

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024



WORDS OF WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN *God the Omnipotent! King, who ordainest (Russia) (H 569)*

1 God the Om - ni - po - tent! King, who or - dain - est
2 God the All - mer - ci - ful! earth hath for - sak - en
3 God the All - right - eous One! earth hath de - fied thee;
4 God the All - prov - i - dent! earth by thy chas - tening

thun - der thy clar - ion, the light - ning thy sword;
thy ways all ho - ly, and slight - ed thy word;
yet to e - ter - ni - ty stand - eth thy word,
yet shall to free - dom and truth be re - stored;

show forth thy pi - ty on high where thou reign - est:
bid not thy wrath in its ter - rors a - wak - en:
false - hood and wrong shall not tar - ry be - side thee:
through the thick dark - ness thy king - dom is haste - ning:

give to us peace in our time, O Lord.
give to us peace in our time, O Lord.
give to us peace in our time, O Lord.
thou wilt give peace in thy time, O Lord.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

COLLECT FOR 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.*

OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE *MHSO 9 Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! (Berthier)*

Refrain



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA.

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Holy Wisdom, in your loving kindness you created and restored us when we were lost: inspire us with your truth, that we may love you with our whole minds and run to you with open hearts, through Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

[Moses summoned all Israel and said to them,] ¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This 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.’ ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: ‘They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But 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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

PSALM RESPONSE S 411 Simplified chant setting (S 411)

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

PSALM: Psalm 111

¹ Alleluia! I will give thanks to you, O God, with
my whole **heart**, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
² Great are your deeds, O **God**; *
they are studied by all who **delight** in them.
³ Your work is full of majesty and **splendor**, *
and your righteousness endures for ever.
⁴ You make your marvelous works to be **remembered**; *
you are gracious and full of **compassion**.
⁵ You give food to those who **fear** you; *
you are ever mindful of your **covenant**.
⁶ You have shown your people the power of your **works** *
in giving them the lands of the **nations**.
⁷ The works of your hands are faithfulness and **justice**; *
all your commandments are **sure**.
⁸ They stand fast for ever and **ever**, *
because they are done in truth and **equity**.
⁹ You sent redemption to your people;
you commanded your covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is your **Name**.
¹⁰ The fear of God is the beginning of **wisdom**; *
those who act accordingly have a good **understanding**;
God's praise endures for **ever**.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Corinth.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, 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.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet 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.

⁷It 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. ⁸“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. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For 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? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, 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.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *Hallelujah (Maraire)* (MHSO 19)

Hal - le - lu - jah, _____ hal - le - lu - jah,
 Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu,
 Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,
 hal - le - lu - jah, _____ hal - le - lu - jah!
 hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!
 hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

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GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

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

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and 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.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and

crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They 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.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

THE SERMON

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (REV. NANCY CASEY FULTON)

**I believe in God, who breathed into existence earth, sea, and sky;
the creatures who inhabit them;
and all people, made in the divine image.**

**I believe in Jesus the Christ,
who came into the world in human form
to show us the way to the fullness of life
which is our inheritance.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
who gives us wisdom and understanding for our journey.**

**I believe in the universal Church,
the heart and hands of the Creator in this world;
the saints, known and unknown, who have gone before us;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of these imperfect bodies;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing or kneel as able.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

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.**

THE PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us with glad hearts offer the fruits of our life and labor to the Lord.

ANTHEM *Jesus Christ The Apple Tree (Elizabeth Poston)*

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile;
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness (Schmücke dich) (H 339)*

1 Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the
2 Sun, who all my life dost bright - en; Light, who
3 Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray thee, let me

gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's
dost my soul en - light - en; Joy, the best that an - y
glad - ly here o - bey thee; nev - er to my hurt in -

splen - dor, there with joy thy prais - es ren - der
 know - eth; Fount, whence all my be - ing flow - eth:
 vit - ed, be thy love with love re - quit - ed;

un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed hath this
 at thy feet I cry, my Ma - ker, let me
 from this ban - quet let me mea - sure, Lord, how

won-drous ban - quet found - ed— high o'er all the heavens he
 be a fit par - ta - ker of this bless - ed food from
 vast and deep its trea - sure; through the gifts thou here dost

reign - eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign - eth.
 hea - ven, for our good, thy glo - ry, giv - en.
 give me, as thy guest in heaven re - ceive me.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord 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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS *Santo, santo, santo [Holy, holy, holy]* (WLP 785)

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of darkness into light, out of sin into right relationship, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O God,

**We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

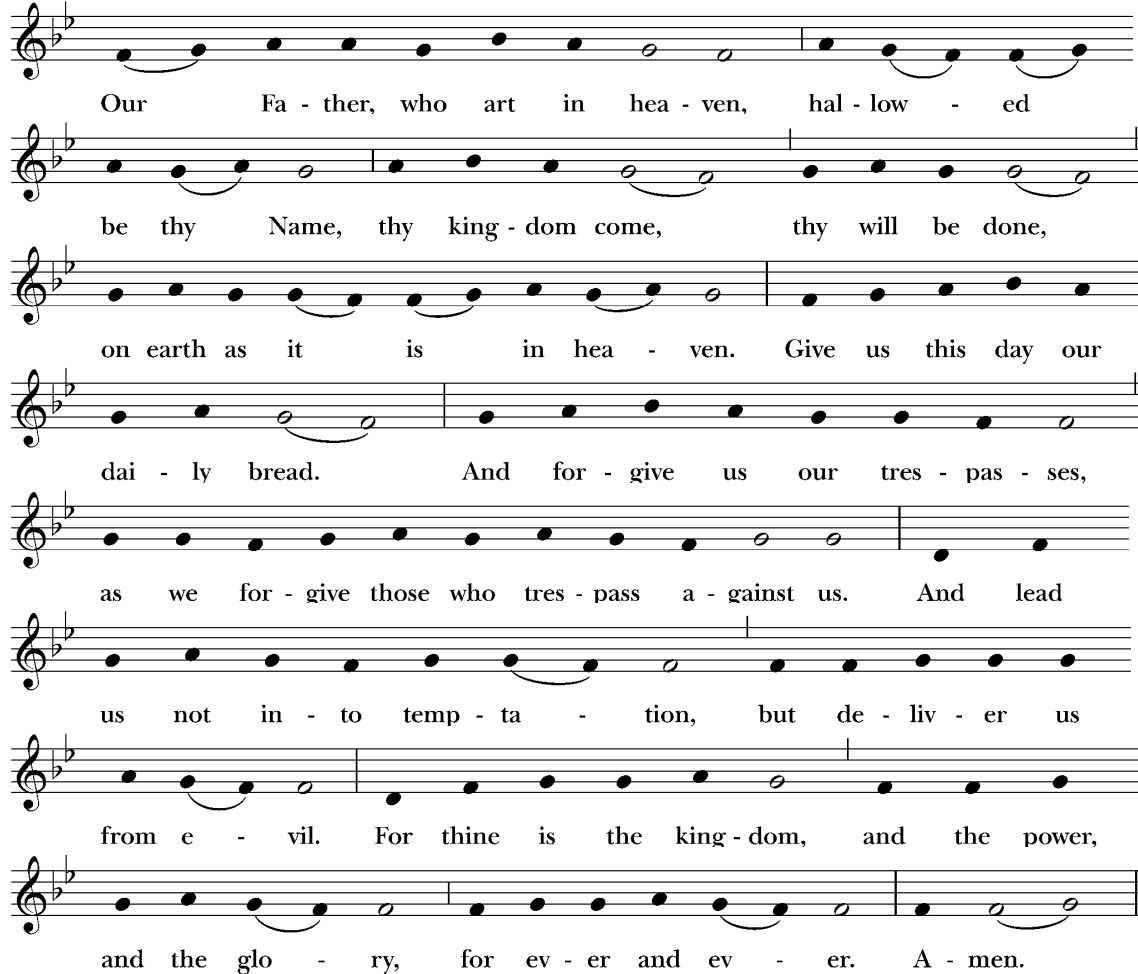
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, bring all things into unity with your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,



Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

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

INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

DISTRIBUTION

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep us in everlasting life. *Amen.*

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

For those remaining at home, a Spiritual Communion is offered. This is a personal devotion that anyone can pray (at any time) to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances prevent them from receiving the elements.

For those worshipping with us from home, we pray together with you:

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your grace and be renewed for your service. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Body and Blood of Christ. **We who are many are one Body, for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

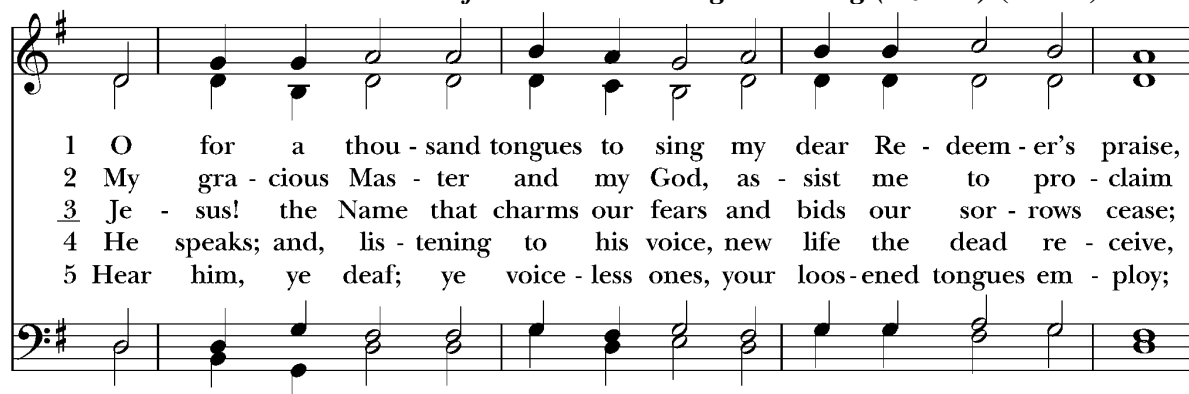
Let us pray.

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

BLESSING

Holy eternal Majesty,
Holy incarnate Word,
Holy abiding Spirit,
Bless you for evermore. *Amen.*

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *O for a thousand tongues to sing* (Azmon) (H 493)



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;

1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of his grace!
 2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
 3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
 be now and ever given
 by saints below and saints above,
 the Church in earth and heayen.

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

Serving today:

Ministers of Music: Eric Vinciguerra, Choir, Ethan Kindle

Lector: Barbara Sheperdigian **Prayers:** Nancy Hartshorne **Chalice:** Adam Baker

Presider: Rev. Diane Stier **Director:** Alice Ciccu

Greeters: Tom & Mary Ellen Cochrane **Acolyte:** Adam Baker

Coffee Hour: Sharon Bolton & Lynne L'Hommedieu

St. John's Episcopal Church

206 West Maple Street

Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

989.773.7448

E-mail: saintjohnsmp@gmail.com

Website: www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com

The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, ec, Rector

Dan Eichinger, Senior Warden

Clancy DeLong, Treasurer

St. John's Episcopal Church is a parish of the

Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan

The Most Rev. Dr. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop

The Worldwide Anglican Communion

The Most Rev. Dr. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

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Prayers are taken or adapted from the Book of Common Prayer, Enriching our Worship, the Book of Occasional Services 2018, and the New Zealand Prayer Book

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Valentine Making Party with Blessing of the Valentines

St John's is having a Valentine Making Party in the Parish House on Saturday, February 3, from 2 – 4 pm. Deb Clark, an Art Reach instructor, will be with us to guide us. All materials, supplies and a snack will be provided. Extra Cards will be made for our home bound friends. The Valentine cards will be blessed afterward. The cost is \$10/person or \$15/family. Please see Pat Thurston to add your name to the sign-up sheet. Call Pat Thurston if you have questions 517.303.1046.

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On February 4, during coffee hour, St. John's will host an informational presentation about the Mount Pleasant Heartland Hospice office as presented by their Volunteer Coordinator; Frances.

Please plan to attend.

We pray this week...

For Michael, Presiding Bishop; Prince, our Bishop Provisional, and for our diocese; and Bonnie, Bishop of Michigan, Rayford, Bishop of Northern Michigan.

For Moisés, Bishop of the Dominican Republic

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury

For Craig, Bishop of ELCA.

For The Anglican Church of Melanesia

For Joe, our President; Gretchen, our Governor; and all who make decisions for this nation.

For Diane, our Rector; Eric, our Choirmaster; Mekeila, our Admin. Asst.

For all those in our diocese discerning calls to ministry, especially Christi and Jess

For our lay ministers, lectors, choir, acolytes, greeters, and hospitality hosts

For all non-parochial clergy and Lutheran pastors serving in our congregations

For Grace, Lapeer - Sarah Parks, Priest-in-Charge

For Emmanuel, Petoskey – Kay Houck, Rector

For the members of St. John's, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Dan

For the members of St. John's especially: Eric, Jessica, Daniel, Axel, Ford, Pamela, Harriet, Harry, Margaret, Russell, Jonathan & Walter

For those on the Prayer Group's list, especially Brent, Cindy, Diana, Gabriel, Mary Lou, Nancy, and Harry

For all who have died.

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church, where faithful people and seekers have gathered for worship since 1884.

Using this bulletin you will be able to participate as fully as you feel comfortable. In the Episcopal tradition, we do a lot of moving – standing, bowing, kneeling, sitting. Generally, we stand to *praise*, kneel to *pray*, and sit to *listen*. If you are unsure of what to do, just follow the moves of others around you. There's no one way of getting it "right"!

Newcomers and visitors: An accessible bathroom is located in the hallway outside the side door near the front of the church, and there is also one downstairs, which can be reached by the elevator in the same hallway.

Please know that all are invited to Christ's table. If you would prefer not to receive, simply cross your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. Our Eucharistic bread is gluten free.

We believe what is written on the wall of the church on the Isle of Iona:

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ.

It is made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;

you who have been here often

and you who have not been here for a long time or ever before;

you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, not because the Church invites you;

it is Christ who invites you to be known and fed here.

Again, welcome. We are glad you are here. Join us for *Coffee Hour* in the parish hall immediately after the service.

- *Rev. Sr. Diane Stier and the People of St. John's*