

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Staff

The Rev. Curt Norman, Rector

The Rev. Dr. Pam Renna, Assisting Priest for Pastoral Care

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Amy Simons, Director of Christian Formation

Paul Schaub, Verger & Financial Secretary

Burris Smith, Treasurer

Al Gissendanner, Sexton

Marcia Hoffman, Altar Guild

Barb Ilkka, Scheduler of Altar Servers

Ray Ilkka, Buildings & Grounds

Vestry

Kathryn Coman (Senior Warden), Tom Kostrzewa (Junior Warden), Cindy

Baillie, Mary Baukus, Katie Beltran, Dave Fein, Marcia Hoffman, Melanie

Hollman, Norm Wika



St. John's Episcopal Church

November 28, 2021 | 8am & 10:30am

The First Sunday of Advent | Year C

The Word of God

Blessing of the Crèche

God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherds and animals, bless us whenever we gaze on this manger scene. Through all the days of Advent and Christmas may these figures tell the story of how humans, angels, and animals found the Christ in this poor place. Fill our house of worship with hospitality, joy, gentleness, and thanksgiving, and guide our steps in the way of peace. *Amen.*

Blessing of the Advent Calendars

Antiphon

Christ is the icon of the invisible God; *all things were created through him and for him.*

V. The Word became flesh:

R. *And dwelt among us.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior manifested your glory in his flesh, and sanctified the outward and visible to be a means to perceive realities unseen: Accept, we pray, these Advent calendars; and as we mark time during this holy season, grant that our hearts may be drawn to things which can be seen only by the eye of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Matin Responsory - Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

December 19 at 5pm

Christmas Lessons and Carols
In person only

December 24 at 4pm & 11pm

Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist
In person only

December 25 at 8am

Christmas Lessons and Carols
Online only

December 26 at 8am & 10:30am

First Sunday after Christmas
Morning Prayer at both services
In person only

December 26 thru January 2

Online Devotions

January 2 at 8am & 10:30am

Morning Prayer at both services
In person only

January 5

Eve of the Epiphany
Online Devotion with Eucharistic Adoration at 6pm

January 9

First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord
Holy Eucharist at both 8am & 10:30am
First Baptism date of 2022
In person and online

PRAYER LIST

Matthew, Lyndall, Tom, Linda, Becky, Judy, Dennis, Janis, Hunter, Pierce, Bob, Wendy, Berney, Rosalie, Jeff, Misty, Marge, Barb, Sam, Virginia, Emma, Ferris, Visha, Bill, Judy, Mary Jo, William, Bill, Al & Jane, Sharon, Ted, and all our ministries: the Vestry, the altar guild, buildings and grounds, our children's, youth, and family ministries, the choir, the Shared Ministries Development Team, the finance team, for Al, Amy, Kevin, Rev. Pam, and Fr. Curt.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially David Fein, Paul Ilkka, and Samantha Barshaw.

We pray for those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week.

In the Anglican Communion we pray for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, and Prince our Bishop Provisional.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we remember today the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for D.R.E.A.M. Partnership in the Dominican Republic ... Grace Church, Traverse City – James Perra, Rector... and St. Barnabas, Portage – Mike Wood, Priest-in-Charge.

Locally we pray for our fellow Episcopalians at St. Matthew's and St. Paul's, as well as our partners with Interfaith Saginaw.

Penitential Order

1. Come, Thou Re - deem - er of the earth, And ma - ni -
2. O e - qual to the Fa - ther, Thou! Gird on thy
3. Thy cra - dle here shall gli - tter bright, And dark - ness
4. All laud to God the Fa - ther be, All praise, e -
6 fest Thy vir - gin birth: Let ev - ery age a -
fle - shly ma - ntle now; The weak - ness of our
breathe a new - er light, Where end - less faith shall
11 ter - nal Son, to Thee; All glo - ry, as is
do - ring fall; Such birth be - fits the God of all.
mor - tal state With death - less might in - vi - go - rate.
shine se - rene, And twi - light nev - er in - ter - vene.
e - ver meet, To God the Ho - ly Pa - ra - clete.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.***

DECALOGUE

The Decalogue is said, the People kneeling.

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Rhapsody on "Helmsley" - William Lloyd Weber

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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.

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Be at peace. Do not fear the changes of life, rather look to them with full hope as they arise. God, whose very own you are, will deliver you from out of them. He has kept you hitherto, and He will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will bury you in His arms. Do not be afraid of what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering, or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at Peace and put aside all anxious thought and imaginations.

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

You shall not be a false witness.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant says

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

***Most merciful God,
 we confess that we have sinned against you
 in thought, word, and deed,
 by what we have done,
 and by what we have left undone.
 We have not loved you with our whole heart;
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,***

*have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

S 100 Holy God (Hurd)

The following is said at 8am and sung at 10:30am, all standing

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

*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.*

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending (Helmsley) (H 57)

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



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.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

***Eternal God, heavenly Father,
 you have graciously accepted us as living members
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,***

THE 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.***

The Lessons

INTRODUCTION

Jeremiah prophesies of a coming Messiah who will restore God's righteousness in a broken world.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In 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 The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 25:1-9

¹To 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 disappointed in their schemes.*

³Show 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.*

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

⁶*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.*

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

blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive Communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

The Celebrant says

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.

The Hymnal 56, verses 1-2



(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

The Breaking of the Bread

S 161 Lamb of God (Hurd)

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:

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

grant us peace.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Those worshipping online are invited to pray:

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the

*⁸He guides the humble in doing right **

and teaches his way to the lowly.

*⁹All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness **

to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

INTRODUCTION

Paul and Timothy thank God and praise the Christians at Thessalonica for their faithfulness.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Thessalonika.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And 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 *The Word of the Lord.*

People *Thanks be to God.*

The King shall come when morning dawns (St. Stephen) (H 73)

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.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus describes catastrophes as signs of his Second Advent, and urges his followers to watch carefully.

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.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

*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,
 forever and ever. Amen.*

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;***

The 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.

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:] ²⁵"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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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 the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON

THE REV. CURT NORMAN

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*

*Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give 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.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

2022 NO FRILLS FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

How do Jesus's commandments to love impact our financial stewardship choices?

In what ways is God calling us to care for our neighbors and the St. John's Old Town community?

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Celebrant says

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Zion hears the Watchman Singing - arr. Johann Sebastian Bach

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

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.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty God, who gave such grace to your apostle Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ, and brought his brother with him: Give us, who are called by your Holy Word, grace to follow him without delay, and to bring those near to us into his gracious presence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Feast of Saint Andrew, November 30

THE PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People *And also with you.*

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS