



St. John's Episcopal Church
Hear the Spirit ~ See God's Beauty ~ Act in Love

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025 10am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude Psalm 116 *Ik hev den Heer lief* Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

THE WORD OF GOD

All stand to sing the

Opening Hymn #429 *I'll praise my maker while I've breath*

OLD 113TH

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Collect for Purity

The Kyrie S-91

All remain standing to sing the

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

insert

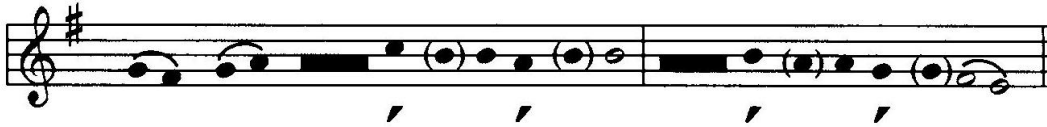
Presider The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

insert

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

Psalm 146 *Lauda, anima mea* *Tone VII.1*



- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jácob fór their help! *
whose hope is ín the LÓRD their Gód;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and áll that is ín them; *
who keeps his prómise for évër;
- 6 Who gives justice to thóse who áre oppressed, *
and food to thóse who húngër.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eýes of thé blind; *
the LORD lifts up thóse who are bówed döwn;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cáres for the stránger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the wáy of the wíckëd.
- 9 The LORD shall réign for évër, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hállélújäh! [Ant.]

The Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

insert

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

Sequence Hymn #71 *Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes*

BRISTOL

*Verses 1 -3 will be sung before the reading of the Gospel.
Verse 4 will be sung after the reading.*

The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

insert

Presider The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Following the Gospel

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rector

The Nicene Creed

**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.



Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Bridget, Lyn, Megan, Markus, Cecilia, Elizabeth, Lin, David, Alicia and Renee and all those we now name either silently or aloud.

Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Minister and People

**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 Priest stands and says

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

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

All are invited to exchange greetings of peace.

Welcome and Announcements of our Ministries

The Rector

Offertory Hymn #73 *The King shall come when morning dawns*

ST. STEPHEN



During the Offertory Hymn, our ushers will pass the collection plate. You are welcome to make an offering by leaving cash or a check in the plate, or by scanning the QR code to donate online via Tithe.ly.

Whether you are able to support our ministry financially or not, please know that you are invited to full participation in this church on exactly the same terms and conditions as God's grace and love: completely free of charge.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

The Presider gives thanks to God, continuing until the words

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

The Sanctus S-114

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth -

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Presider continues the Eucharistic Prayer, continuing until the words

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory.

The Presider continues the Eucharistic Prayer, continuing until the words

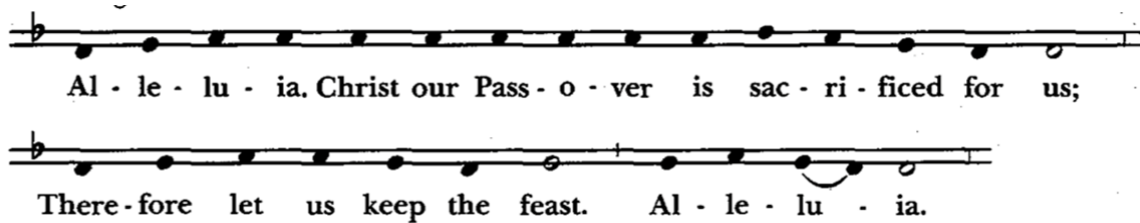
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.



Communion Anthem *The day is surely drawing near*

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

All who seek to receive Christ in the sacrament of this meal are welcome to partake of the bread and wine. Please come to the altar up the center aisle and return to your pew down the side aisles. You are welcome to receive both the bread and the wine, bread only, or a blessing. To receive the bread, stand or kneel at the altar rail and the priest will place the host in your hands. The wine is available either from the common cup, or in individually pre-packaged containers on small tables at either end of the altar rail. To receive the wine from the pre-packaged cup, open the foil seal at the top of the container, drink the wine, and place the empty cup into the basket.

The Postcommunion Prayer *Please stand as able.*

Presider Let us pray.

People **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

Closing Hymn #615 *"Thy kingdom come!"*

ST. FLAVIAN

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Nun freut euch lieber Christen G'mein*

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

The flowers on the altar today were arranged by Nancy Armstrong

Ministers Serving Today:

The Rev. Greg Johnston, Presider

Douglas Witte, Organist and Choir Director

Julianne Gearhart, Vestry Person of the Day

Catherine Womack and August Holbrook-Smith, Readers

Alice Krapf, Intercessor

Duncan Holbrook-Smith, Chalice

Catherine Womack and Paul Newell, Ushers

Catherine Womack, Altar Guild

Laura Carroll, Barbara Bush and Simon Ringrose, Coffee Hour Hosts

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A special thank you to Douglas and the choir, to the readers, and to the refreshment hosts and contributors – each of whom made last evening's beautiful service of Lessons and Carols a very, very special occasion.

This year's Christmas Pageant is a few characters short, so Ms. Nancy is hoping some of our adult members would be willing to help out. All are welcome so if you've been craving the chance to do some low-stakes amateur theater, or you just want to have some light-hearted fun as an innkeeper or a Magus, you're invited to be a part of this year's pageant!

Congratulations and blessings to the Rev. Michael Fenn, who was ordained a deacon at St. John's in Powell, Wyoming on Sunday. This is the next step in Michael's process of ordination to the priesthood, which will take place in about six months. St. John's is blessed to have been part of this journey.

Sunday, December 21

Christmas Pageant at the 10 am service

Wednesday, December 24 ~ 4pm

Holy Eucharist for Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 25 ~ 10am

Holy Eucharist for Christmas Day

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

27 Devens Street, Charlestown, MA 02129

617-242-1272 | stjohns02129@gmail.com | www.stjohns02129.org

The Rev. Gregory Johnston, Rector

Mr. Douglas Witte, Organist and Choirmaster

Ms. Nancy Savage, Godly Play Teacher

Ms. Priscilla Burns, Parish Administrator

Mr. Brian O'Neill, Sexton

Mr. Nathan Gunsch and Mr. Simon Ringrose, Warden