

Saint John's Episcopal Church

First Sunday of Advent

November 30-December 1, 2024

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

The Prelude *Sleepers awake*

J.S. Bach

The Processional Hymn *Lo! Comes, with clouds descending*

The Hymnal 1982, 57

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Kyrie, at 5pm

Lord, have mercy. Kyrie eleison.

Christ, have mercy. or Christe eleison.

Lord, have mercy. Kyrie eleison.

The Kyrie, at 9:30am- *melody is sung three times; Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son!
ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son!
repeat Kyrie

Kyrie eleison, #13 from *My Heart Sings Out Music: Paraguayan*. Copyright © 1995 World Council of Churches. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

The collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that "collects" or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.

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 again in his glorious majesty 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.**

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In this prophetic lesson from the Hebrew scriptures the Lord's promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah is reaffirmed, foreseeing the arrival of a messianic figure, a righteous branch who will execute justice and save the people. Christians have interpreted this passage as a prophecy regarding Christ.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise, I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

The Response, Psalm 25:1-9

Ad te, Domine, levavi

This is a prayer for forgiveness and guidance and an expression of trust in the Lord.

Tone VIII.1



1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my / trust in you;*
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies / triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be / put to shame;*
let the treacherous be disap/pointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your / ways, O LORD,*
and / teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and / teach me,*
**for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted / all the day long.**

5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and / love,*
for they are from / everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my trans/gressions;*
**remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your / goodness, O LORD.**

7 Gracious and upright is the / LORD;*
therefore he teaches / sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in / doing right*
and teaches his way / to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the LORD are love and / faithfulness*
to those who keep his covenant and his / testimonies.

The Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

In this New Testament reading the apostle Paul expresses gratitude to God for his disciples in Thessalonica and tells these followers of his prayers for them.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

The Gradual Hymn *From east to west, from shore to shore*

The Hymnal 1982, 77

The Sequence/ Gradual hymn, moves us toward the summit of the Liturgy of the Word. This is the reading of the Holy Gospel. Gospel means "good news of Jesus."

The Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

The reading is taken from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We stand for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance placed on Jesus' words and actions.

Then, all standing, as able, and facing the Gospel,

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the

kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Alan R. Hesse

The Nicene Creed *The word "creed" comes from the Latin "credo" for "I believe." First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 ad and confirmed in 381 ad, the Nicene Creed is said at the Holy Eucharist and reflects what Christians believe regarding the relationship between the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit: The Holy Trinity.* *Enriching our Worship 1*

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified,
who 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, Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For our minister Alan. For all bishops and other ministers.

For all who serve God in God's Church.

I ask for your prayers of thanksgiving for those we remember in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: The Parishes of the Alewife Deanery: Church of Our Saviour (Arlington), St. John's Church (Arlington), Order of St. Anne & Bethany House of Prayer (Arlington), The Standing Committee, Brotherhood of St. Gregory: *Silence*

We pray for those on our prayer list: Mary, Christy, Brian, Steve, Charlie, Bruce, Dave, John, Joe, Leo, Sunny, Kim, Alannah, David, Mary Ann, Geraldine, Debbie, Melissa, Herb, David, Leah, Fr. Paul, Luke and Bruce.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *Please add your prayers silently or aloud.*

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Please add your thanksgivings silently or aloud.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence may be kept.*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

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

All stand, as able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory Anthem *Lo He comes with clouds descending*

by Owen

The Doxology

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give.

*Offertory Prayer at 5pm: **All things come to Thee O Lord and of Thy own have we given Thee.***

Offertory Hymn at 9:30am

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**



The Holy Eucharist Eucharistic Prayer B

In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: Thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving/Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts"

Celebrant *People*
 The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
 It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

The Hymnal 1982, S 125

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel, as able.

Then the Celebrant continues We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
 We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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 forever. **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.

The Fraction Anthem / The Breaking of the Bread

Said at 5pm, Sung at 9:30am

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.

Celebrant These are the gifts of God, for you the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Christ in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ, are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Please hold out your hand to receive the host.

You may ask for the chalice or receive the wine in the small cups offered to you in a tray.

If you prefer not to receive the wine, please cross your arms and wait for the minister to say "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."

As you return to your seats, deposit your cup in the place provided in a white pedestal table.

If you prefer to receive a blessing you may cross your arms across your chest.

If you would like to remain in your seat and receive communion, please let an usher know.

The Postcommunion Prayer

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

Welcome, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Celebrations and Announcements

The Recessional Hymn *Signs of ending all around us*

1 Signs of endings all around us—
darkness, death, and winter days
shroud our lives in fear and sadness,
numbing mouths that long to praise.
Come, O Christ, and dwell among us!
Hear our cries, come set us free.
Give us hope and faith and gladness.
Show us what there yet can be.

Wonder Love and Praise, 721

2 Can it be that from our endings,
new beginnings you create?
Life from death, and from our rendings,
realms of wholeness generate?
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them
into hopes for life anew:
Fading light and dying season
sing their Glorias to you.

3 Speak, O God, your Word among us.
Barren lives your presence fill.
Swell our hearts with songs of gladness,
terrors calm forebodings still.
Let your promised realm of justice
blossom now throughout the earth;
your dominion bring now near us;
we await the saving birth.

The Dismissal

Eucharistic Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude *Organ Voluntary*

Serving This Weekend

Celebrant: **The Reverend Alan R. Hesse**

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: **Lillian Woo** (5pm); **Greg Roche** (9:30am)

Lectors: **Jann Czarnetzki** (5pm); **Helen Miller** and **Sylvia Connor** (9:30am)

Musicians: **Misao Koyama** and **Choir**

Altar Guild: **Melissa Abbott, Jann Czarnetzki, and Judy Cohen**

Sunday School: **Will Hibbard** and **Mary Ames**

Ushers: **Mary Howe**

Hospitality: **Jeannie Johnson**

Announcements

Wreath decorating in the Parish Hall on Sunday, Dec. 1st from 12noon til 5pm. Come help decorate greenery for yourself, or for our sale. Be sure to pre-order your wreath via the form in the Parish Hall or call the office. Cost is \$30.00 per wreath. If you have a glue gun, glue sticks, wire cutters, and wire, kindly bring them with you. Much appreciated!

Brown Bag Bible Study meets again on Thursday, December 5 at 12 noon in the Parish House (161 Main Street). Bring your brown bag lunch and join us: **December 5** - Nazareth: A Place of Simplicity
December 12 – Bethlehem: A Place of Humility

You are invited to A White Christmas OPEN HOUSE at the home of Deb and Herb Roberts, 42 Yearling Run Road, Bourne, to benefit Tunnel to Towers and St. John's Episcopal Church. Come join the tour and see a spectacular over-the-top Christmas celebration, enjoy hot cider and cookies. . . .get inspired and meet Oliver and Jack: **December 1, 6/7/8, 13/14/15** Hours from 11am-4pm Friday and Saturday and Sundays 12-4pm. \$15 suggested donation at the door.

Women's Group meets on December 5 in the Parish Hall at 5pm. The topic for discussion will be "What to pray for". All are welcome to join us.

Vestry meets on Tuesday, December 10th at 7pm.

Prayer Shawl Group meets on Wednesday, December 11 at 2pm in the Parish House.

For your calendar: Christmas Caroling on Saturday, December 21 at Cape Heritage (Sandwich) 2pm; and Decatur House (Sandwich) at 3:30pm. All are welcome to meet us at one or both facilities. Please consider joining us!

St. John's Caring for Creation Committee is collecting recyclable cans and bottles with an eye toward donating proceeds to the church. Leave your cans and bottles in the collection bin in the Parish Hall or return your recyclables and place the cash/change in the collection jar in the Parish Hall. We greatly appreciate your donations however large or small.

Early Bird registration is open for the Barbara C. Harris Episcopal Camp and Conference Center for 2025. Visit bchcenter.org for more information and to register.

November 30-December 8, 2024

Saturday, Nov. 30

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, Dec. 1

9:30am Worship with Holy Eucharist and Sunday School

12noon Wreath Decorating, Parish Hall

Monday, Dec. 2

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall

11am Andover Organ, tuning technicians

Tuesday, Dec. 3

12noon AA, Parish Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 4

7pm Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall

Thursday, Dec. 5

12noon Brown Bag Lunch, Parish House

12noon AA, Undercroft

4:30pm Lasit Performing Arts, Church

5pm Women's Group, Parish Hall

6pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, Dec. 6

No activities scheduled

Saturday, Dec. 7

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, Dec. 8

9:30am Worship with Holy Eucharist and Sunday School

Hospitality following the service, Parish Hall

Vestry Members

Paul Coyle, *Senior Warden*
Ann Geary Roche, *Junior Warden*
Celia Bailey Ochoa, *Treasurer*
Lillian Woo, *Clerk*
Jeff Culty, *vestry*

Sandy Scannell, *vestry*
Kathy Uggerholt, *vestry*
Mary Ames, *vestry*
Deborah Roberts, *vestry*
Gregory B. Roche, *vestry*

Welcome to St. John's!

Whether this is your first visit to St. John's or you are a long-time member, please know that there is a warm welcome for you here!

Please feel free to participate fully in our service today and in the life of the parish. We are glad you have come and hope you leave feeling closer to God! At several points in the service, you may notice that some people are kneeling, some are standing and some are sitting. We are given this choice and you should feel free to do whichever is most appropriate for you. Please know that you are invited to fully participate in the Holy Eucharist as a Baptized Christian.

If you would like to know more about St. John's and may be interested in membership or interested in being placed on our email mailing list, please contact the church office.

Saint John's Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church of Sandwich Est. 1854

159 Main St, Sandwich, MA



Office Hours, Tues-Fri 9am-2pm

Parish Office 508-888-2828

Susan Sharpe, Parish Administrator parishadmin@sjchurchsandwich.org

Misao Koyama, Music Director music@sjchurchsandwich.org

The Rev. Alan R. Hesse, Rector; 508-505-5668 cell, Rector@StJohnsSandwich.org

