of assistance, have a prayer request or require pastoral care, please contact a member of The Vestry or call the **Parish Office at (718) 447-1605**.

WEEKLY EVENING PRAYER – please join us each Thursday night from 7pm-7:30pm for Evening Prayer via Conference Call. To access the call, please dial **(978) 990-5000; Access Code: 893092**. The service bulletin is sent via email and posted on the St. John's website at www.stjohnssi.org under Service Schedule.

SUNDAY SERVICES – Sunday Services will be held at **9:00 AM** only until further notice. Please share your concerns and feedback to The Vestry.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – will be held at **4:00 PM on Thursday, December 24, 2020**. There will be no Christmas Day Service.

OFFERINGS & PLEDGES – We thank you for your continued pledge/offering/contributions to St. John's Church. Please continue to mail in your pledge and offering as you are able to. Your faithfulness, stewardship in the life and ministry of the church is greatly appreciated.

Mail-in: St. John's Church, 1333 Bay Street, Staten Island, NY 10305 Attn: Mrs. Carol Thaten.

Electronic/On-line: You can safely and easily set-up your electronic/online pledge/offering via St. John's Paypal account. Please use the link below to set-up your account today! <https://www.stjohnssi.org/give-online-now>

**ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE INTER-PARISH COUNCIL
(STATEN ISLAND EPISCOPAL CHURCHES)**

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Sunday, December 20 at 4:00 pm

Zoom Lessons and Carols offered by St. Mary's Church and Choir
(music will be pre-recorded).

Zoom link will be sent closer to the event.

All are welcome!

IPC VIRTUAL SERVICE

Sunday, January 10 at 4:00 pm

Joint prayer service for the victims of Covid-19.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3264594632?pwd=aXdPRk5tR2RZRmQ2YU91R0k2TUJ0dz09>

Meeting ID: 326 459 4632

Passcode: DB9mD7

THE WAY OF LOVE DURING THIS ADVENT SEASON

During this pandemic year, we may not be able to worship and fellowship in person, however, we continue to be THE CHURCH each day, especially now as we are approaching the first Sunday in Advent. For the season of Advent, let us continue our journey through the Way of Love offered by Bishop Michael Curry. At the beginning of each week, we will share with you and allow you to explore and reflect. In the Gospel of Luke, the readings provide a pattern for understanding how we can live the Way of Love as individuals, as family and friends, as a community (virtually) and in the world (once it's safe). Each week, I invite you to take a moment to reach each of the below sessions as we all prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Advent Four (Sunday, December 20)

The Birth of Jesus: Journeying with the World

The Vestry

*Michael Adams, Ray Gant, Susan Abraham-Jacob
Vivian Murray, David Sprosty, Agnes Trinity*

*Treasurer, Carol Thaten
Assistant Treasurer, Elyne Padmore*

