



St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday, January 28th, 2024, 10:30am
The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Welcome to Our Guests

We are so glad you have chosen to worship at St. John's today. You are very welcome to receive Holy Communion if you have been baptized in any Christian Church. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest. Children's activity bags are available.

HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

THE PRELUDE *All Glory Be to God on High* J.S. Bach
Fughetta on "All Glory Be to God on High" J.S. Bach

THE OPENING HYMN 428 *O all ye works of God now come*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION *All stand.*
Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

THE 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.**

THE GLORIA S278

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
 peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, hea-ven-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-
 ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
 Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
 God the Fa-ther. A - - - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON: 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 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE: PSALM 111

Sung by a choir.

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.

THE EPISTLE: 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 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 593 *Lord, make us servants of your peace*

THE GOSPEL: MARK 1:21-28

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **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.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston

All sit.

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

The Celebrant and people say together

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 IV)

All kneel as they are able.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray especially for _____. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for _____. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We also pray for _____. (*Silence*) Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially, _____, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially, ___ that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Priest and People

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.

Celebrant 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

The people stand to greet one another.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The celebrant will say an offertory sentence. The people stand to sing.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN 427 *When morning gilds the skies*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER B)

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Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS S128

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.

All kneel as they are able.

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 him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

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, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John and 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 Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People and Celebrant

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, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast Alleluia.**

The Celebrant presents the holy gifts to the congregation saying

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with Thanksgiving.

Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor.

During communion the choir sings

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All kneel as they are able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the people

May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. And, the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 371 *Thou whose almighty word*

THE DISMISSAL

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune in F*

David N. Johnson

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TODAY'S SERVERS

Clergy: The Reverend Duncan Johnston, DMin
The Reverend Deonna D. Neal, PhD

Director of Children's Formation: Sarah Collier

Director of Youth Ministry: Connie Tapia

Acolytes: Susannah Miller, Bobby Bradford, Parker Mantooth,
Eloise Carlisle, Maggie Mantooth

Lector and Intercessor: Rich Anderson, Nick Prillaman

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary-Nelms Parsons, Dudley Perry,
Radney Ramsey

Ushers/Greeters: Keith Miller, Catherine McLemore, Debbie Schremser,
Cole Wise

Altar Guild: Jeanne Drummond

Flower Guild: Betty Beale, Mary Helen Mahan

Flower Delivery Team: Jeanne Drummond, Bette Smith,
Debbie Schremser

Videographer: Anne Tippet

Instrumentalists: Joel Gregory, *organ*; Barbara Shanks, *oboe*;
Robert Scott, *flute*; David Simpson, *bassoon*; Robby Gibson, *guitar*.

Altar Flowers are given in memory of:

Essie Whitefield Reese, Warren S. Reese, Sr., Gen. Warren S. Reese,
Warren S. Reese, Jr., Margaret Billingsley Reese

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Anne Phillips Arrington, John Durr, Jim Bennett, Bob Hill, Carma Marks,
Eddie McDowell, Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Richard McCrory,
Ethan Tapia, Barbara Wells, Larry Worriow.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Emma Allshouse,
Gail Alsobrook, Frankie McAdams Barlow, Mac Burton, Michael Finnen,
Roger Jobe, Seeley Lewis, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Pam Slate,
Ron Skoneki, Chandler Taylor, Joe Wendel, Frank Winkler

*Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care.
The prayer list will be updated monthly, please notify us if names need to remain longer.*

Pastoral Care Team for January:

Virginia Banister, Martha Tyson, Ashley Hamlett, Britney Schremser,
Kathleen Bradford, Laura Knapp.

Announcements

2024 Pledge: Please remember to fill out your 2024 pledge card. If you do not have one, you may ask a vestry member, or call or email the office. We are 93% of the way there. We have received \$1,196,620.50 and have \$98,505.57 outstanding.

Organ Concert Honoring Althea Thomas: Sunday, February 11, 4:00 pm. Althea was organist and choir director at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church during the time Dr. Martin Luther King was pastor. Mrs. Coretta King had advanced music degrees and studied opera at the New England Conservatory. Althea composed many pieces of music for Mrs. King to sing on Sunday mornings. St. John's is pleased to welcome Organist Alcee Chriss, who will be playing many pieces composed by Mrs. Thomas. This concert is sponsored by the Montgomery Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Revelation Winter Bible Study: Sundays, at 9:15 a.m., in the library, join Deonna for a 7-week Bible study on the book of Revelation. We will use the book *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation* by Bruce Metzger. Books will be available in the bookstore (\$15) or can be purchased online.

Rector's Forum: Welcome Course- Beginning January 14th, Duncan will lead an engaging program of presentations and discussions about the Christian faith and the Episcopal tradition. Sunday mornings, 9:15 a.m. in the Archives. Please email duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org to register.

Laptops for Honduras: The Diocese is collecting laptops to send to Honduras. Laptops must turn on and passwords should be removed or noted on the device. Please wipe the hard drive if possible. Devices can be left at the church office.

Mercy House: Volunteers are needed from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. each Thursday to serve hot meals at Mercy House. Mercy House is a day shelter serving West Montgomery by providing access to food, clothing, shower facilities and laundry facilities. For questions of more information please contact Stephanie Norrell at 334-467-6989.



Visitors: Welcome! We are so glad you decided to visit with us today. Please use this QR code to provide us with some information about you and your family so that we can better serve you.