

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



The Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025 10am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude Variations on the chorale *Nun komm ver Heiden Heiland*
Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748) and Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow (1663-1712)

THE WORD OF GOD

All stand to sing the

Opening Hymn #67 *Comfort, comfort ye my people*

PSALM 42

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 11:1-10

insert

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

Psalm 72 *Deus, judicium*

Tone I.1



- 1 Give *thē* King your *jú*stice, Ó God, *
and your righteousness / to the Kíng's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your *pé*ople *rí*ghteously *
and the / poor with *jú*stice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity *tó* the *pé*ople, *
and the little / hills bring *rí*ghteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy *amóng* the *pé*ople; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush / the opprēssor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the *sún* and *mó*on endure, *
from one generation / to *ánö*ther.
- 6 He shall come down like rain *upón* the *mó*wn field, *
like showers that / water *thē* earth.
- 7 In his time shall the *rí*ghteous *fló*urish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the / moon shall *bē* no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the *Gód* of Ísrael, *
who a/lone does *wö*ndrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious *Ná*me for *é*ver! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
/ Amen. *Ä*men. [Ant.]

The Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13

insert

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

Sequence Hymn #76 *On Jordans' bank the Baptist's cry*

WINCHESTER NEW

Verses 1 -3 will be sung before the reading of the Gospel.

Verses 4 and 5 will be sung after the reading.

The Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

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. We pray especially for Michael Fenn, who will be ordained today.

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 #616 *Hail to the Lord's anointed* ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVOGELEIN



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

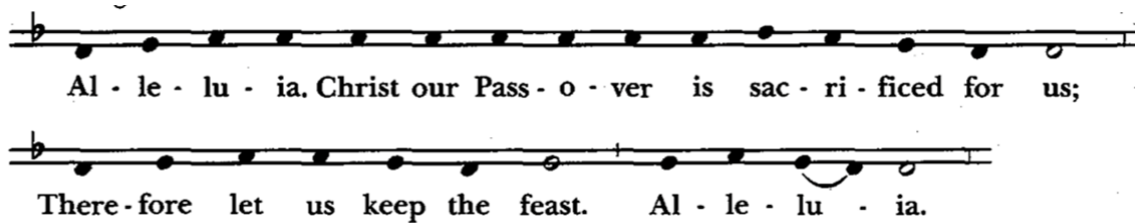
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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 *Savior of the nations, come!* From *Erfurt Enchiridia* 1524

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.

Junior Choir Anthem *I will walk with Jesus* Stephen Schank (b.1967)

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 #444 *Blessed be the God of Israel*

THORNBURY

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* Georg Friedrich Kauffmann (1679-1735)

Ministers Serving Today:

The Rev. Greg Johnston, Presider
Douglas Witte, Organist and Choir Director
Matt Hast, Vestry Person of the Day
Paul and Maggie Tompros, Readers
Louis Tompros, Intercessor
Kate Gunsch, Chalice
Cary Cox and George Born, Ushers
Cary Cox, Altar Guild

Jen DiManno, Elizabeth Hay and Louise Ambler Osborn, Coffee Hour Hosts
Abby and Nate Bresler, Augusta and Everett Fry and Iggy Gunnsch, Junior Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to our Junior Choir, to their director, Nancy Armstrong and their accompanist, Steve Finch for their beautiful offering this morning!

Later this morning, our dear friend Michael Fenn will be ordained to the transitional diaconate at St. John's Episcopal Church in Powell, Wyoming. Please keep Michael in your prayers.

Please consider making a Christmas flower donation in memory or in honor of loved ones or in thanksgiving for special gifts. Envelopes and donation slips are available at the back of the church and at coffee hour.

Once again, we are gathering Christmas toys for a family of three through the Kennedy Center. A wish list with tear-off tabs is on the kitchen counter – please take a tab at coffee hour and return unwrapped gifts to the Parish House by the end of the **day this coming Thursday, December 11.**

Our 2026 budget will be created based on pledges received, so if you have not yet submitted your pledge for 2026, please send it this week if at all possible so that we can begin the budget process for next year.

Join us this Friday at 7pm for Evensong!

Wednesday, December 10 ~ starting at 5pm

Stop by the St. John's table Charlestown's Holiday Night Out

Friday, December 12 ~ 7pm

Evensong

Saturday, December 13 ~ 5pm

Lessons and Carols

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