



Holy Eucharist, Rite II
First Sunday after the Epiphany
January 7, 2024
St. John's Church, Gloucester, MA
(978) 283-1708 marge@stjohnsgloucester.org
<http://www.stjohnsgloucester.org>



A Warm Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church, Gloucester

We know that Christ is present in each person here and we celebrate the diversity of the body of Christ. If this is your first visit, please introduce yourself today and visit again sometime. If you've been away, welcome back. If you are here every week, it's always great to see you! We worship in the Anglican tradition, and are a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, which is part of the Episcopal Church USA. We honor individuals of every age, gender, ethnic heritage, sexual orientation and religious background. We respect the dignity of every human being.

Newcomers' Welcome

If you're new to St. John's, or just visiting, and we missed you at the door, please accept our warmest welcome. We hope you will experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship together. Please greet the Priest as you leave and complete a visitor's card found in each pew and place it in the offertory plate, give it to an usher, or give it to the Priest. We hope to see you again!

Land Acknowledgement

For thousands of years, First Nations people walked on this land in Gloucester; their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives and spirituality. St. Johns is gathered on the traditional territory of the Pawtucket, and we give thanks to them, and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. They followed the seasons, hunted, fished, raised families, grieved for their dead, nourished their living, shared the stories of their ancestors, and considered themselves the caretakers of this place.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Prelude Voluntary: “*Deck, Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness*” (BWV 654)

J.S. Bach

Celebrant: As gold in the furnace is tried and purified seven times in the fire, so purify our hearts and minds that we may be a royal priesthood acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

As our prayer rises up before you as incense, so may we be presented before you with penitent hearts and uplifted hands to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

As you give medicine to heal our sickness and the leaves of the tree of life for the healing of the nations, so anoint us with your healing power that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

People: **Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be praise and glory for ever.**

Processional Hymn: #128 (Blue 1982 Hymnal) “*We Three Kings*”

Procession of Three Kings bringing Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh during each verse

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever!**

Collect for Purity

Celebrant: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Gloria

Robert Powell

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly

King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: O Star-flinging God, whose light dances across eternity, dazzle us into your presence this new year. Open our hearts to the mystery of your love. Awaken us to your presence, knit to the ordinary. Reveal to us what is possible, but not yet present. Heal us, that we might be healers.

People: Stop us often, we pray with news that is good, with hope that holds, with truth that transforms with a Word tailored to this trail we're on. *May the word of your grace guide our steps like the sun by day and the north star by night, as we travel into the gift of a new year. Amen.*

— adapted from Glenn Mitchell, and posted on MINemergent's Daily Communique.

Hebrew Bible

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.*

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #370 “*I bind unto myself today*” (verses 1-5)

Greek Bible

Acts 19:1-7

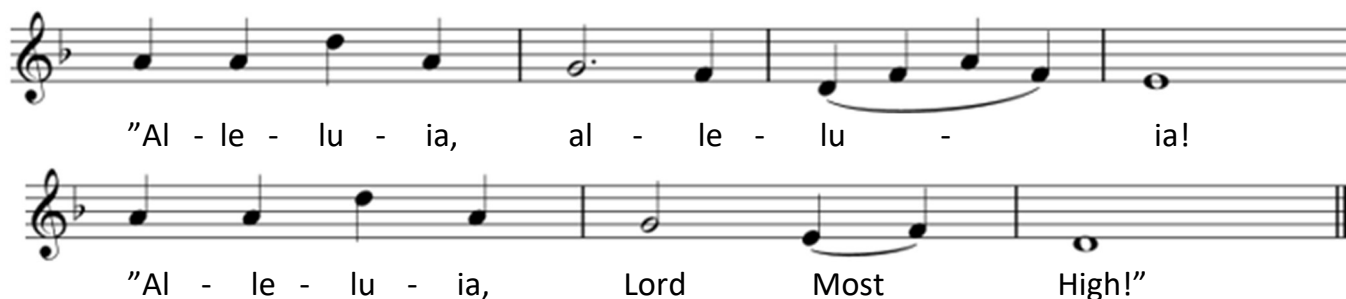
While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

Reader: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.*

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pause to reflect on reading.

Verse: Last two lines of stanza 4 of Hymn #324 (Blue 1982 Hymnal)



The Gospel of Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;

I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.** *Pause to reflect on reading.*

Verse: Last two lines of stanza 4 of Hymn #324 **ABOVE** (Blue 1982 Hymnal)

Homily

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen

Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Creator?

People: **I believe in God, the Creator almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Blessed Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread,
and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to
the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you cherish the wondrous works of God and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

People: I will, with God's help.

Prayers of the People

(During the prayers and confession, we invite you to stand or kneel, as you are able.)

Let us pray to God, who is made manifest in Jesus Christ.

As the prophet Isaiah rang out, "Arise, shine; for your light has come"; empower your Church, O God, to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ-child; send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray that you would guide and inspire our congregations and leaders to the ways of justice and peace, especially the churches in the Boston Harbor Deanery, especially Christ Church (Old North), Boston Church of the Advent, Boston, Ecclesia Ministries and common cathedral, Boston, The Diocesan Staff, and The Massachusetts Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Like the Magi who traveled from afar to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior's birth; we pray in thanksgiving for those loved by this community, and for those who celebrate their own birthdays and anniversaries; especially _____. Are there others? (Pause) Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus climbed the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world; we pray for the sick and the distressed, the poor and the lame. We especially pray for **the Murray-Brown Family, the Bedford Family, Otto Laske, Nadine Boughton, Dena Young, Sarah Clifford, Ace Torrence and Family, Savannah, Hope, Leanna, Olivia, Stella, Ondine, Jacoby, Pat Earle, Jay Featherstone, Isabelle Higgins, Charles Frontiero, Geoff Pope, Christopher Antonuk, Matteo, Alexis Morris, Miranda Featherstone and Family, Barbara Soreng, Marsha White, Claire Stahler, Jennifer Morris,**

Carole Secrest, Chris Klosterman, Sereda Feener, Lynn Runnells, Alex Furth, Simeon Teitelbaum, Miriam Teitelbaum, Debra Ketchopulos, Rita Peritore, the Baxter Family, Len Berry, Ellen, Wayne Martin, Ernie Runnells, Jack Ketchopulos, DeeDee Bedford, Michael Rocha, Liana and Joe Webb, Anne Sullivan, Linda, Malcolm Henderson, Emelia Currier, Danny, Connor Macauley, Margie Sonthemier, John Fleming. Are there others? (Pause). Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, and follow him; we pray for those we love and who have answered your call to follow Jesus to your Heavenly Kingdom, especially - _____. (Pause) Give them your peace. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy. **Amen.** ~adapted from Rick Morley, <http://www.rickmorley.com/>

Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors. *Silence may be kept.*

God, you share with us words of hope, words of Good News. But sometimes we are unable to hear them because the source is too familiar. You call us to share the Good News with those around us. But sometimes we are unable to share, because the people know us too well. You encourage us to send messengers to other places where they will be heard better. But we can be jealous, wanting the Good News to be for us, not them. In the multitude of ways we can and have subverted your message of freedom and healing, in all the ways we have kept the Jubilee year from happening, we have left the path of true wisdom and call upon your Grace to lead us back on track. AMEN —Rev. Gord, <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>

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

Peace

CELEBRANT: Christ is here right now making peace among us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you

Announcements and Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

Offertory Hymn #707 “Take my life, and let it be”

The sanctuary lamp burns this week as a reminder to us all of the pathways of peace and forgiveness, especially in the Holy Land.

THE MINISTRY OF THE TABLE: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Distribution of Communion

St. John's welcomes everyone to come to God's table, for communion, to share in Christ's sustaining life. You may participate by extending your hands and placing one hand over the other for the bread and sipping from the chalice. If you prefer not to receive wine, you may cross your hands over your chest. You may also come to the altar simply for a blessing, while others come for communion. To receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest. The Priest will pray for God's blessing upon you.

Holy Eucharist

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Holy One be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

People **We open our hearts to you, O God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the one who welcomes the stranger.

People **To the One who reaches across every border, we give thanks and praise.**

In wonder of your expansive embrace, we give you praise, O God. You reveal the limitations of our own imaginations and down walls and boundaries we don't even realize we have erected. Like the magi guided by the light of star through foreign territory, you call us all towards you. You lead your people across borders of hate and into lands of curious and different. You strengthen us as we journey, learning and unlearning stories about one another. Gathered in your presence, we come to recognize the gifts of community rich in diversity. Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you,

Sanctus

Proulx

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

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

You move in mysterious way, O God. This journey with you is filled with more questions than answers. Each time we think we have you figured out, you surprise us again, revealing yourself in new ways. In Jesus, we saw your welcome of strangers extended in challenging ways. Ways that disrupt our traditions and unsettle our comfort zones. Jesus broke religious rules in order to include all people. He lifted up the sacredness of the people and places deemed unclean. He cared more about the well-being of the oppressed than his own reputation and taught us to rethink your presence among us; but we couldn't accept it. Resistant to transformation, your people sent him to the cross.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said: "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying: "This cup that is poured out is the new covenant." In remembrance of all you have done to save us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ was birthed among us. Christ was killed among us. Christ rises again among us.

May the same Spirit that lifted Christ from the grave be poured out on these gifts. Make this bread and this cup be an extension of your welcome without bounds. Fill us with the courage and faith to join you in the work of tearing down walls that exclude and pointing to the Sacred in the margins.

Amen—From #Resistharm UMC and enfleshed.com

Celebrant: And now, as Jesus has taught us, we pray

"The Lord's Prayer" S148 (Blue 1982 Hymnal)

Celebrant and People

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed 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.

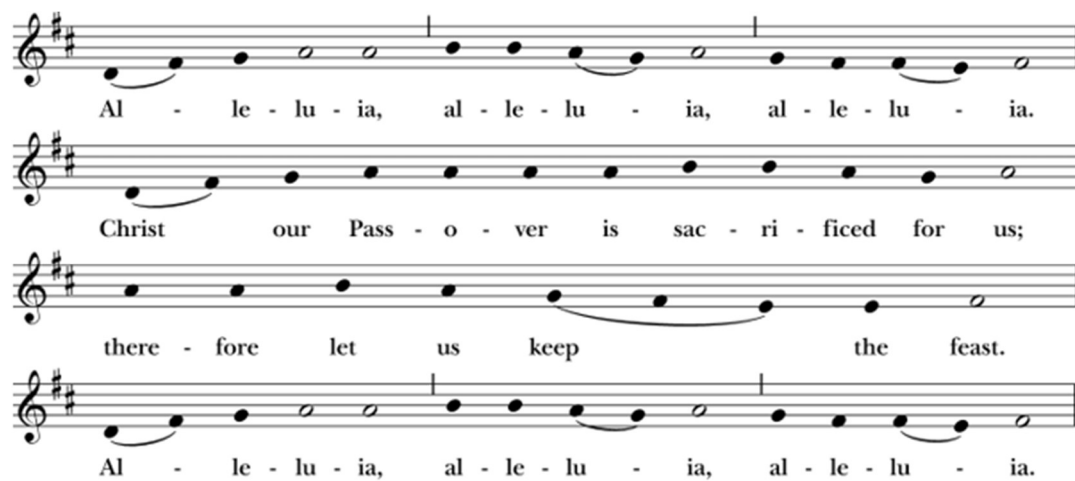
Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Fraction Anthem:



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

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

Communion Hymn : #339 *Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness*”

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

God, this meal we shared together is a remembrance of your embrace of the outcast and oppressed. May it strengthen us as we open our minds and hearts to new ways of recognizing your presence among us. AMEN

The Blessing

Celebrant: *May the path that Christ walks to bring justice upon the earth, to bring light to those who sit in darkness, to bring out those who live in bondage, to bring new thing to all creation: may this path run through our life. May we be the road Christ takes. ~Jan L. Richardson, <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>*

Recessional: Hymn #812 (Green WLP Hymnal) *“I, the Lord of sea and sky”*

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *“In Dulce Jubilo”*

Johann Sebastian Bach

Join us for the Chalking of the Door

Celebrant: We ask God's blessing upon those who live, work, or visit this beloved body of Christ throughout the coming year. In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but today we will, mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing in our church home.

20 + C + M + B+ 24

The letters represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, Christus mansionem benedicat: “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the cross, and the “20” at the beginning and the “24” at the end mark the year.

Let us pray.

O God, who by the guidance of a star did on this day manifest your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know You by faith may also attain the vision of Your glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN

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| ANNOUNCEMENTS |
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Join the Vestry or the Deanery! Every year Episcopal parishes prepare for their Annual Meeting by nominating people to the Vestry, the Deanery (ours is the Northshore Deanery) and the Diocese, for our Annual Convention. This year we are still seeking Vestry Representatives to serve for 3-year terms, 2-5 Deanery Representatives and Two Diocesan Convention Delegates with one alternate delegate. Read descriptions of the responsibilities attached to each office in the FYI email. If you're interested or want more information, please speak to Marya. Thanks!

In 2023, The Open Door met more than a 28% increase in requests for food assistance. This is largely due to the fact the cost of living increased and wages aren't keeping pace. Donations from Saint John's are helping to meet this need. Items needed this week include: canned chicken, pasta, mac and cheese (boxed), healthy cereal, diapers, condiments, and bread mixes. Let's keep that donation basket full. Many thanks in advance.

Thank you! In December, members of St. John's parish were invited to make a donation to support the ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem. St. John's Church collected and donated \$756 to this cause. Thank you, people of St. John's!

Annual Meeting coming up! This year, St. John's annual meeting will take place after church services on **Sunday, January 28** Please submit reports to Elizabeth via email (elizabeth@stjohnsgloucester.org) by Wednesday, January 17.

Please mark your calendar to attend this important meeting. Thank you!

First Sunday after the Epiphany—January 7, 2024

Participating in the Liturgy

Celebrant and Preacher

Deacon Postulant Intern

Lector

LEM

Acolyte

Ushers

Musicians

Altar Guild

Flower Guild

Property Cleaner

Thrift Shop Assistant

The People of God gathered in St. John's Church

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen, Priest-in-Collaboration

Jason Kinchen

Doug Parsons

Bill Melvin

Karen Kasper

Tom Chmura and Ian Bedford

The Congregation, the Choir, David Bergeron,
guest organist

Karen Kasper, Melanie Murray-Brown

Rosemary Sullivan, Dee Dee Bedford, Gwen Kopka,
Carolyn Stewart and Yvonne Smikle

Lucelia Gomes Ventura

Michele Del Vecchio

Potluck Brunch **COFFEE HOUR TODAY** is hosted by Gwen Kopka, Kim Prentice and Katharine Newhouse.

- CONTACT MARYA (Priest-in-Collaboration) at mdecarlen@comcast.net or 978-590-1642
- CONTACT JASON (Deacon Postulant Intern) at jason.kinchen@gmail.com or (781)-696-5893
- Sign up in the parish hall for future dates for flower and lamp, Action Sandwiches and coffee hour.
- St. John's Intercession List: Contact prayer list manager, Joan Gorga, at 978-283-5926 or jmgorga@yahoo.com



St. John's Episcopal Church

stjohnsgloucester.org

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Parish Office Telephone: 978-283-1708

WiFi Password: 48MiddleSt

The Rt. Rev. Alan McIntosh Gates, Bishop of Mass. & The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol Gallagher, Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen, Priest-in-Collaboration
mdecarlen@comcast.net

Marge Bishop, Church Assistant
marge@stjohnsgloucester.org

Elizabeth de Veer, Parish Administrator

Wardens: Patricia Anders & Katharine Newhouse

Clerk: Joan Gorga

Treasurer: Sue Lupo, Ass't. Treasurer: Geoff Pope

VESTRY: 2024: Rick Britton, Melanie Murray-Brown, Doug Parsons

2025: Steve Jencks, Dori Mottola, Geoff Pope

2026: Dee Dee Bedford, Sarah Larson