

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
NOVEMBER 27, 2022

8:00 AM

## WELCOME!

*YOU are welcome here, regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, sex, national origin, marital status, family makeup, socioeconomic status, or political persuasion. St. John's Episcopal Church is a community of people who gather to acknowledge our need for divine and human love, and to respect our common humanity. At St. John's, ALL ARE WELCOME.*

*It is our pleasure to have you join us for worship today. If this is your first visit, or even if you've been attending for a little while, and you'd like to learn more about us, please take a 'Welcome' card from our pews, complete & place the 'Connect' side in the offering plate or hand it to one of our greeters or clergy so that we may follow up with you. Or, feel welcome to contact us using the information on the back of this bulletin.*

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### *Our mission*

*LINKING LIVES IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST*



### **War No More**

by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by *Isaiah 2:1-5*

(silk painting with digital drawing and collage)

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### *Our vision*

*WE JOYFULLY GATHER TO PRAY, WORSHIP, LEARN AND SERVE  
AS WE SEEK TO FOLLOW JESUS, AND INVITE ALL TO JOIN US  
ON A SACRED JOURNEY OF HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION*

*Following the pattern of THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, RITE II  
and FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION (adapted)*

*Please stand as you are able*

### Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

### Collect

Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you  
no secrets are hid:  
People 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.

*Please read in unison*

### Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### Salutation

Presider The Lord be with you.  
People And also with you.  
Presider Let us pray.

### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of  
light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in  
great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to

judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Please be seated*

**First Lesson** - Isaiah 2:1-5

*Alicia Watt*

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come  
the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.  
Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.  
O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord!

Reader        The Word of the Lord.  
People        Thanks be to God.

*Please read in unison*

**Psalm 122** - Laetatus sum

1 I was glad when they said to me, \*  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."  
2 Now our feet are standing \*  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
3 Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
that is at unity with itself;  
4 To which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord, \*  
the assembly of Israel,  
to praise the Name of the Lord.  
5 For there are the thrones of judgment, \*  
the thrones of the house of David.

- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
 "May they prosper who love you.  
 7 Peace be within your walls \*  
 and quietness within your towers.  
 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, \*  
 I pray for your prosperity.  
 9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, \*  
 I will seek to do you good."

**Second Lesson - Romans 13:11-14**

*Alicia Watt*

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader        The Word of the Lord.  
 People        Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able for the Gospel*

**Gospel Reading - Matthew 24:36-44**

*The Rev. Jim Harrison*

Reader        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
 People        Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Reader        The Gospel of the Lord.  
 People        Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*Please be seated*

**Sermon**

*The Rev. Jim Harrison*

**Prayer for Illumination**

Presider:     God of the ages,  
 in scripture we hear stories of people like us—  
 ordinary people,  
 people who longed to know you,  
 people who longed to follow you,

people who made mistakes,  
people who tried to grow—  
old, young,  
native, immigrant,  
new to the faith, lifelong believer.  
In scripture we hear stories of people like us,  
so just as you walked with them,  
help us to hear and remember all the ways that you walk with us.  
We are listening.  
We are grateful.  
We are yours.  
**Amen.**

*Please stand to say together*

**Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in a God  
who promised to Abraham,  
who wrestled with Jacob,  
who walked with Ruth,  
who spoke with Moses,  
who grieved with Bathsheba,  
who danced with David,  
who dreamed with Joseph,  
and who hoped like Mary.  
We believe in a God who has been  
loving, inviting, transforming, and challenging us  
from generation to generation.  
And we believe that same God  
is here with us now,  
saying, "Come on in; there's room for you here."  
**Amen**

*Please feel free to sit, stand or kneel*

**Prayers of the People**

God of Abraham and Isaac,  
God of Tamar and Ruth,  
God of Mary and Joseph,  
We bow our heads today hoping to catch a glimpse or a shimmer of you.  
We know that you are here with us, just as you walked with every generation before, so  
we bring you our prayers.  
Thank you for creating space for us.  
Thank you for seeing our scattered thoughts,  
our imposter syndrome,  
our fragments of doubt, and still saying,  
"Come on in."  
Thank you for seeing our ordinary selves  
with anxious concerns

*Alicia Watt*

and unflattering habits and saying,  
“I have bigger plans for you.”

Thank you for seeing  
our fragile egos,  
and our uncertain relationships,  
and saying,  
“You still belong here.”

Your expansive love makes room for us to breathe, and we want to love with our lungs  
and hearts full. So today we pray—teach us how to make that same room for others.

When we come face to face with stories that are different from ours, show us how to add  
chairs to the table. When we find ourselves face to face with stories that frustrate and test  
our patience, show us how to build bridges instead of walls. When we find ourselves face  
to face with stories that feel foreign or unrelatable, remind us to open the door and to  
listen fully.

From Abraham to Mary, you made room for every story—and that love continues to make  
room for us. Teach us to do the same for our neighbor so this world will know love.

With hope in our hearts we pray for Ian, James, Phil, Cathy & Juan, Jim & Sue, Beth,  
Anita, Doug, Vincent, Janeene, Kristi, Arra, Jay, Penny, Ashlee, Linda & Jeff, Jane & Al,  
Harriet & Vic, Susan, Tom & Joey, Arthur, Katie & Logan, Claire & her family, Dan, and  
all recovering from COVID. Pray especially for the people of Ukraine.

*Invite petitions and thanksgivings.*

## Call to Confession

Presider In God’s house, everyone is welcome—  
Those who seem like they have it all together,  
And those who feel like their world is falling apart.  
No matter who we are, there’s room for us here.  
With that confidence, we turn to God in prayer,  
Speaking the truth of our lives.  
Let us pray:

## Prayer of Confession

Presider God of today and God of tomorrow,  
You say, “Bring your full self. There’s room for you here.”  
**Together But we say, “Our lives are too messy.”**  
Presider You say, “Bring your hopes and your dreams. There’s room for you here.”  
**Together But we say, “It’s too risky to hope.”**  
Presider You say, “Bring your grief and your prayers. There’s room for you here.”  
**Together But we say, “Some things are easier to forget.”**  
Presider God of today and God of tomorrow,  
We know in our hearts that there’s room for us here.  
**Together Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.**  
**Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.**  
Presider Help us remember, today and tomorrow,  
**Together There’s room for every story. Amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

Presider Family of faith,  
We who feel scattered are held together.  
We who have lost our way are forgiven and found.  
And we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are told,  
"There's room for you here."  
From generation to generation, this is the good news of the gospel.  
In Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found, and welcomed.  
Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

## The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People **And also with you.**

## Setting of the Table

*Please stand as you are able*

Together **All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.**

## Eucharistic Prayer A

p. 361 in The BCP

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. . .

Presider 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

Together **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please stand or kneel as you are able*

Presider Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love . . .

. . . Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Together **Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Presider We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father . . . .

. . . all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **AMEN.**

## The Lord's Prayer

p. 364 in The BCP

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
Together **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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

p. 364 in The BCP

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**  
Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy food for Holy people.

*Please be seated*

## Holy Communion

*All are welcome to receive communion. Please follow the directions of our ushers.*

## Post-Communion Prayer

p. 365 in The BCP

Presider Let us pray.  
Together **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.**

## Blessing

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that  
from generation to generation,  
we have been claimed and loved.  
From generation to generation,  
God has been by our side.  
From generation to generation,  
we are not alone.  
The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow

knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth,  
saying, "Go be the person you are called to be,  
love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."  
May it be so. **Amen.**

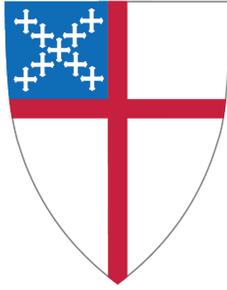
*Please stand as you are able*

**Dismissal**

Presider      Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
People        Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Sarah (Are ) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

*The flowers on the Altar are given to the glory of God  
and in thanksgiving for our St. John's family.*



**HEAD OF THE CHURCH - JESUS CHRIST  
MINISTERS - ALL OUR MEMBERS**

**Clergy**

The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh .... *Bishop Provisional*  
The Rev. Jim Harrison ..... *Priest-in-Charge*

**Staff**

Chris Lauckner .....*Parish Administrator*  
Dr. Amon Eady ..... *Director of Music*  
Denise Isenbarger.. *Bookkeeper & Office Manager*  
Missy Harrison.....*Director of Children  
and Youth Ministries*  
Ellen Woodard ..... *Administrative Assistant*  
Nick Lowthian ..... *Sexton*  
Haylee Merillat..... *Janitor*

**SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Presiding..... The Rev. Jim Harrison  
Preaching ..... The Rev. Jim Harrison  
Greeter/Usher ..... Jim Bakeman  
Lector ..... Alicia Watt  
Intercessor ..... Alicia Watt  
Eucharistic Minister ..... Alicia Watt

**OUR VESTRY - OUR ELECTED LEADERS**

**Class of 2023**

Jesse Donahue  
Sara Philo  
Lee Smith, *Co-Warden*

**Class of 2025**

Bill Kent  
Paul Tolly  
Gina Wilson, *Co-Warden*

**Class of 2024**

Toshia Albright, *Clerk*  
Ellen McVey, *Assistant Clerk*

To get in touch with any Clergy, Staff Member or Member of the Vestry,  
call or email the parish office:

(989) 631-2260  
office@sjec-midland.org

**Contact Us**

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**Website:** www.sjec-midland.org

**Office Hours**

Monday thru Thursday ... 9am-3pm  
Friday ... 9am-noon

**Facebook:** St. John's Episcopal Church

**Twitter:** @LinkingLives