



Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2021

Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell

Nursery School website: www.stjohnsns.com

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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 250 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2019.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Order for Worship

Prelude ~ “The Only Son from Heaven”

Quartet

The only Son from heaven, foretold by ancient seers,
by God the Father given, in human form appears.
No spere his light confining, star so brightly shining
as he, our Morning Star.

Awaken, Lord our spirit to know and love you more,
in faith to stand unshaken, in spirit to adore,
that we, through this world moving, each glimpse of heaven proving,
may reap its fullness there.

Music: J. S Bach

Text: Elizabeth Cruciger (ca. 1500)

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: **you search us and know us.
You are acquainted with all our ways.
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.
We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.
We distrust those who are not like us.
We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.
Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.
Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;
receive them in your divine mercy.
Amen.**

P: How vast is God's grace!
 Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,
 our sins are washed away
 and we are claimed as God's own beloved.
 Indeed, we are forgiven.
 In the wake of God's forgiveness,
 we are called to be the beloved community
 living out Christ's justice
 and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn ~ "Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"

1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;

and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and

es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
 Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

Greeting

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

A: Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So, he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore, Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore, I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So, Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 139

Refrain (Cantor, then ALL)

Lord,
you have searched me out and known me.

You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting places
and are acquainted with all my ways. **Refrain.**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me. **Refrain.**

Where can I go then from your Spirit?
where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also. **Refrain.**

If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast. **Refrain.**

Gospel: John 1:43-51

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

Following a time of silence for reflection, the assembly may rise.

Hymn of the Day ~ "The Son of God, Our Christ"



1 The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,
2 In ev - 'ry test, in tri - als man - i - fold,
3 To - day, as then, Christ sum - mons us to dare
5 Wher - e'er we find our wit - ness should be made,



shared hu - man life and toiled through - out the day;
these ser - vants wit - nessed, by their faith made bold;
to fol - low bold - ly and his work to share,
what - e'er our task, be thou, O Christ, our aid,



from com - mon folk he called the twelve to be
and with the gifts and tal - ents which they brought
to help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame,
that we may glad - ly give for thee our best



co - work - ers in his sa - cred min - is - try.
the church was found - ed and God's mes - sage taught.
de - clar - ing to the world his ho - ly name.
and find each task di - vine - ly sent and blest.

Text: Edward M. Blumenfeld, b. 1927, alt.

Music: SURSUM CORDA, Alfred M. Smith, 1879-1971

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Music © 1941 Historic Church of the Ascension, Atlantic City, NJ, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Apostles' Creed

P: *Together, let us confess our faith:*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

A: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

A: For the body of Christ gathered throughout the world and for all servants of the gospel, that following Jesus, the church lives out its calling every day, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

A: For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, and for all that God has marvelously made, that we serve as wise stewards of Earth, our home, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

A: For first responders, for front-line workers, for triage nurses, for ICU personnel, for janitors and all who work for the health of others, that they are given strength, peace, and the energy and tools to heal everyone they encounter, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

A: For peacekeepers, for leaders of governments, for military personnel, that they provide protection to all people and promote calm and order in the chaos of our present moment. For all who lead in the vaccination effort: producing doses, transporting them, administering shots, scheduling appointments, communicating information; that we might help each other remain safe and healthy, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

A: For those lacking food or shelter, for those who are sick or grieving, and for those who are imprisoned or homebound, as a community we pray for Alethia, Martyne, Kate, Ed, Maria, Cheryl, Susan, John, Martin, Jenny, Scott, Adina, Kathy, John, Eric, Tom, Jack, Jon, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dave, Gladys, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Jim, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna, that God console all who suffer, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

A: For our neighborhood, both actual and virtual, for visitors joining our streaming, for those who provide the services that sustain our lives, for our neighboring houses of faith, that we all might live together loving our neighbor as we are called, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

A: In thanksgiving for the saints who have gone before us, *especially Antony and Pachomius, renewers of the church*, that their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

A: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ "Just As I Am"

Quartet

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
here for a season, then above, O Lamb of God, I come.

Music: David Barton

Text: Charlotte Elliot (1789-1871)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During our time away, we will not be passing the offering plates. We are grateful for all who are able to continue their support of St. John. There are three ways to share tithes and offerings:

1. Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Marcie Godby, our bookkeeper, to arrange for this (stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com).

2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.

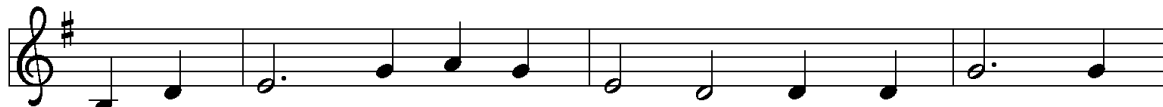
3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).

Take a moment and reflect on the gifts we have received – even in these difficult days.

Voluntary~ “Reflection on Union Seminary”

Robert Lind

Offertory Hymn~ “Jesus, Come! For We Invite You”



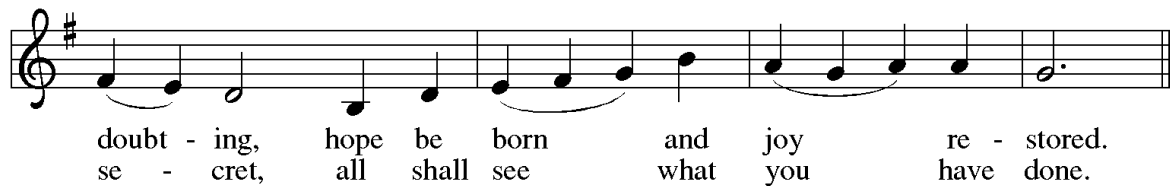
1 Je - sus, come! for we in - vite you, guest and mas - ter,
2 Je - sus, come! trans-form our plea - sures, guide us in - to



friend and Lord; now, as once at Ca - na's wed - ding,
paths un - known; bring your gifts, com-mand your ser - vants,



speak and let us hear your word: lead us through our need or
let us trust in you a - lone: though your hand may work in



Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938

Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958

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Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

Offertory Prayer

P: O God,
receive these gifts as you receive us:
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.
Nourish us anew in your tender care,
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Benediction

P: God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn~ "Jesus, I Have Promised"

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude~ “O, Jesus, I Have Promised”

Robert J. Powell

Additional music links:

“The Summons”

<https://youtu.be/Y7Y5RWel6eg>

“Here I Am, Lord”

https://youtu.be/_UkTlj2uPI4

“This Little Light of Mine”

https://youtu.be/1yUK0S_cEXY

Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles’ Creed

Quartet

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Conner Czincila

Audrey Pyle

Audrey Pyle

Deborah Swider, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen,

Kurt Klinger-Wilensky, Jonathan Oehler

A Note about Simply Giving... If anyone is changing their simply giving amount starting January 2021, please email Marcie @ stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com. The pledge cards do not initiate a change in your simply giving amount.

