

# The First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

Holy Eucharist 9:30<sup>AM</sup>

*Hope*



## **St. John's Episcopal Church**

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570  
(914) 769-0053 [www.stjohnspleasantville.org](http://www.stjohnspleasantville.org)

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

## AN INVITATION TO THIS SERVICE

This service is taken from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. **Words printed in bold are spoken by the congregation.** All are welcome at Christ's table. We welcome baptized

Christians of any tradition to share in the bread and wine. If you have not yet been baptized, or would prefer to receive a blessing from the Priest, indicate this by crossing your arms over your heart.

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

### *PRELUDE*

### THE WORD OF GOD

✠ *Please stand as you are able and join in singing:*

### OPENING HYMN #74 VS 1, 2 & 3

“Blest be the king whose coming”

*Descant*

3 Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of  
God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of

1 Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of  
God! For him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him

2 Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of  
God! By those who tru - ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly

3 Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of  
God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of

4 Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of  
God! He of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they

God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All  
 barred! Not robed in roy - al splen - dor, in  
 heard; pi - ty the proud and haugh - ty, who  
 God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All  
 need. Gen - tle is he and hum - ble! And

things are in his hand, all a - ges and all  
 power and pomp, comes he; but clad as are the  
 have not learned to heed the Christ who is the  
 things are in his hand, all a - ges and all  
 light his yoke shall be, for he would have us

peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!  
 poor - est, such his hu - mil - i - ty!  
 Prom - ise, who has a - tone - ment made.  
 peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!  
 bear it so he can make us free!

### ANTHEM (LUCERNARIUM) AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING

*Celebrant:* You, O Lord, are my lamp; my God you make my darkness bright.

***People:* You, O Lord, are my lamp; my God you make my darkness bright.**

*Celebrant:* You have been my helper:

***People:* My God, you make my darkness bright.**

*Celebrant:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
***People:*** You, O Lord, are my lamp; my God, you make my darkness bright.  
*Celebrant:* Let my prayer be set forth, O Lord:  
***People:*** As incense in your sight.  
*Celebrant:* Come and save us, O Lord God of Hosts  
***People:*** Come and save us, Or Lord God of Hosts  
*Celebrant:* Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved:  
***People:*** O Lord God of Hosts  
*Celebrant:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit  
***People:*** Come and save us, Or Lord God of Hosts  
*Celebrant:* Show us your mercy, O Lord: .  
***People:*** And grant us your salvation.

## KYRIE

*missa de Sancta Magdalena, Healey Willan*

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**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 for ever. Amen.**

✠ *Please be seated for The Lessons.*

A READING FROM THE HEBREW TESTAMENT

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

*Read by: Peter Russell*

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."

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25: 1-9

*Led by: Peter Russell*

**1 To you, O Lord, \***

**I lift up my soul;**

**2 my God, I put my trust in you; \***

**let me not be humiliated,**

**nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

**3 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \***

**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

**4 Show me your ways, O Lord, \***

**and teach me your paths.**

**5 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.  
**6 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \***  
 for they are from everlasting.  
**7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \***  
 remember me according to your love  
 and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.  
**8 Gracious and upright are you, O Lord; \***  
 therefore you teach sinners in your way.  
**9 You guide the humble in doing right \***  
 and teach your way to the lowly  
 for ever and for evermore.

A READING FROM THE EPISTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS:

3: 9-13

*Read by: Peter Russell*

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..

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ *Please stand as you are able and join in singing:*

**SEQUENCE HYMN MHSO #53, VS.2 ONLY**

*Once he came in blessing*

2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us  
 from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:  
 not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 21: 25-36

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**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."

Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

✠ *Please be seated for:*

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius

✠ *Please stand as you are able and say:*

## 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.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM IV)

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. We pray for **Edwin Sanchez and the students at El Hogar School, and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.** We offer prayers of thanksgiving for all those who celebrate birthdays this week

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **John Williams, Frederic, Peter, Bob Gowen, Yumi, Ronald Garvey, Ed Meddaugh, Max, Anne, Cathy, Barbara, Howard Flemming, Hudson Beauregard; Ellie Ruvo, Joyce Makimi, Rosemary Recine, Robert Lynch, and Angela Carrozzo.**

We pray for those who are homebound: **Esmerilda Hastings, Margaret Vaccaro, Lee Williams, Dorothy Dushin, Roberta Darrigrand; Jim, Marge, Joe Smith, Carolyn Damiano, Deanna Ammirato, and Bill & Dorothy D'Amato.**

We pray for those for whom our prayers are asked, especially: **Liz & Jeff Daniele, Andrew Tom, Rebecca, Vince Servio, Sarah Paruolo, Annaliese Haag, Gerald, Marilyn Griffin, Joyce, Paul Ruvo, Helene, Jason, Joe Smith, Peter, Hannelore, Marina Brandt, Linda Hill, Carol White, Steven Schubert, Paul Seltzer, Jeff and The Rt. Rev Andrew St. John**

*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. We pray for those who have died, especially the over 760,000 in this country who have died from COVID-19

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

*Silence*

*Officiant:* 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.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Deacon:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

*All:* God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. *Amen.*

*Officiant:* 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**

✠ *Please greet one another with:*

## THE PEACE

**Celebrant:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** **And also with you**

## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us; an offering and a sacrifice to God.

### DOXOLOGY

*Old Hundredth*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, you heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

*In this prayer, the lines in bold are spoken by the People*

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 God 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.

*Priest inserts Proper Preface*

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:

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

*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 again.**

*Celebrant Continues*

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 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 for ever . **AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**All: 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.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People:** **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: 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.

✠ *Please join in singing:*

## THE COMMUNION HYMN #66

Come thou long expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

✠ *Please stand as you are able*

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**All:** Almighty and ever living 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

✠ *Please join in singing:*

### THE CLOSING HYMN #57

“Lo he comes with clouds descending”



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Helmsley*, melody Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

## THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### STEWARDSHIP:

Today is the day that the Lord hath made! Today is the day we dedicate our financial commitment to the life of St. John's. May God bless you who have dedicated a portion of your worldly goods, from your hearts with thanksgiving.

As we prepare to elect new Vestry members and our Treasurer, on January 30th at our Annual Meeting, please search your heart and discern whether God is calling you to serve St. John's in this capacity.

Thank you for all you do on God's behalf, here at St. John's.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THRIFT SHOP: EXCITING NEWS!** The thrift shop will be open on BOTH Saturdays and Mondays for the holiday season from 10-2. Please see schedule below. More hours means more volunteers needed! Please sign up for a 2 hour shift to help out the regular staff. Here is a link to our updated [Sign Up Genius](#). Thrift Shop Holiday Schedule: Saturday November 27, Monday November 29, Saturday December 4, Monday December 6, Saturday December 11, Saturday December 18, and *tentatively*: , Monday December 13 and Monday December 20

**ORCHESTRA 914 HOLIDAY CONCERT** Mark your calendar! Sunday Dec 5 at 4:00PM at St. Johns! Tickets are \$30. A lovely way to welcome in the Christmas Season!

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month; from 5:45PM-7:45PM. ***Our next class is December 14th.*** Please contact Mother Mary+ for more information

**ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL IS READY:** Be sure to see St. John's NEW On-line Sunday School lessons every week located at our [website](#) They include videos from the Sparkhouse Curriculum, activities kids can do at home, and a video of a bible story read by one of St. John's wonderful Volunteers. Contact Mother Mary+ if you are interested in being a Bible Story Reader—we would love to have you!

**GENERAL VOLUNTEERS:** St. John's needs your **TECHNICAL TEAM** help! Contact Warden Matt Ruvo; [mattsunset@yahoo.com](mailto:mattsunset@yahoo.com) or

The Rev Mary B. Gregorius, [mothermarystjohns@gmail.com](mailto:mothermarystjohns@gmail.com) to volunteer

**TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER 8:00AM** Please consider beginning your day in prayer together. ZOOM link in TW@SJ or [click here](#). Meeting ID 847 0590 3160

**THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY: 11:00AM;** meet us in the Pleasantville Diner. We have started 1 Samuel.

### ST. JOHN'S STAFF:

Rector: The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius [mothermarystjohns@gmail.com](mailto:mothermarystjohns@gmail.com)  
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Videographer: Hal Gregorius Video Editor: Raphael Wong  
Cantor: Angela Berg Web Master: Jonathan Pytell  
Vestry: Ken Foley, Laura Simpson, Jim Dirlam, Sarah Hoadley, Lynn Russell,  
Joan Scire-Vitkevich, Philippa Seltzer-Muschko