



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ESSEX, NY

St. John's Episcopal Church
Essex, NY

The Very Rev. Diane Nancekivell

First Sunday of Epiphany

In-Person & Zoom Worship
January 7, 2024 □ 10:00 A.M.

Loose Plate Offering
ReNew

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

Note: We are using some new music and will strive to include copies in the future where it is noted (*see insert*)

Prelude

Processional (Please stand)
skies” Hymn 7

“Christ whose glory fills the

Presider:

Blessed are you, holy and living One.
You have come to your people to set them free.

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 (*see insert*)

LEVAS 11 241

Presider:

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

The Collect of the Day – Epiphany

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah.

the young camels of Midian and Ephraim,
all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7,10-14 *we will read it by alternating half verse*

1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

The Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Hymn 791

"Peace before us, peace behind us "

WLP

(see insert)

The Gospel

Presider:

The Holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 2:1-12

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily (Please be seated)
Diane Nancekivell

The Very Rev.

The Nicene Creed (Please stand)

BCP 358-359

*The intercessor then leads **The Prayers of the People** (Intercessor)
The people stand or kneel as is their custom or take a posture of prayer as able.*

This week in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Church of England and we pray for the ministry of our bishop-elect Jeremiah Williamson.

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed.

Hear us when we pray to you.

Blessed are you who join us together in the communion of Christ's Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your incarnate love in our common life of praise and service.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labors to the work of Providence.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O Deliverer, you unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit, with your incarnate love, grant them peace and refreshment, and restore their joy.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary,

rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle: **Geoffrey, Lois, Art, Joyce, Abra, Mike, Beverly, Noa, Lillian, Chris, Rae, Olivia, Cheryl, Larry, Steven, Tom, Karen, Sally, Chris, Lynne, Eve, Anne, Ella, and Louis.**

Hear us when we pray to you.

O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illumining all things with your radiance: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O Lover of souls, when we wander far away, lead us back to you; as you led the Wise Men of old, when we refuse your embrace, do not give up on us; when we forget you, do not forget us. **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: you are the strong force that draws us into the mystery of love divine. Forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Hear us when we pray to you.

God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an light filled people, ready and alert to welcome and receive you in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare you room.

Hear us when we pray to you.

Dear people of God, what else, or who else, should we pray for?

Silence is kept, during which time all are invited to offer their own intercessions either silently or aloud.

Prayer for the Bishop Elect

Pray for the Bishop-Elect Eternal God, our Shepherd and Guide, we bless and thank you for your servant, Jeremiah, Bishop-Elect of your Episcopal Diocese of Albany.

By the working of your Holy Spirit grant him grace and every spiritual gift

as he prepares to take up his role as our chief pastor and teacher.

Make him a shepherd after your own heart,

who will walk in your ways and watch over your people with

loving care.

Strengthen and guide him to lead in vision.

Fill him with courage to teach your truth.

**Prepare our hearts to welcome Father Jeremiah, Jennifer,
Oscar, and Isaiah**

joyfully into our Diocesan community.

**Continue to purify our intentions, and lead us into holiness,
that we may bear witness to your Son without shame or fear,
in unity, humility, and mutual charity,
devoted to your will for the good of the world.**

This we ask in Jesus' name and for the sake of his love. *Amen.*

**“By the light of your countenance this Epiphany, 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.***

**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.***

Presider says:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

God of all mercy,

**We confess that we have sinned against you
Resisting your will in our lives.**

**We have not honored you in ourselves, in each other,
And in the world which you have made.**

**Reach out your saving arm
And rescue us from our sin.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
Through our Savior Jesus Christ,**

**That we may abide in your love
And serve only your will**

For your people and all creation. *Amen.*

The Presider, 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

Birthdays this week: Tilly Close, Peggy Harris

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
praise”

“Songs of Thankfulness and
Hymn 135

Doxology
Hymn 380, v. 3

**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

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Presider:

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

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider:

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises, we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus

The Presider continues:

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and People:

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

The Presider continues:

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of

time gather us with [blessed St John, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Presider and People:

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

Presider:

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.**

Presider:

Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Fraction
Anthem

S158

Presider:

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

Congregation comes forward at this time to receive communion.

Communion

The Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us Pray

Creator of all, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ to one another, and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace, and the blessing of God who created you, Jesus Christ who was born for you and the Holy Spirit who broods over the world like a mother hen over her chicks be with you and those you love this day and always.

Closing Hymn

mine”

LEVAS 11 221

(see insert)

“This little light of

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*The ringing of the bell signals the end of the service.
Please join us for coffee in Persell Hall*

Ministers of the Service

Usher Greeters: Mike Smiles

Altar Guild: Bobbi Perez

Altar Flowers: Bobbi Perez

Lector: Darcey Hale

Intercessor: Jim Guinness

Crucifer: Joel Pero

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Bill Finucane

Acolytes: Louisa & Megan Pero

Zoom host: Diana Lawrence

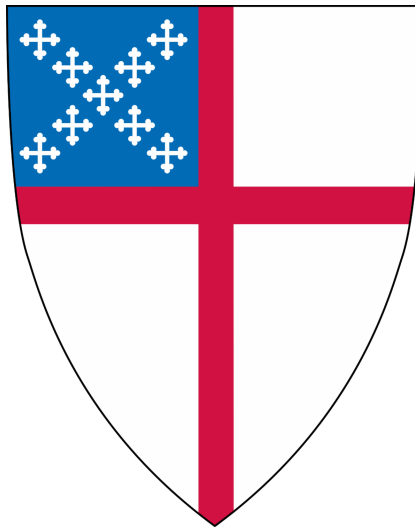
Coffee Hour Hosts: Bobbi & Dick Perez

Cantor: Michael Bergman

Organist & Music Director: Jennifer Moore

LEVAS II: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, volume II

WLP: *Wonder, Love and Praise* (supplement to the 1982 hymnal)



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


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