



Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany and Annual Meeting

January 28, 2024

St. John's Church, Gloucester, MA

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<http://www.stjohnsgloucester.org>



The lamp of wisdom

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: *Prelude and Fugue in F Major*

J.S. Bach

Processional Hymn: #420 (Blue 1982 Hymnal) *“When in our music God is glorified”*

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 *“Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis”*

Mathias



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
might-y 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-



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

God of the seasons turning, another year has come and gone and once again we gather for the Annual Meeting of this Congregation. To this place we bring all the celebrations and hardships, the joys and the sorrows of the past 12 months. Here we pause to remember those whose lives we have celebrated; the highlights of the year as we look forward to what the coming years have in store. May your Spirit move in our hearts, opening them to hear what each of us has to offer, bringing light to both possibilities and realities, drawing us always to consider what you would have us be and do in this time and place. Remind us that we are called to be bearers of Christ's life, light, and love to all we meet. These things we pray in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the one we call Christ, in whose name and hope we gather together as a community. Amen.—adapted from worshipofferings.blogspot.com

Hebrew Bible

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks

in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

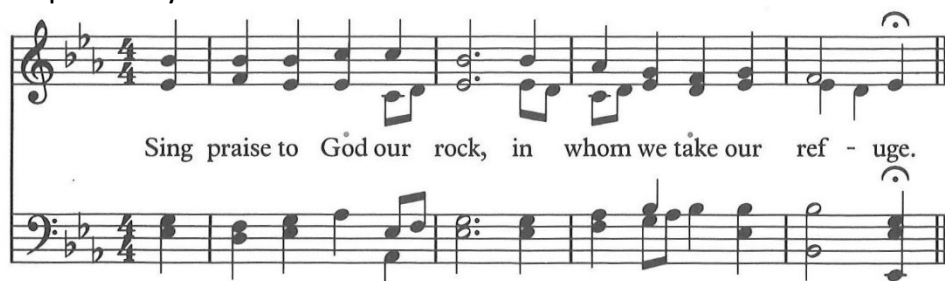
Reader: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.*

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 111

Sing the musical phrase at the beginning of the Psalm, after verse 6, and at the end.

Read the Psalm responsively.



1 Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *

they are studied by all who delight in them.

3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.

4 He makes his marvelous works to be

remembered; *

the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

5 He gives food to those who fear him; *

he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *

because they are done in truth and equity.

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *

those who act accordingly have a good

understanding;

his praise endures for ever.

(Sing musical response)

Greek Bible

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we

do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pause to reflect on reading.

Gospel Acclamation:



The Gospel of Mark 1:21-28

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Mark. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Pause to reflect on reading.

Gospel Acclamation can be found above.

Homily

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God,
the creator of all things,
the giver of life and breath.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
born Emmanuel, God with us,
baptized and revealed the most beloved Son of God;
he sought to heal humanity by taking our brokenness upon himself,
suffering for us, dying for us
and being raised from the dead for our sake
and for the sake of all the world.
We believe that he will come again.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
continually poured out refreshing our lives,
leading us into a new day,
ever-birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world.
This Spirit is our soul companion and counselor of truth
reminding us of the gift of faith,
the ever presence of God
and the promise of eternal life.
Thanks be to God! Amen. — *from umcdiscipliship.org***

Prayers of the People

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

Loving God, we gather as your people seeking your presence, your comfort and your love. In this Epiphany Season of light, shine your light upon us – into the recesses of our spirits, those places where we experience anxiety, depression, fear and despair.

God of connection that binds all your people together, 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 St. John's Church, Charlestown (Boston), St. Mark's Church, Dorchester (Boston), St. Mary's Church, Dorchester (Boston), Epiphany School, Dorchester, The Diocesan Council.
Shine your light upon us.

God of power and mercy, bless our nation and its leaders to govern justly and wisely; and especially bless those who are poor, those who struggle with physical and mental illness; those who are forgotten or forsaken.
Shine your light upon us.

God of compassion and peace, who is present where violence and war are found: in Ukraine, Gaza and Jerusalem; in places we cannot name or do not know, bring peace to those who languish in fear, violence and despair.

Shine your light upon us.

God of gentle whisper, we pray for the sick and the distressed, those in the hospital or hospice or the housebound. Today we especially pray for **Lyn Brakeman, Rita Fritz, Sarah Clifford, Ace Torrence and Family, Savannah, Hope, Ondine, Jacoby, Pat Earle, Jay Featherstone, Isabelle Higgins, Christopher Antonuk, Matteo, Miranda Featherstone and Family, 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)

Shine your light upon us.

God of mercy, we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, whether recently or some time ago. Let the knowledge of your resurrection be a comfort to all those who mourn. We remember before God those who have died , especially_____.

Shine your light upon us.

God of goodness, we thank you for the light that shines through this community and its members. We pray our thanksgivings for those who bless our lives, especially _____. Are there others? (Pause)

Shine your light upon us and around us and within us, that we, too, may be a light to the world.

adapted from worship words.co.uk

Confession

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence may be kept.

In the light of the star, we are forced to look at our lives more closely. Watching the magi arrive, we are challenged to offer our own gifts to the child. As we look at our lives and respond to the challenge, we confess that our lives are not what they could be, that we sometimes fail to live up to the challenge of being your people. For the times we do not go far enough, when we abandon the search for Your way and presence, forgive us we pray. Many times in our life's journey we, like the Magi, come into the presence of God-made-Manifest. Because of that we know that we are accepted and forgiven and sent out again to continue the journey. *adapted from worshipofferings.blogspot.com*

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 Anthem “*What Wonderful Love*”

Charles Dupree

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 a star through foreign territory, you call us all towards you. You lead your people across borders of hate and into lands of curiosity and difference. 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

William Mathias



Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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.

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. ———

———*From # Resistharm UMC and enfleshed.com*



A - men. A - men. A - men.

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 S 161 “Lamb of God”

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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

Communion Hymn : #335 (Blue 1982 Hymnal) “I am the bread of life”

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: Go now as a light to the nations. Honor the Lord; preach what you know of the risen Christ, and fulfill all righteousness. May God strengthen you and bless you with peace; may Christ Jesus bring forth justice for us and among us and may the Holy Spirit alight on you and affirm you as God's beloved ones.

Announcement to convene the Annual Meeting

Recessional: Hymn #347 (Blue 1982 Hymnal) *"Go forth for God"*

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *"Postlude on St. Thomas"*

arr. James Pethel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting TODAY! St. John's annual meeting will take place after church service TODAY and will be followed by St. John's annual Epiphany potluck brunch. See you there!

Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner celebration scheduled for **February 13 from 4 to 6 pm**, with a Bayou swamp swap (on the order of a traditional Yankee swap) People will be asked to bring unwanted or unappreciated Christmas gifts that they would like to share with others!

Winter is definitely here, and so is the rise in heating costs. The Open Door provides an opportunity for those who face the rising costs of winter to have access to the benefits of healthy, nutritional choices and still pay the bills. Donations from Saint John's helps The Open Door to meet the needs of Cape Ann families. Items needed this week include: spaghetti, pancake mix, dried beans (lentils, split peas, black beans), oatmeal (both plain oats and instant), baby food, diapers, and flavored rice. Many thanks.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany—January 28, 2024

Participating in the Liturgy

Celebrant and Preacher
Deacon Postulant Intern
Lector
LEM
Acolyte
Ushers

The People of God gathered in St. John's Church
The Rev. Marya DeCarlen, Priest-in-Collaboration
Jason Kinchen
Rob Emmons
Bill Melvin
Karen Kasper
Doug Musco and Tom Chmura

Musicians

The Congregation, the Choir, John Churchwell,
Director of Music

Altar Guild Flower Guild

Karen Kasper, Melanie Murray-Brown
Rosemary Sullivan

Property Cleaner Thrift Shop Assistant

Lucelia Gomes Ventura
Michele Del Vecchio

COFFEE HOUR TODAY is a parish potluck. The team would appreciate offers of help to set up before and clean up after. Thanks!

- 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

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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
John Churchwell, Director of Music
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