

Sunday January 3, 2021
The Second Sunday after Christmas

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Prelude

Variations on "Adeste Fideles" - Marcel Dupre

Welcome

The Word of God

Gathering Hymn

Hymn 109 vs. 1, 6 - *The first Nowell the angel did say*

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star drew nigh to those north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full re - v - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain
 No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

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

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

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.*

Song of Praise

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."
See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
 and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
 over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
 and over the young of the flock and the herd;
 their life shall become like a watered garden,
 and they shall never languish again.
 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
 and the young men and the old shall be merry.
 I will turn their mourning into joy,
 I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
 I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
 and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84 *Quam dilecta!*

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
 My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
 my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 **The sparrow has found her a house
 and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
 by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
 my King and my God.**

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
 they will always be praising you.

4 **Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
 whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
 for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 **They will climb from height to height, *
 and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
 hearken, O God of Jacob.

**8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6; 15-19a

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

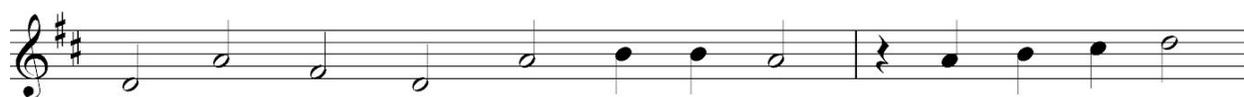
Sequence Hymn *How bright appears the Morning Star* (H 496) v. 1, 3



1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam -
 2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast
 3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin -



ing from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;
 a pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;
 ners, fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.



O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man
 the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser -
 In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on,



and Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:
 a - phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;
 great Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.



Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

`And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Rebecca Liberty

The 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

The Leader and People pray responsively

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the Most Rev. Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop, and the Rt. Rev. Thomas Brown, our Bishop; and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for our President-Elect, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city of Bangor, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

The people may add their own petitions

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

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

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

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

Revelation 4:11

Offertory Anthem

A La Ru - Hispanic folk tune

*You may give online at <https://stjohnsbangor.org/online-giving/> or **by texting***

*"StJohnsBangor Donation \$50" to 73256 to donate using your text messaging. (Any amount donation can be made, \$50 is just an example.) Standard text message rates do apply. **Donations by check can be mailed to : St. John's Episcopal Church, 234 French St., Bangor ME 04401.***

Thank you for your continued support.

The Great Thanksgiving

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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

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,

forever and ever. Amen.

By not partaking of the elements at this time, we express our longing for God's presence and our longing to gather once again in person as the body of Christ. None of us partake at this time, including those present in the church, as an expression of our unity as a congregation.

More information will be coming about opportunities to receive from the Reserve Sacrament, available on Second Saturdays of the month from 9-11am at the Church.

At the same time, we pray that we might recognize God's presence with us in our longing.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Beloved, a spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray, expressing desire to receive Holy Communion in this moment, but in which circumstances impede us from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Since we now are apart, let us pray:

Gracious Christ, you invite us to your feast, setting before us your heart's bread, and your life's wine. We yearn with all our souls to feast with you at the Altar, to taste and see the Lord's goodness today. Since we cannot now find union at the table, grant your presence spiritually. We offer you our hearts, lives and souls, that we may become eternally one. Amen.

Time for Reflection - Communion Anthem

Divinum Mysterium

Blessing

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

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Christmas Rhapsody- arr. by John W. Shaum

Eric Boberg, pianist

Parish Prayer List

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed – Ann P., Lev, Jaydon, Jesse, the Island Nursing Home Community, Oma O., Viriginia P., Barbara B., John F., Maurice, The Harrison Family, Ruth P., The Hamilton family, Sue B., Gavin, Shibohan, Ashley, and Ella D. *Continued prayers for* – Ralph R., Ross, Lorraine S., Lee S., James L., Eileen, Angela O, Deej. P., Andrew L., Justin O., Stevens W., and Jacob B.

For our Homebound Members – *Evelyn L., Joline F., Kathleen D., Mary, Charles, Robert B., Christa F., Lilly P., Earlene B., Cathy K., Betty C. and Eileen H.*

For Everyone affected by the COVID19 virus: for all who are sick or dying, all who mourn; for all who are isolated, anxious, or scared; for those most vulnerable in our institutions and on our streets, for those sacrificing and volunteering to provide safe beds and nutritious meals; for students, families, teachers, and school administrators; for all who are working in essential services, especially our doctors and nurses and all in our health care systems, for all working in our grocery stores and supply chains, and for those who clean and sterilize; for all who willingly sacrifice their own needs and desires for sake of others' health and well being.

For the World: for Peace and Goodwill among Nations and for peoples in war-torn places, especially those in those in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Iraq. For an end to war and all forms of violence. For all who suffer for conscience's sake. For our enemies and those who wish us harm. For all suffering effects of climate change and of natural disasters, especially in California, Oregon,. For refugees, immigrants, and those who are displaced, especially for children.

For our Nation: for each citizen who has or will vote, for all who suffer from injustice; for eyes to see injustice and for the will to work for fairness for all of God's people; for all who protest and for those who are charged to maintain our safety; and for all who struggle to change our world and its systems of oppression.

For the Leaders of our Country, State and Community: Donald Trump, President; Joseph Biden Jr., President-Elect; Members of Congress, especially, Susan Collins, Angus King, Chellie Pingree, Jared Golden of Maine; Janet Mills, Governor; and Daniel Tremble, Mayor - for those who serve in the courts of this land - that they govern with wisdom, civility, and compassion.

For our Military Personnel, especially those of this Parish: Sarah M., Dillan L., Joshua M., Aaron B., and Timothy W.

For the Departed - Dennis, Beth Pfeiffer, Ray Chaput, and for all who have died from the Corona Virus around the world

With Thanksgiving for the lives of those celebrating birthdays during the next two weeks including Aaron B., Faith E., Megan F., Sophie K., Howard L., Cindy L., Nancy M., and Andy T.

If you would like to add or reinstate a name or concern for our parish prayer list, please contact one of the clergy. Please use this list for your own personal prayers too.

Announcements, Opportunities & Invitations

Bedtime Bible Story- Our program with the parishes of St. Patricks, St. Marks, St. James and St. Albans continues! Please look for a link to a bedtime prayer and Bible story each Monday evening. If you are not receiving the weekly links and would like to, please email Anne-Marie at youth@stjohnsbangor.org.

Extra help is needed for our monthly serving at Second Saturday, hosted at St. John's. We are scheduled to serve next on **January 9th from 11:30am-1:30pm.** We are currently serving "to go" meals, observing social distancing and masks are required. No need to sign up in advance, or even commit to coming monthly. Just stop in to help out when you can.

Do you like to read? The Women's Book Group reads a variety of books on a variety of topics. We welcome new members to the discussions which are on the third Tuesdays at 2 p.m. through Zoom. Contact Marisue Pickering <marisue.pickering@maine.edu> or Jane Zenk <jzenkjzenk@gmail.com> **January 19** - Kushner, Lawrence - *Jewish Spirituality: A Brief Introduction for Christians*, 2001. Available from Bangor and MaineCat and Minerva libraries and by purchase (PB, Kindle, Audio). 112 pages. "A window into the Jewish soul—written especially for Christians." and **February 16th** -Hanna-Attisha, Mona - *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*, 2018. Available from Bangor, Orono, UMaine and through MaineCat and Minerva libraries and by purchase (PB, Kindle, Audio). 384 pages. "The dramatic story of the Flint water crisis, by a relentless physician who stood up to power.

To all of our wonderful volunteers who donate their time and efforts to cooking and serving at the Salvation Army with us, we have exciting news. **The Salvation Army began allowing volunteers back into the building to cook!** Our group is signed up for the 4th Tuesday. We'll be cooking and placing the food into to-go boxes which the Salvation Army staff will then serve from the truck. We will be practicing social distancing and masks are required, so please bring one. **We look forward to seeing you again at the Salvation Army on January 26th from 9:00am to 12:30pm!**

ST JOHN'S READS: *The Genesis Trilogy*, by Madeleine L'Engle. In this time of separation it seems a particularly good thing for us to find ways to strengthen our bonds to one another. One way to help with this is to read in companionship. Since we have just started another church year, L'Engle's trilogy on *Genesis* may be particularly appropriate. As the title implies, it is actually three books published in one volume. In *And It Was Good* L'Engle offers meditations on the Creation story, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, and Abraham; *A Stone For a Pillow* speaks of Isaac and Jacob; and *Sold Into Egypt* tells the story of Joseph. Many of you will be familiar with the writings of Madeleine L'Engle, which include *A Wrinkle in Time*, *The Rock That is Higher*, and many others. In *The Genesis Trilogy* L'Engle brings the stories from Scripture into her own life and her life into them. As we always find when we meditate on the lives of people spoken about in the *Bible*, in the pages of newspapers, or in our own homes, human flaws abound. But when meditated on with a compassionate heart, we find that those imperfections become the very ties that bind us together and give us hope. There will be no Zoom meetings to discuss this book, no queries on your progress. Add it to your next Amazon order or find it in your local bookstore. Then read it as a gift to yourself.

Phoebe hopes you had a wonderful Christmas! She's ready to ZOOM at the usual Tea Time this Sunday. Don't miss out! **Grab your tea cup and join Phoebe and friends on Sunday at 1700h (5pm).** We might be physically distant, but can be socially connected. Tea Time concludes by 1800 (6pm), but participants are welcome to dip in for shorter periods. Have questions? Don't ZOOM? well no problem - let us know and we'll provide a phone number. Contact Ann at deacon@stjohnsbangor.org