

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

Holy Eucharist 9:30^{AM}

Love



St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570
(914) 769-0053 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 #73

“The king shall come!”



1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to
3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

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, O 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, O 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.



COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

✠ *Please be seated for The Lessons.*

A READING FROM THE HEBREW TESTAMENT

Micah 5: 2-5a

Read by: Elizabeth Hoadley

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

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

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

CANTICLE 3 THE SONG OF MARY

Led by: Elizabeth Hoadley

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.**

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
 and has lifted up the lowly.
 He has filled the hungry with good things, *
 and the rich he has sent away empty.
 He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
 for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
 The promise he made to our fathers, *
 to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A READING FROM THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS:

10: 5-10

Read by: Elizabeth Hoadley

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

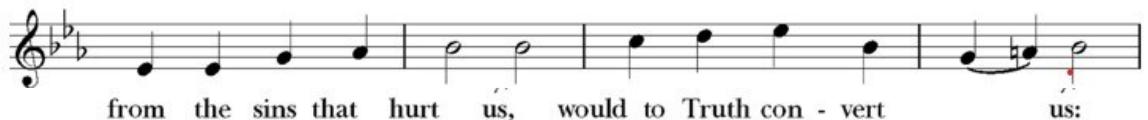
Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

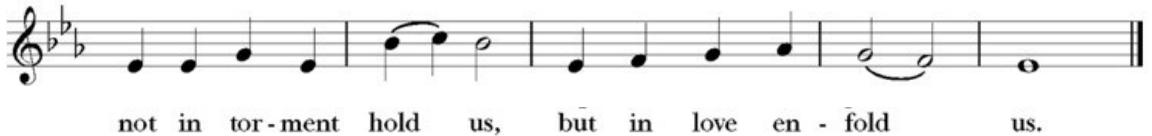
People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

SEQUENCE HYMN MHSO #53, VS.2 ONLY

Once he came in blessing





THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1: 39-45

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

People: Glory to you Lord Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to you Lord Christ.

✠ *Please be seated for:*

THE SERMON

The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal

✠ *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: **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: **Hank Kennedy 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 53 million world wide and the 790,000 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

Storyteller this week

Riley Vavolizza+

telling the story of

The Angel Gabriel Visiting Joseph



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 #56 VS 4, 5 & 8

O come O come Emmanuel



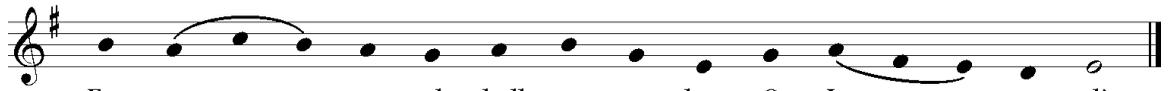
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.; adpt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright ©1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

✠ *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 #67

“Comfort, comfort ye my people”



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

STEWARDSHIP

On this, the fourth Sunday of Advent, just six days until Christmas and our celebration of the birth of Jesus, God’s Holy Word made manifest, we finally hear the story of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

For the last three weeks we have been told to prepare for the Christ, to expect the glory of God to be revealed in front of our very eyes and today we hear Mary sing the great song of accepting the will of God for our lives.

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; “ she sings. May I ask, how does your soul proclaim God’s greatness? What does it feel like when your spirit rejoices?

Such language invites a different perception of joy than the typical Christmas card implies. Our answer invites a new appreciation for the meaning of stewardship of God’s kingdom. May God grant you the joy of singing a song that changes your very countenance, that proclaims God’s greatness without a word, a joy in which your entire being rejoices.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021 CHRISTMAS SERVICES—Mark your calendar!

Friday December 24th	4:30PM	Pageant and Holy Eucharist
Friday December 24th	7:00PM	Pageant and Holy Eucharist
Saturday December 25th	10:00AM	Spoken Eucharist

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT FILMING TODAY 3PM

YAI VIRTUAL GIVING TREE: In the past St. John's has supported YAI by giving holiday gifts to the residents of the YAI home in Pleasantville. Since 2020 the Giving Tree has been done virtually. Please see the link below which has a link to an Amazon Wishlist. <https://givingtree2021.funraise.org/> To see what YAI does see yai.org.

THRIFT SHOP: EXCITING NEWS! The thrift shop will be open on BOTH Saturdays and Mondays for the holiday season from 10-2. This is a link to our [Sign Up Genius](#).

CONFIRMATION CLASS Resumes in January 2022 contact Mother Mary+ for more information

ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL IS READY: Be sure to see St. John's NEW On-line Sunday School lessons on our [website](#) Contact Mother Mary+ if you are interested in story reading

GENERAL VOLUNTEERS: St. John's needs your **TECHNICAL TEAM** help! Contact Warden Matt Ruvo; mattsunset@yahoo.com or The Rev Mary B. Gregorius, 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; will not meet this Thursday the 23rd of December. See you in 2022!

ST. JOHN'S STAFF:

Rector: The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius mothermarystjohns@gmail.com

Deacon Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal lynn.werdal@gmail.com

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