

Prelude: Choral Prelude on "Irby" ("Once in Royal David's City") - C.P. Cowell

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**Opening Hymn # 93** (Blue 1982 Hymnal) "Angels, from the realms of glory"

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

**Glory to God #899** (Green WLP Hymnal) The refrain:

Glo - ry,

Glo-ry, hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name, — Glo-ry,

Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name. —

Celebrant God is with you  
People **And also with you.**  
Celebrant Let us pray together the collect of the day:  
**Eternal God, to whom a thousand years are no more than a moment;  
renew us in your Holy Spirit, so that we may serve you with courage  
while we have life and breath; through the grace of Jesus your Son our Savior. Amen. (NZPB)**

### First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

The Lord bless you and keep you  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 8:** To the tune of "O for a thousand tongues to sing"

**O Lord our God, in all the earth**

**Your great Name is extolled;**

**Your majesty is far beyond**

**What heaven itself can hold.**

**1. You have ordained that children's lips**

**Should praise your Name today,**

**That all your enemies and foes**

**Should have no more to say.**

**2. When I look up and see the moon**

**And stars in heaven above**

**Lord, why should you remember us**

**And visit us in love?**

**3. Yet you have made us only less**

**In honor and renown**

**Than all the heavenly hosts above,**

**You set on us a crown.**

**4. All sheep and oxen, beasts and birds**

**We rule in your great Name;**

**O Lord our God, in all the world**

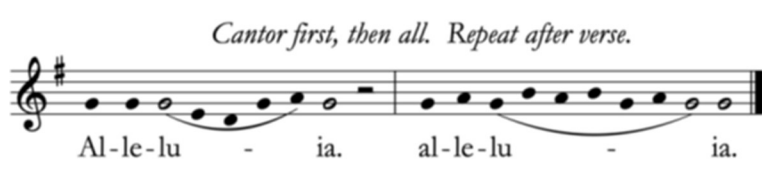
**Your glory we proclaim.**

### Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia:**



### **Gospel: Luke 2:15-21**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to Luke: **Glory to you, Lord Christ!**  
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, Lord Christ!**

**Sermon or Reflection Time**

The Rev. Anne Deneen

### **Credo for Christians (The Apostles' Creed) :**

**I worship and adore God, source, essence, and aim of all things, spirit that enlivens all beings.**

**I follow the way of Jesus, who found God in himself and shared a way for others to find God in themselves.**

**He was born through love,**

**He lived for love,**

**He suffered for love,**

**He died for love,**

**But love never dies.**

**I submit myself to the leading of the love that is God, that I may be compassionate toward all beings,**

**that I may live and serve in community with others,**

**that I may ask for and offer forgiveness,**

**that I may praise and enjoy God forever. Amen.**

from OPEN CHRISTIANITY: Home by Another Road (St Johann Press, 2000) by James Burklo, used by permission

### **Prayers of the People**

*Celebrant:* In the stillness of this holy season of Christmas, let us pray to God, saying, "God of love, hear our prayer."

*Intercessor:* Christians around the world are celebrating the birth of your son, Jesus. Unite us in faith, that we may shine with one light, and scatter all darkness.

*People:* **God of love, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* You pierced the cosmic silence with the utterance of your Word made flesh. Inspire leaders everywhere with your message of compassion and reconciliation.

*People:* **God of love, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* By joining heaven and earth in your son, you affirmed the holiness of our earthly habitation. Encourage all people to bless it, and to keep it a hallowed home for all its occupants.

*People:* **God of love, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* The Messiah is born, and promise is born anew. Renew our hope, individually and as a community, and strengthen the bonds we share with others, both within and beyond these walls.

*People:* **God of love, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* Shepherds heard and conveyed your angel's good news of great joy. Give us grace to understand and share your gospel of love.

*People:* **God of love, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* Multitudes of heavenly host proclaimed glory to you and peace on earth. Kindle in our hearts the courage and strength to work for justice and liberation.

*People:* **God of love, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* Jesus came to us as a baby cradled in a borrowed bed of straw, because there was no room at the inn. Open our eyes and hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry.

*People:* **God of love, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* You sent Jesus to illuminate all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Tend the embers of comfort and healing for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

*People:* **God of love, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* By making Jesus incarnate in the world, you offered to all people the blessing of holiness. Lend your glory to those who have died, and at the last day gather us all in your eternal life.

*People:* **God of love, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* Hear the concerns and gratitude of your people here gathered, offered silently or aloud. . . .

*Celebrant:* God of love, the feast of Christmas reminds us that you are with us at all times and in all places; hear our prayer, and send your Holy Spirit to guide us more certainly upon the way of your Holy Child, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

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

### **Announcements & Offertory sentence**

**Hymn #94** (Blue 1982 Hymnal) "While shepherds watched their flocks by night"

**The Great Thanksgiving:** "Eucharistic Prayer for Christmas" The Rev. Jennifer Phillips

*Celebrant* God 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 God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, our Source and Ending, Alpha and Omega, we give thanks to you! You have called all creation into being! You set the earth on its foundations, spread out the heavens like a tent, set a boundary to the seas, filled the world with your creatures, and then called all things good. The heavenly beings are your messengers night and day, and with them we give glory to you and sing:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
 pow'r and might, heav - en 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.

Music: Betty Carr Pulkingham (b. 1928) from *Freedom Mass*. Based on traditional African melodies. Copyright © 1989 Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

In these latter days, God leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Beloved. Born of our sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, cared for by our brother Joseph, Jesus came among us as a baby, human as we are, in need of human love. Though humbly born, kings honored him, and emperors feared him.

The Word of God made flesh and full of grace, a child in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, was sent to deliver us from sin, from the power of evil, and from the fear of death. As a man, Jesus surrendered his might upon the cross. As the risen Anointed One, he is enthroned at God's right hand. At the end of days, he will bring mercy and justice to all the earth.

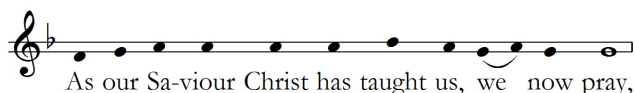
And so, rejoicing in all God has done for us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ is here with us!**

We remember that Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, eat, This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

After supper, Jesus took a cup of wine, blessed it, and gave it to them, saying: "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 to remember me."

Holy God, as you visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit in this bread and wine. Make them for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the banquet of heaven here on earth. Shed your grace brighter than starlight upon us, that we may bear your good tidings to all, and renew the weary world in your name: the name of Emmanuel, God-With-Us, to whom in joy we give honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.



The Lord's Prayer S148

Ambrosian Chant, harmonized by Mark Howe

Our Fa-ther in hea-ven, hal-low-ed be your name, your King-dom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in hea-ven. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins,  
as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al,  
and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the power and the  
glo-ry are yours. Now and for ev-er. A-men

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## The Breaking of the Bread

## The Fraction Anthem: #875 (Green WLP Hymnal)

*Cantor or Choir*

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the  
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus

1. Congregation 2. Cantor or Choir

break - ing of the bread. Be bread. The  
The dis -

**Invitation:** The Gifts of God for you, the People of God!

*All are welcome to receive communion. An usher will let you know when it is time to go to the altar rail. Just open your hands to receive the bread and guide the chalice with wine to your lips. If you do not wish to receive wine, make a gesture of respect to the chalice or shake your head slightly to signal the server. If you wish to only receive a blessing, cross your hands over your chest.*

**Communion Hymn: #110** (Blue 1982 Hymnal) "The snow lay on the ground"

#### Post-communion Prayer

Infinite, intimate God,  
in our worship we have celebrated your presence with us.  
May we grow in the divine life of Christ  
who humbly shared our human life.  
Fill us with joy  
and send us out to share this good news with others.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
our Emmanuel. Amen.

The Rev. Bosco Peters, online at <http://www.liturgy.co.nz/churchyear/christmas.html>, alt.

#### Christmas Blessing

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things on earth and in heaven,  
fill you with joy and peace, and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life  
be with you always. **Amen.**

**Final Hymn #99** (Blue 1982 Hymnal) "Go tell it on the mountain"

#### The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the power of Christ's love.  
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude: Go, Tell It on the Mountain GO TELL IT; music: newly composed by Rudy Davenport

## Saint John's Church NEWS AND NOTES: Jan 1, 2023

**Welcome to the Rev. Anne Deneen!** No stranger to St. John's, Pastor Anne is a retired Lutheran (ELCA) pastor who lives in Gloucester. She is happy to be here and we are happy to have her!

**Zoom Coffee Hour, aka "Reliable Joy"** Sunday at 12:30 pm. Meeting ID: 873 3272 1412 Passcode: 01930 Dial by location: 1 646 558 8656

**Thanks to Astrid AfKlinteberg and Alex Garcia-Mata** for leading the singing today!

**Epiphany Service of Light and Potluck Gathering**, Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the church and then parish hall.

**The Visioning Team will meet next Sunday, January 8 and Vestry on January 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Don't know how to be involved in St. John's?** We are looking for one more leader, ready to join the vestry. Monthly meetings (food often involved!), the chance to work with a new priest and move St. John's forward in the coming months. Speak to Wardens Ellen Sibley or Karen Kasper if your heart is moved!

**Name badges:** Please **put on your name badge** during the service and coffee hour and **RETURN** it to the box before you leave. If you need a name badge, please write your name legibly on the note pad nearby.

**Honor Retiring Bishop Gayle Harris:** The Diocese of Massachusetts is establishing the Bishop Gayle E. Harris Fund for Leadership Development for Women of Color to honor Bishop Gayle's 20 years of service as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese. To donate, go to [www.diomass.org/give-now](http://www.diomass.org/give-now) or mail to the GEH Leadership Fund, The Episcopal Diocese of MA, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111.

**Ways to Give to St. John's:** Did you know, that in addition to giving to St. John's through cash or check in worship, you can set up a recurring contribution through PayPal or a bank card, or give through the St. John's website? Go to <https://www.stjohnsgloucester.org/giving> for these options or reach out to Elizabeth for help [elizabeth@stjohnsgloucester.org](mailto:elizabeth@stjohnsgloucester.org). You can also give by using this QR Code to access PayPal or pay by credit card.



### Holy Name/New Year's Day—January 1, 2023

Participating in the Liturgy	<i>The People of God gathered in St. John's Church</i>
Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Anne Deneen, Guest Pastor
Lector	Dori Mottola
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Bill Melvin
Ushers	Tom Chmura
Acolyte	Bill Melvin
Musicians	The Congregation, Joe Stoddard, Music Director
Altar Guild	Melanie Murray-Brown & Karen Kasper
Flower Guild	Rosemary Sullivan Dee Dee Bedford, Carolyn Stewart and Gwen Kopka

**Please sign up for future dates including flower and lamp, Action Sandwiches and coffee hour. Sign ups are on the kiosk in the parish hall.**



**St. John's Intercession List:** Claire Stahler, Grace Center, Open Door, Wellspring, Jennifer Morris, Carole Secrest, Tyler March, Chris Klosterman, Sereda Feener, Alex, Lynn Runnells, Alex Furth, Simeon Teitelbaum, Miriam Teitelbaum, Debra Ketchopulos, Rita Peritore, Jim and Mary Droган, the Baxter Family, Len Berry, Ellen, Ginga Graves and Patrick DeMuller, Wayne Martin, Hope and Lily Newhouse, Jackson, Bo Goldman, Nate Mook, Cecily Merrill, Ernie Runnells, Jack Ketchopulos, Jacqueline Vannah, DeeDee Bedford, Michael Rocha, Liana and Joe Webb, Becki Pedersen, Anne Sullivan, Linda, Malcolm Henderson, Emelia Currier, Danny, Patricia Anders, Connor Macauley, Margie Sonthemier, John Fleming.

Contact prayer list manager: Joan Gorga 978-283-5926 or [jmgorga@yahoo.com](mailto:jmgorga@yahoo.com)



## St. John's Episcopal Church

[stjohnsgloucester.org](http://stjohnsgloucester.org)

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WiFi Password: 48MiddleSt

Alan McIntosh Gates, Bishop of Mass. & Gayle E. Harris, Bishop Suffragen

The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt, Interim Priest  
Marge Bishop, Church Assistant  
Elizabeth de Veer, Parish Administrator  
Joseph Stoddard, Music Director

Wardens: Karen Kasper and Ellen Sibley  
Clerk: Joan Gorga  
Treasurer: Sue Lupo, Ass't. Treasurer: Geoff Pope  
**VESTRY:** 2023: Katharine Newhouse, Jane Ward  
2024: Doug Parsons, Janet Knott, Melanie Murray-Brown  
2025: Steve Jencks, Dori Mottola