



ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise, welcome, and serve:**

- to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
- to **praise** God in all things,
- to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
- to **serve** the needs of one another and of those on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Elaine Hewes, Priest in Charge

The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Reece, Celebrant

Connie Mayo, Music Director

Advent 3

December 14, 2025

The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant: We acknowledge that the land we now occupy is the ancestral home of the Wabanaki People. We grieve the history of greed and violence that led to their loss of life, land, language and culture.

Congregation: **We pray for the courage to find ways to support our indigenous neighbors who still face injustice and prejudice. May we always remember, as do the Wabanaki peoples, that the Earth does not belong to us; rather, we belong to the Earth.**

The bell is rung three times

Prelude: *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*

H. Walcha

Silence is begun and ended with a ring of the bell

Opening Hymn 59 *Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding (verses 1-4, back of bulletin)*

Opening Acclamation:

Celebrant: Hear us, O never-failing Light,

Lord our God, our only Light, the Fountain of Light,
the Light of your angels, thrones, dominions,
principalities, powers, and of all the beings of this world;
you have created the light of your saints,
the bright cloud of witnesses around us.

Congregation: **May our Souls be your lamps, kindled and illumined by you.**

**May they shine and burn with your truth,
and never go out in darkness and ashes.**

May we be your dwelling, shining from you,

**shining in you;
May we worship you always.**

From Ancient Mozarabic Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candle

Celebrant: We light this candle for all God's messengers, preparing the way for change, signs pointing to a new age to come.

Congregation: **God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope, give joy.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: May God be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

Congregation: **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat: Canticle 15 S-242 (*back of bulletin*)

Second Lesson Letter of James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 272 *The great forerunner of the morn (verses 1-4, in back of bulletin)*

The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Congregation: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'
"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."
Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.
Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Reece

Silence will be commenced and ended with the sounding of a bell.

Apostles Creed

**We believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: Holy God, help us to move through this Advent season seeking to shine your love into the world as we await your word made flesh in a baby born in a manger.

We lift our prayers to you, saying, "For your love's sake, hear our prayer."

We pray for the holy Church of God to be a light for all creation, a place of healing and reconciliation embodying the love of Christ to a hurting world.

Congregation: **For your love's sake, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all bishops, ministers, and spiritual leaders, especially we pray for our Presiding Bishop, Sean, Thomas, our Bishop, and all priests and deacons who serve our churches.

Congregation: **For your love's sake, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all those in authority in the world that they might work together to seek justice for all people. Give them compassion and wisdom to lead.

Congregation: **For your love's sake, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Increase in us the power to serve, to feed the hungry, to comfort the sick, to welcome the stranger, to house those that need shelter.

Congregation: **For your love's sake, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all those suffering from any illness or pain, from mental anguish or anxiety, for those feeling alone and unloved, may they know God's compassion and healing.

Congregation: **For your love's sake, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for those who have died that they may rest in your eternal peace that passes all understanding.

Congregation: **For your love's sake, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Please add your prayers and thanksgivings.

Members of the congregation are invited to add prayers and thanksgivings at this time.

Leader: Do any of you on Zoom wish to add prayers and thanksgivings?

Leader and Congregation: **Open our hearts to the cries of the world, give us strength and courage to serve those in need of the light of your love that we might witness to your power to bring joy and hope. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Congregation: **Most Holy God,
in the midst of this season of listening and waiting, we confess:
We have resisted the light of your love;
we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and
we have not treasured the gifts of others around us.
We stand in need of your love.
Holy Father, make us holy.
Holy Jesus, make us holy.
Holy Spirit, make us holy.
Holy God, make us whole. Amen.**

Celebrant: Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, hear this good news:
God's mercy is wider than our transgressions.
God's love is deeper than our fear.
God's longing for our wholeness is stronger than our resistance.
We have been freed by grace to be God's people in the world.
Let our lives reflect the light entrusted to us,
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

The Peace

Leader: Peace within yourself.
Peace with Creation.
Peace with you who are with us remotely today.
Peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

The people exchange the peace

The Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn WLP 794 *Many are the lightbeams (in back of bulletin)*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing

Sanctus

Sanctus

Words: Liturgical traditional
Music: John L. Bell

Sanc - tus, sanc - tus, sanc - tus, Do - mi - nus,
Sanc - tus, Do - mi - nus,

Sanc - tus, sanc - tus

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The top line is a vocal melody in treble clef, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'Sanc - tus, sanc - tus, sanc - tus, Do - mi - nus, Sanc - tus, Do - mi - nus,'. The bottom line is a bass accompaniment in bass clef, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'Sanc - tus, sanc - tus'.

De - us Sab - ba - oth, De - us Sab - ba - oth.
De - us Sab - ba - oth. De - us Sab - ba - oth.
De - us Sab - ba - oth. De - us Sab - ba - oth.

De - us, De - us.

Detailed description: This system contains the second and third lines of music. The top line is a vocal melody in treble clef, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'De - us Sab - ba - oth, De - us Sab - ba - oth. De - us Sab - ba - oth. De - us Sab - ba - oth.' repeated three times. The bottom line is a bass accompaniment in bass clef, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'De - us, De - us'.

Ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra, ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra,
Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,
Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of music. The top line is a vocal melody in treble clef, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'Ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra, ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra, Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li, Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,'. The bottom line is a bass accompaniment in bass clef, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,'.

Music © WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, UK.

ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri - a tu - a.

Ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra, ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra,

Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri - a tu - a.

Celebrant: Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

Congregation: **Amen.**

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Congregation:

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 for ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem

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

Congregation: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread. United by the power of the Holy Spirit in our midst, we acknowledge the Holy Sacrament of communion and the fullness of Christ's presence in the gifts of the bread and the wine and in countless other ways in our lives. As a community of faith, nothing can separate us from the love of God nor are we separated from one another.**

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God ...

Those gathered at St. Brendan receive the bread and wine

Celebrant: And now may the Presence of Jesus, in whatever form it has come to you this morning, nourish you in grace, comfort you in love, and inspire you to be Christ's presence in the world.

Post Communion Prayer

Congregation:

**We give thanks, O Lord, for these
heavenly gifts;**

**kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when Christ comes again**

**We may shine as light before
his face;**

who is alive and reigns now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

May the light of Christ
hold you, uphold you,
pursue and renew you.
So to fill and instill in you
Light you might carry
Into the world God so loves.
In the name of the Father,
The Son and the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Sending Hymn 72 *Hark the glad sound! the Savior comes (in back of bulletin)*

Postlude: *Helmsley*

T. A. Arne

Announcements

Dismissal

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Prayers of the People written by Emily Blair Stribling

Post Communion Prayer from the Church of England © The Archbishop's Council 2000, published by Church House Publishing

Giving our Priorities Shape (GPS) Action

Love in Action

Slow Down. Quiet. It's Advent.

Thinking about Elaine's sermon and Tony Stoneburner's Annunciation poem this past Sunday, let us consider what keeps us from hearing, listening, seeing, acting to share God's love with our neighbors near and far. Are we too busy, distracted by our phones, fearful of risk, resigned, overwhelmed? Try to wake up each day to a decision to bring joy to someone somewhere in some small way.

And don't forget, one more Vespers to attend, December 17, 5 PM

CALENDAR

All services and meetings will be held both in-person and via Zoom unless otherwise designated.

Monday, December 15	4:30 p.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (Zoom)
Wednesday, December 17	10:00 a.m. In-person meditation 10:30 a.m. Advent Bible Study 3:45 p.m. Choir rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Advent Vespers - Jonny Wheaton, reflector
Sunday, December 21	9:30 a.m. Gathering at the Meditation Garden 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Emily Blair Stribling presiding 11:15 a.m. Christmas Pageant

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, December 24	4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Carols and Lessons with Pastor Elaine Hewes presiding
Sunday, January 11, 2026	3:00 p.m. Walking the Camino de Santiago Jane Lachance
Monday, February 2, 2026	6:00 p.m. Feast of the Presentation at Memorial Garden followed by soup and drink in the parish hall

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding *The Hymnal 1982*, #59

Descant

2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
5 Hon- or, glo- ry, might, and bless- ing to the Fa- ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill- ing voice is sound- ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex- pect- ed, comes with par- don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with 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,

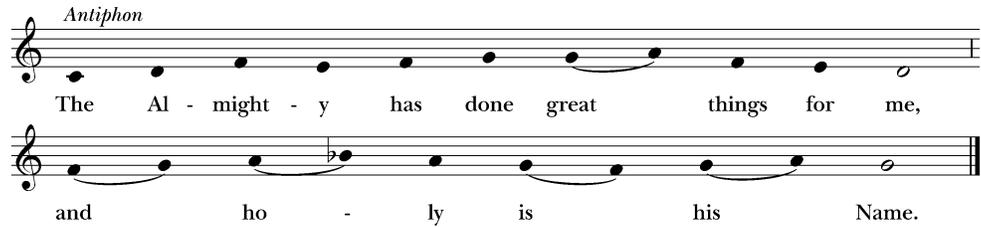
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis- pel- ling, shines up- on the morn- ing skies.
5 with the ev- er- last- ing Spi- rit while un- end- ing a- ges run.

1 "Cast a- way the works of dark- ness, O ye child- ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis- pel- ling, shines up- on the morn- ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor- row, one and all to be for- given;
4 may he with his mer- cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev- er- last- ing Spi- rit while un- end- ing a- ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935).

Canticle 15, The Song of Mary: *Magnificat* *The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #242*

Antiphon



The Al - might - y has done great things for me,
and ho - ly is his Name.

1. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices
in God my Sav - ior; for he has looked with favor on his
low - ly ser - vant. 2. From this day all generations will
call me bless - ed: the Almighty has done great things for me,
and ho - ly is his Name. 3. He has mercy on those who fear him
in every gen - er - a - tion. 4. He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their con - ceit. 5. He has cast down
the might - y from their thrones, and has lifted up the low - ly.
6. He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich he has sent a - way
emp - ty. 7. He has come to the help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el,
for he has remembered his promise of mer - cy, 8. The promise he
made to our fa - thers, to Abraham and his children for ev - er. [Ant.]

Return and repeat Antiphon

The great forerunner of the morn *The Hymnal 1982, #272*

Unison or harmony

1 The great fore - run - ner of the morn, the
 2 With heaven - ly mes - sage Ga - briel came, that
 *3 John, still un - born, yet gave a - right his
 4 His might - y deeds ex - alt his fame to
 *5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and

1 her - ald of the Word, is born; and faith - ful hearts shall
 2 John should be that her - ald's name, and with pro - phet - ic
 3 wit - ness to the com - ing light; and Christ, the Sun of
 4 great - er than a pro - phet's name; of wo - man born shall
 5 God the Spi - rit, Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and

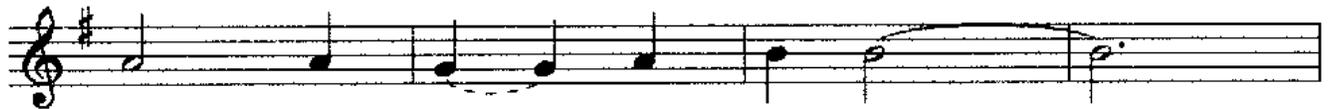
1 nev - er fail with thanks and praise his light to hail.
 2 ut - terance told his ac - tions great and man - i - fold.
 3 all the earth, ful - filled that wit - ness at his birth.
 4 nev - er be a great - er pro - phet than was he.
 5 glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: The Venerable Bede (673-735); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *The Truth From Above*, English melody; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Harmonization by permission of Oxford University Press.

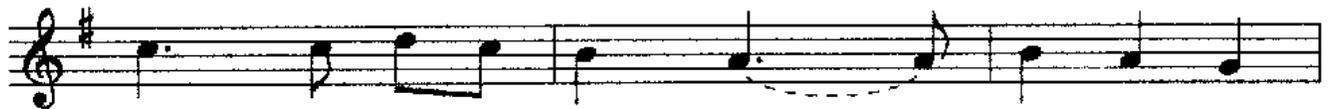
Many Are the Lightbeams



1. Man - y are the light - beams from the one light.
 2. Man - y are the branch - es of the one tree.
 3. Man - y are the gifts giv'n, love is all one.
 4. Man - y ways to serve God, the Spir - it is one;
 5. Man - y are the mem - bers, the bod - y is one;



Our one light is Je - sus.
 Our one tree is Je - sus.
 Love's the gift of Je - sus.
 ser - vant spir - it of Je - sus.
 mem - bers all of Je - sus.



Man - y are the light - beams from the one
 Man - y are the branch - es of the one
 Man - y are the gifts giv'n, love is all
 Man - y ways to serve God, the Spir - it is
 Man - y are the mem - bers, the bod - y is



light; we are one in Christ.
 tree; we are one in Christ.
 one; we are one in Christ.
 one; we are one in Christ.
 one; we are one in Christ.

Text: *De unitate ecclesiae*, Cyprian of Carthage, 252 A.D.; by Anders Frostenson © A-F Foundation Hymns and Songs
 Tune: Olle Widestrand ©; acc. by Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

Descant

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
 2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

arch - es ring with thy be - lov ed Name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Music: *Richmond*, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe, Jr. (1770-1843);
 harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)