



# SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ashfield, Massachusetts

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 16, 2025

## Welcome to Saint John's!

Our mission at St. John's Church in Ashfield is to grow, through worship, in God's gospel of hospitality and wholeness, and to faithfully live that word in our fellowship, families, communities, and the world. May all who enter here be received as Christ.

## An Acknowledgement

We worship and share God's mission on the unceded land of the Nipmuc, Pocumtuc, and Wabanaki peoples. We are mindful that our blessing came at the price of their sorrow and we pledge to grow in our awareness of racial injustice with God's help.

## Invitation to Holy Communion

This is God's table. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To eat, present your hands to be given bread. To drink, take a sip as the cup is held to your lips. Dipping the bread into the wine is discouraged for reasons of public health. To receive a blessing, instead of bread, cross your arms on your chest.

## Acknowledgements

- The Book of Common Prayer, 1979
- Eucharistic Prayer A, Expansive
- The Book of Occasional Services 2022
- The Holy Bible, The New Revised Standard Version
- Venite App

An \* indicates that we invite you to stand as you are able

***Bold*** text is said by the assembly

Prelude: "Von Gott Will Ich Nicht Lassen" Johann G. Walther (1684-1748) Duane Nyman, Organist

**\*Gathering Hymn #581**

*Where charity and love prevail*

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

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

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.

**\*Gloria S-280**

*Powell*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Collect of the Day*

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The First Reading*

*Jeremiah 17:5-10*

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 1

Responsively by whole verse

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law of the LORD, \***  
**and they meditate on his law day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do  
not wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so with the wicked; \***  
**they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, \***  
**but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

The Second Reading

Corinthians 15:12-20

A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

\*Sequence Hymn #656

*Blest are the pure in heart*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The Sermon*

*Rev. Mark Hatch*

*Shared silence*

*The Nicene Creed*

*BCP p. 358*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,**

eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
    he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
    he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
    and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
    he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
    in accordance with the Scriptures;  
    he ascended into heaven  
    and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
    and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
    who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
    and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*The Prayers of the People*

*Form VI*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.  
For this community, the nation, and the world;  
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Douglas our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

*Cycles of Prayer*

I ask your prayers for those remembered in our cycles of prayer: In the Anglican cycle we pray for The Church of Bangladesh. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for St. Mark's, East Longmeadow; Lawrence House Service Corps; Church Periodical Club; The Episcopal Church and Visual Arts. In our towns' cycle we pray for our libraries, Historical Society, and Trails Committee. Among our members and friends, we pray for Ruth Julian and David King; Joyce

Ketcham; Thomas and Amy Kuhns; Hannah Jarrell; the Rev. Eric Kahl and Margaret MacNaughton. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Richard Bromberg. And among our ministries we pray for our New Missions. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Confession of Sin*

*BCP p. 360*

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

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

*The Peace*

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

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

*Wardens' Welcome & History Moment - Titus Strong, presented by Addison Hall*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory Anthem: The St. John's Madrigal Singers

*Blessed Jesus, at thy word*

*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 God 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** S-130

*Schubert/Proulx*

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 he 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior: By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

**AMEN.**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread** S-164

*Schubert/Proulx*

*Prayer for Spiritual Communion*

*Armed Services Prayer Book, 2008*

**ALL:** In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory.

**CONGREGANTS ONLINE:** Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come.

**ALL: Amen.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Communion Hymn** #304

*I come with joy to meet my Lord*

Let us pray.

**\*Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Epiphany Blessing*

*Book of Occasional Services 2018*

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

**\*Recessional Hymn** #537

*Christ for the world we sing*

Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: "Ragaudon" Andre Campra (1660-1744)

Duane Nyman, Organist

*Please stay for coffee and conversation!*

## EVENTS

February 16: The Rev. Mark Hatch will be our supply priest

February 16: History Moment - Titus Strong, presented by Addison Hall

February 16: Study Group on Israel-Palestine, at First Congregational Church 11:30am

February 18: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry

February 22: Let's Read Together! A Journey into the Middle Ages with Dante 10-12

February 22: Love in a Backpack Filling 2:30pm

February 23: The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas will be our supply priest

February 23: Offertory dedicated to Vicar's Discretionary Fund in Memory of Russell Williams

March 1: Liturgy Team Meeting 10am - zoom

March 1: Forum Recap

March 2: Bishop Fisher visits St. John's

March 9: Vestry Meeting

March 11: Ring the Bells for Climate Change 11am

## CONTACT US

**Mailing address:** PO Box 253, Ashfield, MA 01330-0253 | **Telephone:** 628-4402

**Email:** stjohnsashfield@gmail.com | **On the web:** stjohnsashfield.org |

**Facebook:** @stjohnsashfield

### *Lay Leaders & Clergy*

**Co-Senior Wardens:** Sue Craft, 628-0289  
and Susan Todd, 628-3998

**Junior Warden:** Maddy Roberts

**Treasurer:** Raven Harris

**Clerk:** Lynnette Leidy Sievert

**Vestry:** Kevin Blanchard, Lucinda Brown,  
Darlene Monds, Kay Spencer, Jane Wagener,  
Andrew Wickline

**Licensed Preachers:** Raven Harris, Andrew  
Wickline

**Lay Eucharistic Visitors:** Sue Craft, Andrew  
Wickline, Kristen Wickline, Jane Wagener

**Licensed Worship Leaders:** Andrew  
Wickline, Kristen Wickline, Sue Craft

### *Staff*

**Organist:** Duane Nyman

**Director, Madrigal Singers:** Julie Meservey

**Parish Administrator:** Lis Henry **email:**  
stjohnsashfield@gmail.com

**Financial Administrator:** Amy Murray

**Sexton:** John Wickline

### *Ministries*

**Pastoral Care Team:** Sue Craft

**Digital Ministry:** Ted and Kara Toothaker,  
Andy Wickline, Jane Kaufman

**Buildings & Grounds Team:** Maddy  
Roberts

**Green Team:** Kristin Wickline

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Kristen Wickline

**LOVE in a Backpack:** Jenny Wildermuth

**Bicentennial Celebrations:** Addison Hall