



SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ashfield, Massachusetts

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 23, 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: "Vision" Joseph Rheinberger (1839-1901)

Duane Nyman, Organist

***Gathering Hymn #593**

Lord, make us servants of your peace

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 Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing; Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Genesis 45:3-11,15

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ¶Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your

household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 37:1-12,41-42

Responsively by whole verse

Part I

- ¹ Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- ² **For they shall soon wither like the grass, *
and like the green grass fade away.**
- ³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good; *
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- ⁴ **Take delight in the LORD, *
and he shall give you your heart's desire.**
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.
- ⁶ **He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.**
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD *
and wait patiently for him.
- ⁸ **Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**
- ⁹ Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- ¹⁰ **For evildoers shall be cut off, *
but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.**
- ¹¹ In a little while the wicked shall be no more; *
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.
- ¹² **But the lowly shall possess the land; *
they will delight in abundance of peace.**

Part II

⁴¹ But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD; *
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴² **The LORD will help them and rescue them; *
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because they seek refuge in him.**

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50

A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians.

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Sequence Hymn** #674

Forgive our sins as we forgive

The Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good

to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

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 Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for St. Philip's, Easthampton; Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross; Episcopal Conference of the Deaf. In our towns' cycle we pray for elected officials and town employees. Among our members and friends, we pray for Mary Link; Michael and Kathy Maleno; Nancy Maleno; Vicky Maleno; Susan Manatt and Jeremy Rogers, Diana and Robert; Matt Marchese; and Maddy Leue. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Sean M. Skalski. And among our ministries we pray for our Pastoral Care Team. **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 & God Moments

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

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

God is love

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 WLP #831

Ubi caritas et amor

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 #379**

God is Love; let heaven adore him

Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: "Trumpet Tune" John Stanley (1713-1788)

Duane Nyman, Organist

Please stay for coffee and conversation!

EVENTS

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

February 27: Bishop Search Listening Session: St. Philip's, Easthampton, MA 3:00-5:30 pm

March 1: Liturgy Team Meeting 10am - zoom

March 1: Forum Recap 11am - zoom

March 2: Bishop Fisher visits St. John's

March 4: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry

March 5: Ash Wednesday service 6pm

March 9: Vestry Meeting

March 11: Ring the Bells for Climate Change 11am

March 16: History Moment

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

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