



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 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 ~ “How Lovely Are the Messengers”

Quartet

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,
throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

Text: Romans 10:15

Music: Felix Mendelssohn

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 ~ "O God of Light"



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,
 3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing
 4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way
 to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;
 through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,
 and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,
 that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.
 see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.
 may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

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: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A: 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 anymore, 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."

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 111

Refrain (Cantor, then ALL)



God's works are justice and truth,
God's precepts are all of them sure,
Standing firm for ever and ever;
they are made in uprightness and truth. **Refrain.**

God has sent deliverance to his people
and established his covenant forever.
Holy is God's name, to be feared. **Refrain.**

To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
God's praise shall last forever! **Refrain.**

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: 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.

The gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day ~ "There is a Balm in Gilead"

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

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 all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

A: For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

A: For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

- A: For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, for those hospitalized with COVID-19 and long haulers, those struggling with mental illness, for those who are anxious, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need *especially* Barry, Jean, Alethia, Martyne, Kate, Ed, Maria, Cheryl, Susan, John, Jenny, Scott, Kathy, John, Eric, Tom, Jack, Jon, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Gladys, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Jim, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna; for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.
- A: For the concerns of this congregation: for those who are wrestling with the challenges of our present time, for those with birthdays and anniversaries, for the people of God in this congregation and for other needs in our community especially our county officials as they strive to vaccinate our people, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.
- A: For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord, 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~ “Wir eilen mit schwachen”

Duet- Deborah Swider and Maja Lisa Fritzhusten

Wir eilen mit schwachen, doch emsigen Schritten,
 O Jesu, O Meister, zu helfen zu dir.
 Du suchest die Kranken und Irrenden treulich.
 Ach höre, wie wir
 Die Stimmen erheben, um Hülfe zu bitten!
 Es sei uns dein gnädiges Antlitz erfreulich!

*We hasten with weak, yet eager steps,
 O Jesus, o Master, to You for help.
 You faithfully seek the ill and erring.
 Ah, hear, how we
 lift up our voices to beg for help!
 Let Your gracious countenance be joyful to us!*

Music: J. S. Bach (from Cantata 78)

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.

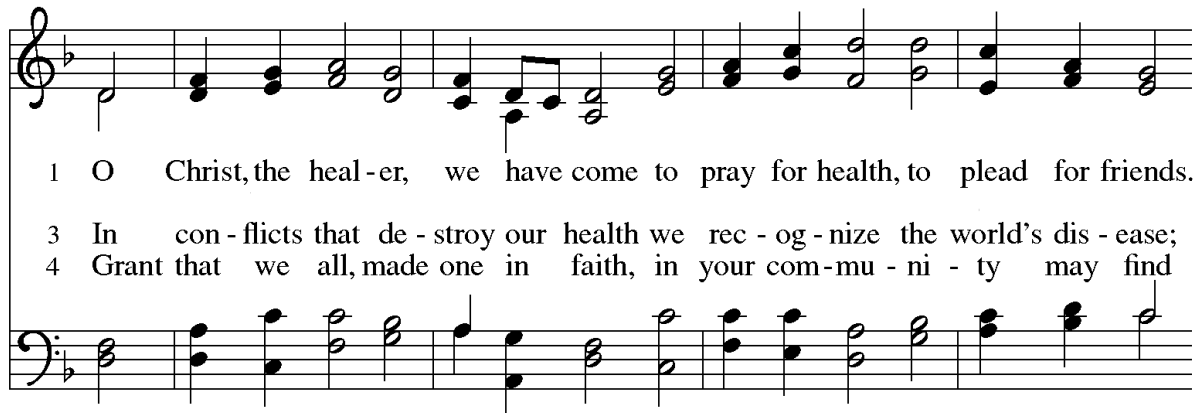
3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).

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

Voluntary~ "O Christ the Healer"

Kim Kondal Patterson

Offertory Hymn~ "O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come"



1 O Christ, the heal-er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.

3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;
4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find



How can we fail to be re-stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?

our com - mon life de - clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
the whole-ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man-kind.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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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~ “Rise, Shine, You People!”



- 1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
- 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
- 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude~ “Rise, Shine”

John Ferguson

Additional music links:

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

<https://youtu.be/84dw4RaGpDM>

“Jesus Christ the Apple Tree”

<https://youtu.be/SixnHKwyrjI>

“Take O Take Me as I Am”

<https://youtu.be/fRpDeqmkYz8>

Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles’ Creed

Quartet

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Deborah Swider, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen,
Kurt Klinger-Wilensky, Jonathan Oehler

Letter from St. John Treasurer, Jack Ruse

Thank you for your support in 2020!

CURRENT OPERATIONS

Well, it is official. I went back and checked, and for the first time since 2002, we didn't have to take any money from the endowment to meet our operating expenses. We ended the year with a \$2,617 surplus. The congregation's generosity was up across the board whether you could only give a little, or you were fortunate enough to be able to give more. No one group or individual was responsible for this, we all just dug a little deeper into our pockets this year. Thank you everyone!

Coming into fall we had a \$18,000 surplus but moving, and necessary repairs to the parsonage reduced that buffer. For 2020 you gave \$2,300 more than in 2019 and that is without the benefit of the usual additional income bumps we see at Christmas and Easter. COVID and weather eliminated in-person worship for both of those major feast days.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

We did have to spend funds on major Capital Improvements this year. We replaced the 40+ year old church boiler; finally repaired the church bell tower; replaced the a/c units in the Troster room; repaired a leaking Church roof and school roof; invested in an audio video system for recording and streaming church activities; we upgraded our current office computers with better and faster hard drives; we insulated the space under the parsonage kitchen to improve winter comfort; and late in the year completed a needed project to improve water drainage away from both the cemetery and church/school. We ended up spending \$67,800 this year on capital improvements and fortunately we were able to draw \$46,000 from the endowment to help pay for it. Your generous response to fund raising and contributions through the maintenance and repair envelopes covered the rest.

Again, thank you.

