



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ESSEX, NY

**St. John's Episcopal Church  
Essex, NY**

**The Very Rev. Diane Nancekivell  
The First Sunday of Advent**

**In-Person & Zoom Worship  
December 3, 2023 □ 10:00 A.M.**

**Loose Plate Offering  
ReNew**

**Zoom Link for Sunday Worship:  
<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/worshipmeet>**

**Prelude** – *Please use this time in silence and to pray*

**Processional** (*Please stand*) “Lo! He comes, with clouds descending” **Hymn 57**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath:**

God of hope, we light this first candle in the season of Advent in hope that when Christ your Son appears he may not find us asleep or idle, but active in his service and ready

in his service and ready  
to do his bidding. *Amen*

**The Collect of Purity:**

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

**The Gloria**

**S280**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**  
Let us pray

**The Collect of the Day**    The First Sunday of  
Advent

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 First Reading:** Isaiah 64: 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil--  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;

because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

**Psalm 80:** 1-7, 16-18a *We will read it responsively*

*Qui regis Israel*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself

the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**The Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Gradual Hymn** "Sleepers, wake a voice astounds us      **Hymn 61,**  
**vs.1& 2, last vs after the Gospel**

**The Gospel:** Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.  
Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great  
power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his  
elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of  
heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes  
tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So  
also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is  
near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not  
pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and  
earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in  
heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for  
you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on  
a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge,

each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

**The Homily** (*Please be seated*)

The Very Rev. Diane Nancekivell

**The Nicene Creed** (*Please stand*)

BCP 358-359

**Prayers of the People** – taken from “Praying the Scriptures” by Jeremiah Williamson (2014)

Brothers and sisters, what I say to you I say to all: keep awake. Let us appeal to God, saying, **“Show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.”**

Restore your holy Catholic Church, O Lord God of hosts. Give us eyes to see that together we are not lacking any spiritual gift. Strengthen us that we may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **“Show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.”**

Restore justice throughout the world, O Lord God of hosts. Come to the help of the needy and the oppressed. We pray especially for the people of Israel, Palestine and the Ukraine. May their hunger for recognition, dignity and peace be fulfilled. **“Show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.”**

Restore your creation, O Lord God of hosts. Awesome are your deeds and wonderful are the works of your hands. *Invite the congregation to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.*  
**“Show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.”**

Restore the weak to strength, O Lord God of hosts. Come quickly with healing in your wings. We pray especially for : **Bobby, Art, Joyce, Nancy, Abra, Mike, Beverly, Noa, Lillian, Chris, Rae, Olivia, Cheryl, Larry, Steven, Tom, Karen, Sally, Chris, Lynne, Eve.**

*[Here other intercessions may be offered]*

**“Show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.”**  
**Dear Lord, grant us your wisdom and guidance as we embark upon our search process. Help us to humbly discern and accomplish your will for St. John’s. We know this will be a challenging journey for all of us. but we pray that it will**

**strengthen our faith, and our respect and love for each other. Help us to share more deeply our faith in you as we learn to listen to each other with open hearts and minds and to hear your voice in all that we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**All: Preserve us all, O Christ and take us home to your heart, so that all our lives may be woven together in prayer and praise, in your ever merciful name we pray. Amen.**

*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.*

**The Peace**

**Prayer for Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Birthday this week: Mimi McBride, Peter Schultz & Trenton Jenkins!

**Watch over our sisters and brothers, O Lord, as their days**

**increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Announcements** *(Please be seated)*

**Offertory** “Rejoice, rejoice believers”  
68

**Hymn**

**Doxology**

**Hymn 380**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING  
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B**

Eucharistic Prayer B

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

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.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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

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*

**Sanctus S 130**

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.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

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

*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.



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 blessed St. John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
*Amen.***

*Celebrant:* Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People:* **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

**Fraction Anthem**  
**164**

**S**

*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 thanksaivina.

*Congregation comes forward at this time to receive communion.*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

*Let us Pray*

Almighty and everliving 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**

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us  
in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free  
from all sin. *AMEN*

**Closing Hymn** “The King shall come when morning dawns” **Hymn**  
**73**

### **Dismissal**

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God**

Postlude (Please be seated)

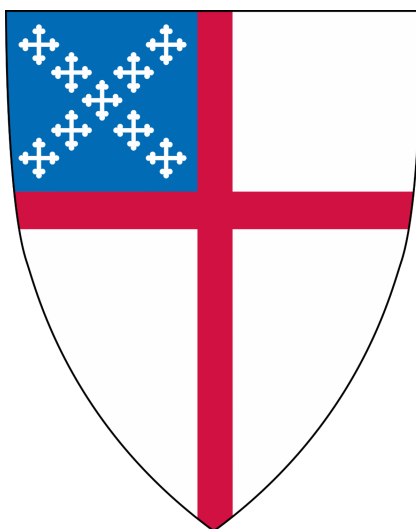
*The ringing of the bell signals the end of the service.*

*Please join us for coffee in Persell Hall*

**Ministers of the Service**

Walter G. ... Mike G. ...

Usner Greeter. MIKE SMIES  
Altar Guild. Bobbi Perez/Anne Zilch  
Altar Flowers.  
Lector. Bill Tribou  
Intercessor. Kristine Tribou  
Crucifer. Linda Rockefeller  
Lay Eucharistic Minister. Bill Finucane  
Acolytes. Carole Harsh & Darcey Hale  
Zoom host. Dick Perez  
Coffee Hour Host. Dick and Bobbi Perez  
Cantor. Michael Bergman  
Organist & Music Director Jennifer Moore



St. John's Episcopal Church | 4 Church Street, Essex, NY 12936

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