

Prelude: Two Chorale Preludes: In Stiller Nacht and Schönster Herr Jesu - Hermann Schroeder, Op. 11, #3 & #6

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn #756 (Green WLP Hymnal) “Lead me, guide me, along the way”

The Collect

Celebrant God is with you

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray together the collect of the day:

Come Holy Spirit, to all baptized in your name, (NZPB)
that we may turn to good whatever lies ahead.

**Give us passion, give us fire; make us transform the world from what it is,
to what you have created it to be. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

Psalms 121:1-8



- 1 I lift **up** my eyes to the / hills; *
from where is my **help** / to come?
- 2 My help comes from the / LORD, *
the maker of heav-**en** / and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be / moved *
and he who watches over you will not **fall** /a-
sleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over / Is-ra-el *
shall neither **slum**-ber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches / o-ver you; *
the LORD is your shade at **your** / right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by / day, *
nor the **moon** / by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all / e-vil; *
it is he who shall **keep** / you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and
your / com-ing in, *
from this time forth for **ev**-er-more.

Epistle: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the

ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

Cantor first, then congregation:

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: John 3:1-17

Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to Matthew: **Glory to you, Lord Christ!**
 There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

Sermon or Reflection Time

The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt

Anthem: God So Loved the World

Sir John Stainer

Offertory Hymn “God it was” (Page 4)

Communion Hymn #832 (Green WLP Hymnal) “Veni Sancte Spiritus”

Final Hymn: #448 (Blue 1982 Hymnal) “O love, how deep, how broad, how high”

Postlude: What Wondrous Love Is This

Thomas Keesecke

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Saint John's Church NEWS AND NOTES: March 5, 2023

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.

Visioning Team Meeting Today at 11: We will meet in the Thompson Room.

Pastor Lise will be on retreat from Sunday afternoon through Wednesday. Please reach out to the office or the wardens (Patricia Anders and/or Katharine Newhouse) if you have needs during this time.

Holy Week Planning and Hymns next Sunday, March 12 at 11. If you would like to shape Holy Week and choose hymns, here's your chance! We'll meet in the Thompson Room.

Write your Own Obituary Workshop, Saturday March 25: St. John's will host a morning (9-11) workshop on that will allow you to consider your life, your legacy, and what you still hope to do! Our own Elizabeth de Veer will help lead. Coffee and snacks. Sign up with Marge (marge@stjohnsgloucester.org) or call the office.

Who Was Mary Magdalene? Please join the W Gloucester Trinitarian Cong. Church Lenten Series on the latest scholarship on Mary Magdalene! The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Rice Smith, MDiv, ThM, PsyD will present. 6:00-7:30 **Thursdays, March 9, 16, 23 & 30th.** Freewill offering of \$10-\$30 for the series suggested. 488 Essex Ave.

Ben's Needs: Ben has settled into his apartment and is grateful for all the help and support. He could still use a couch and a set of speakers. Speak to Pastor Lise if you can help.

Expired Food Donations. Have non-perishable food that has just passed its expiration date or that you aren't going to eat? Most "expired" food is still fine to eat. Bring it to the Thrift Shop to make available to others. Thanks for your help!

The Open Door Update: Starting in March, many folks who depend on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will experience a cut in benefits of anywhere from \$90-\$250 a month. The need for healthy food to feed our community makes our donations to the Open Door even more worthwhile. Items most needed include: healthy cereal, soups, flour, bread mixes, cooking oil, oatmeal, pasta, diapers and wipes.

Second Sunday of Lent—March 5, 2023

Participating in the Liturgy	<i>The People of God gathered in St. John's Church</i>
Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt, Interim Priest
Lector	Gwen Kopka
LEM	Claudette Chmura
Acolyte	Karen Kasper
Usher	Dani Stotzer
Musicians	The Congregation, the Choir, Joe Stoddard, Music Director
Altar Guild	Karen Kasper and Melanie Murray-Brown
Flower Guild	Rosemary Sullivan and Gwen Kopka

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: Dolores Ormsbee, Méabh Ní Bhuinneáin, Paul Mouratidis, Nicole Newhouse and Family, Marsha White, Rick Kopka, Claire Stahler, 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 Drogan, the Baxter Family, Len Berry, Ellen, Ginga Graves and Patrick DeMuller, Wayne Martin, Hope and Lily Newhouse, Jackson, Bo Goldman, Nate Mook, 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

God It Was

1. God it was who said to A - bra - ham, "Pack your
 2. God it was who said to Mo - ses, "Save my
 3. God it was who said to Jo - seph, "Down your
 4. Christ it was who said to Mat - thew, "Leave your
 5. In this crowd of com - mon peo - ple, Once un -

bags and trav - el on!" God it was who
 peo - ple, part the sea!" God it was who
 tools and take your wife!" God it was who
 books and fol - low me!" Christ it was who
 known, whom we re - vere, God calls us to

said to Sar - ah, "Smile and soon you'll bear a
 said to Mir - i - am, "Sing and dance to show you're
 said to Mar - y, "In your womb I'll start my
 said to Mar - tha, "Lis - ten first, then make the
 share his pur - pose Start - ing now and start - ing

son!" Trav - 'ling folk and a - ged moth - ers Wan - d'ring
 free!" Shep - herd - saints and tam - bou - rin - ists Do - ing
 life!" Car - pen - ter and coun - try maid - en Leav - ing
 tea!" Civ - il ser - vants and house - keep - ers, Chang - ing
 here. So we cel - e - brate his call - ing, So we

when they thought they'd done— This is how God
 what he knew they could— This is how God
 town and trade and skills— This is how God
 plac - es at a cost— This is how Christ
 prize and praise his choice, As we pray that

calls his peo - ple, Los - ing all be - cause of One.
 calls his peo - ple, Lib - er - at - ing what they should.
 calls his peo - ple, Mov - ing them through what he wills.
 calls dis - ci - ples, Find - ing those he knew were lost.
 through this com - pa - ny God will act and raise his voice.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949
 Tune: JESUS CALLS US, Irregular; adapt. from a Gaelic Air by John L. Bell, b.1949
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St. John's Episcopal Church

stjohnsgloucester.org

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

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

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, Len Berry, Sarah Larson