

# Christingle Service



St. John's Episcopal Church  
297 Lowell Avenue  
Newtonville, Massachusetts

The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

*Church Office*  
(617) 964-2591

*Pastoral Needs*  
(781) 424-5731

*Bowen Nursery School*  
(617) 332-3923

## To Our Visitors

**Welcome!** Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please fill out a visitor's card found in the pew and put it in the offering plate, hand it to a greeter or usher, or give to our clergy. We look forward to getting to know you better.

**Handicapped Entrance:** St. John's is handicapped-accessible through the ramp and door on Otis Street. Please ask an usher for assistance. If you need to remain in your pew to receive Communion, please make this known to an usher.

**Children:** Church School for Kindergarten to Grade 12 is available at 10 am. To enroll your children in Church School, please talk with the church school coordinators or an usher.

**Nursery:** We have professional staff in our nursery from 10 am until after the worship service to care for children three years and younger. Please ask an usher for directions. Of course, you are also welcome to keep your children with you during the service!

**Liturgy:** The Episcopal Church is rich in tradition and liturgy. If you are not familiar with Episcopal worship services, please note that the service is taken from the red *Book of Common Prayer*; music is from the blue book, *Hymnal 1982* and from the green book, *Wonder, Love & Praise*. In the Order of Service, readings from the *Prayer Book* are identified by the abbreviation *BCP* before the page number; selections from the *Hymnal* are preceded by the word *hymn*, and from *Wonder, Love & Praise* by *WLP*. Service music is in the front of the *Hymnal* and is noted with an *S* before each number. If standing or kneeling is uncomfortable, feel free to sit.

**Communion:** All who seek God are welcome to receive Communion. Children are invited to come to the rail to receive Communion or a blessing, at the discretion of their parents. At the rail you may stand or kneel. The priest will serve you the consecrated bread and then an assistant will serve the consecrated wine.

**Restrooms:** Restrooms can be reached through the door at the front of the church. For directions, please ask an usher.

## About this service

The Christingle Service is a relatively recent development in Britain of the Moravian custom of distributing lighted candles to children on Christmas Eve. In the Moravian Church the candles are usually surrounded by a white ruff of paper strips.

In Britain the distribution of candles has been replaced by the distribution of Christingles. A Christingle “consists of an orange, in the top of which a small hole has been bored. A cleansed goose quill, from which the feathered portion has been removed, is wrapped in a white paper frill and inserted in the hole. The protruding end of the quill is cut into half a dozen sharp “points”, to which are affixed blanched almonds, raisins and small jellied sweets of different colors. A small Christmas tree candle is pushed down into the heart of the goose quill to complete the Christingle” (J.H. Foy). In addition, many Christingles have a length of red ribbon tied around the circumference of the orange, and nowadays cocktail sticks usually replace the goose quill.

The origin and derivation of the Christingle is uncertain. The word ‘Christingle’ means ‘Christ- Light’. The orange is said to represent the world, the candle Christ as the light of the world, the white frill purity, and the nuts, raisins, and sweets the fruits of the earth, God’s good gifts to his children. The red ribbon is a reminder of the incarnation and passion of Jesus, in which all Christians share.

In light of their association in the Moravian Church with Christmas Eve, Christingle services have normally been celebrated in Britain during the period between Advent and Epiphany. The image of Christ as the light is predominant in the celebration, suggesting the revelation of God, judgment, glory, and Christian witness as appropriate themes for the service. Because Christ described himself as the light of the world, the needs of the world are also at the forefront of Christingle celebrations, in prayer and in the offering of gifts for the needy.

It was The Children’s Society who, in 1968, popularized the Christingle service, and many such services in the United Kingdom now support its work.

# Order of Service

**Prelude**

Veni Emmanuel: Meditation

Philip Moore

**Hymn 72**

“Hark! the glad sound, the Savior comes”

*Richmond*

## **The Opening Acclamation**

*The people standing, the celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

*People:* **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray:

*All:* **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.**

**Trisagion S-102** (sung three times)

after Archangelsky

## **The Collect of the Day**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who

lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **First Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young

woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”



- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
leading / Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are  
enthroned / upon the chérubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim,  
Benjamin, / and Manásseh, \*  
stir up your strength / and come to hélp us.
- 3 Restore / us, O Gód of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.
- 4 —/O LORD Gód of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the / prayers of your péople?
- 5 You have fed them / with the bréad of tears; \*  
you have given / them bowls of téars to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision / of our néighbors, \*  
and our en/emies laugh ús to scorn.
- 7 Restore / us, O Gód of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon  
the man / of your fight hand, \*  
the son of man you have / made  
so strong fór yourself.
- 17 And so will we never / turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may / call upon yóur Name.
- 18 Restore us, / O LORD Gód of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved. [*Ant.*]

**Second Reading:** Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the

obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Hymn 56** "O come, O come, Emmanuel" (verses 1, 7 and 8)

*Veni, veni Emmanuel*

**The Holy Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-25

*All standing, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying:*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

### **Advent Pageant**                      The Christingle

*The children of the parish present a Christmastime story and share the meaning of the Christingle..*

*Members of the congregation receive a Christingle and the candles are lit.*

*With the light of Christ now surrounding us, we offer our prayers:*

### **The Prayers of the People**

*Leader:* Let us give thanks to God our father for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us, and let us lift up all those who are hurting and in need, that they may receive help and healing. Lord, open our eyes and hearts that we might help too.

For our daily food and drink and the comfort of our homes.

*All:* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:* For the Centre Street Food Pantry, the Cathedral Soup Kitchen and other ministries to help those in need of food.

*All:* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:* For the traditions we learn from the elders in our families.

*All:* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:* For the diversity of traditions that are honored by different cultures in the world, and for the gift of learning about them.

*All:* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:* For the ways we learn to understand the deeper meaning of special days.

*All:* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:* For the families who hand down their traditions to us, and for those who make families new.

*All:* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:* For people in need, especially **Richard, Jean, Robert, Sally, Charlotte, Karen, Martha, Barbara, Grant, Suzanne, Ceel, Hank, Charlie, Sara**, that they may know God’s healing presence.

*People:* **Open our eyes and hearts, and make us aware of the opportunities we have to help others.**

*Celebrant:* Come quickly Lord Jesus, and shed your light among us, that we may be bearers of your hope in a dark and hurting world. **Amen.**

their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

## The Christingle Song *sung by all*

The Christingle begins with an orange,  
Like the world which the Lord God made,  
For creation is full of his glory,  
All around we see his love displayed

*Refrain:*

Sing Christingle, sing Christingle!  
Sing Christingle, it's the light of Christ.  
Sing Christingle, sing Christingle!  
Sing Christingle, it's the light of Christ.

*Celebrant:* God our father, you give light to this world so that it shines with your glory; lead us in joy to the manger, where we may see the light of your truth revealed in the face of Jesus, born of our sister Mary.  
Amen.

## The Peace

*The celebrant greets the people saying:*

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Greet one another with the peace of Christ*

**Offertory Anthem** Ave Maria, Op.1, No. 1

Edward Elgar

**Hymn 380** The Doxology (v. 3)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP p 361

*The people remain standing.*

*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 him thanks and praise.**

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

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 WLP 858**

American Folk Melody, arr. Marcia Pruner

*The Celebrant continues:*

Holy and gracious Father, etc.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All:* **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again;**

*The Celebrant continues:*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, etc.

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.

*All:* **AMEN.**

## The Lord's Prayer

BCP p 365

*The celebrant introduces the prayer saying:*

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

*All:* **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.**

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*All:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*After the host is broken, the people join in singing:*

## Fraction Anthem WLP 877

Mark Sedio

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God

- All people are welcome to receive communion at the Lord's table in this place. -

**Communion Anthem** There is no rose of such virtue

Jessica Nelson

## The Postcommunion Prayer

BCP p 366

*Celebrant:* Let us pray:

*All:* **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.**

## Blessing

**Hymn 53** "Once he came in blessing"

*Gottes Sohn ist kommen*

## The Dismissal

*Leader:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Fughetta: Gottes Sohn ist kommen, BWV 703

Johann Sebastian Bach

Please join us after today's service for our coffee hour in the Loring Room, through the door at the front of the church on your right. You are welcome to take this leaflet with you for your reflection on the scripture readings during the week and for a reminder of coming events.

***Participants in this Sunday's service:***

***Celebrant*** The Rev. Eric Litman  
***Eucharistic Minister*** Marina Matuzek  
***Lector*** Kevin McGee  
***Acolyte*** Toby Gilpin  
***Altar Guild*** Kristin Knudson-Groh  
***Music Director*** Jeffrey Mills  
***Ushers*** Gary Messinger  
Alec Schoeck  
***Cookie Swap + Potluck Brunch***  
***Collections*** **Kevin McGee (VP)**  
Jan Gilpin  
***Wardens*** Laura Brewer  
Brian Goeselt

***Participants in next Sunday's service:***

***Celebrant*** The Rev. Eric Litman  
***Eucharistic Minister*** Cole Stanton  
***Lector*** Patty Schoeck  
***Acolyte*** Alexandra Stanton  
***Altar Guild*** Libby Seaman  
***Music Director*** Jeffrey Mills  
***Ushers*** Alec Schoeck  
Gary Messinger  
***Coffee Hour***  
***Collections*** **Rhys Bowen (VP)**  
Alec Schoeck  
***Wardens*** Laura Brewer  
Brian Goeselt

## Notices

### Monday Lunch at the Cathedral Soup Kitchen

Monday, December 30: Volunteers from St. John's are invited to assist in serving lunch to the homeless at the Cathedral Soup Kitchen. For those travelling from Newton, let's meet at St. John's Newtonville with a departure time of 11:00 a.m. for the trip downtown. If you are coming from a downtown location, meet us at The Cathedral at 11:45. And, for those who cannot attend but would like to contribute, please bring cookies or bars (homemade or store-bought) to church on Sunday, December 29th. If you have any questions, contact Libby.

### Annual Report

It's that time of year! All committee reports for the 2019 Annual Report Booklet should be submitted by Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Please send your reports and documents electronically to Josh. Thank you for your early submissions! Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Youth Celebration for Gretchen Grimshaw's Departure

For many years, Gretchen organized and ran a Confirmation class for a combination of Newton parishes, including St. John's. With Gretchen's departure at the end of December, there will be a youth reunion and Gretchen Farewell today from 5:30 to 7:30 at Saint Paul's. Pizza and cake will be served! Parents are also welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Susan Boyer at [suemboyer@gmail.com](mailto:suemboyer@gmail.com).

# Prayer Requests

## The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard, Cambridge  
Lutheran Episcopal Chaplaincy at MIT, Cambridge  
The Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge  
Hospital Chaplaincies & Healthcare Chaplains

## The Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer

**We Pray** for the faithful in Japan, North Korea, South Korea, and Taiwan.

## The Anglican Cycle of Prayer

**We Pray** for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement.

## Birthdays

Linton Myrhia Brewer, 12/26  
Anthony Fisher, 12/28

## **Pray for Healing:**

...remembering especially **Richard Barry, Jean Bowler, the Rev. Robert Hammett, Sally Hammett, Charlotte Hudson, Karen Harris, Martha Morgan, Barbara Pancerella, Grant Rodkey, Suzanne Seckel Rodkey, Ceel Ullman, Hank Ullman, Charlie, and Sara.**

# St. John's Weekly Calendar

## **Sunday, December 22**

**8:00 am** Contemplative Eucharist, Rite II  
**10:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
Greening of the Church  
*with Potluck Brunch & Cookie Swap*  
**5:00 pm** OA Group Meeting (*Loring Room*)

## **Monday, December 23**

**6:30-8:30 pm** EfM Meeting (*Loring Room*)

## **Wednesday, December 24**

### **Christmas Eve**

**4:40 pm** Music of the season begins  
**5:00 pm** Festival Eucharist

## **Thursday, December 25**

### **Christmas Day**

**12:00 pm** Holy Eucharist with carols and story  
*followed by Lunch in DiMauro Hall*

## **Sunday, December 29**

**8:00 am** Contemplative Eucharist, Rite II  
**10:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
**5:00 pm** OA Group Meeting (*Lower Hall*)



## **Today's Woman in Music**

This Communion Anthem was composed by **Jessica Nelson**. A native of Mississippi, she studied music at Millsaps College and theology and church music at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. Since 2015, she has been an appointed member of the Standing Commission on Liturgical Music of The Episcopal Church USA. She currently serves as organist and director of music at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in Jackson, Mississippi.



*Welcome to Saint John's!  
We are happy that you are with us.*

## **Saint John's Parish Directory**

**297 Lowell Avenue  
Newtonville, Massachusetts 02460  
[www.saintjohnschurch.com](http://www.saintjohnschurch.com)  
[admin@saintjohnschurch.com](mailto:admin@saintjohnschurch.com)**

  [@saintjohnchurch](https://www.instagram.com/saintjohnchurch)

Parish Office Hours: Tues-Thurs. 8am-2pm

The Rt. Reverend Alan M. Gates, Bishop of Massachusetts  
The Rt. Rev. Gayle Elizabeth Harris, Suffragan Bishop of Massachusetts

*All baptized members of St. John's are ministers of the Parish*

The Rev. Eric R. Litman, Priest-in-Charge

Laura Brewer, Brian Goeselt, Wardens

Kevin McGee, Treasurer

Cleo Messinger, Clerk

Alastair Battson, Rhys Bowen, Phoebe Robinson Foley

Jan Gilpin, Kate Reeder, Alec Schoeck

Vestry Members

Jeffrey Mills, Organist and Choirmaster

Joshua Caudill, Parish Administrator

Licensed Lay Readers/Eucharistic Ministers:

Laura Brewer, Brian Goeselt, Marina Matuzek,

Abby Strayer, Tim Strayer, Jessica Zabchuk Dion