

Saint John's Episcopal Church

Ashfield, Massachusetts

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

Welcome to Saint John's!
Our mission at St. John's Church in Ashfield is to grow, through worship, in God's gospel of hospitality and wholeness, and to faithfully live that word in our fellowship, families, communities, and the world. May all who enter here be received as Christ.

A Land Acknowledgement
We worship and share God's mission on the unceded land of the Nipmuc, Pocumtuc, and Wabanaki peoples. We are mindful that our blessing came at the price of their sorrow and we pledge to grow in our awareness of racial injustice with God's help.

Invitation to Holy Communion
This is God's table. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To eat, present your hands to be given bread. To drink, take a sip as the cup is held to your lips. To receive a blessing, instead of bread, cross your arms on your chest.

*An * indicates that we invite you to stand as you are able*
***Bold** text is said by the assembly*

Prelude Bach's *Courante* from the French Suite No. 5 in G Major, BWV 816 Emmet Chilton-Sugerman

*__Gathering Hymn__ #57 *Lo! he comes, with clouds descending*

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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-96 *Franz Peter Schubert; arr. Richard Proulx*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: First Sunday of Advent
Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. This first candle is HOPE.

The candle is lit as cantor intones:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

All sing refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.

All sing refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

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

The 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 forever. **Amen.**

The First Reading *Isaiah 64:1-9*
A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7,16-18 *Responsively by whole verse*

[1] Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
[2] **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, ***
stir up your strength and come to help us.
[3] Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
[4] **O LORD God of hosts, ***
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
[5] You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
[6] **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, ***
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
[7] Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
[16] **Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, ***
and son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
[17] And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
[18] **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; ***
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians.

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen

you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*__Sequence Hymn__ Advent Prose English Hymnal #735

All sing refrain

Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

The Gospel *Mark 13:24-37*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

The Sermon *Rev. Harvey Hill*

Shared silence

The Nicene Creed *BCP p.358*

***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:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 II*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop Miguelina; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all those in our cycles of prayer: In the World cycle we pray for Belarus and Belgium. In the Anglican cycle we pray for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui. In our Diocesan cycle we pray for Grace Church, Great Barrington; Human to Human; Pittsfield Council of Churches. In our towns' cycle we pray for farmers. Among our members and friends, we pray for Beth Sperry; Olaf & Peggie Thorp; Nell Todd, Theodore, John; Susan Todd. We pray for those who serve in the armed forces, including Sean M. Skalski. And among our ministries we pray for our Centering Prayer group.

Silence

I ask your thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Wardens' Welcome

Loose plate offering is dedicated to the Vicar's Discretionary Fund in Memory of Russell Williams

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory Anthem: St. John's Madrigal Singers *The King Shall Come*

**Celebrant* God 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 our thanks and praise.**

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

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

Sanctus S-130 *Franz Peter Schubert; arr. Richard Proulx*

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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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 Jesus 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,

We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 *John and* all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN**.

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

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.

The Breaking of the Bread S-164 *Franz Peter Schubert; arr. Richard Proulx*

Prayer for Spiritual Communion *Armed Services Prayer Book, 2008*

ALL: **In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory.**

CONGREGANTS ONLINE: Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come.

ALL: **Amen**.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

***Communion Hymn** LEVAS 18 *Swing low, sweet chariot*

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 forever. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.

***Recessional Hymn** #601 *O day of God, draw nigh*

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Conrad Kocher's *For the Beauty of the Earth* Emmet Chilton-Sugerman

Please stay for coffee and conversation!

Events

November 29: Loose plate offering is dedicated to the Vicar's Discretionary Fund

November 30: Advent Study Series at the Corner House 5:30-7:00pm

December 7: Advent Study Series at the Corner House 5:30-7:00pm

December 8: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry

December 11: Climate Action - Ring the Bells at St. John's 11am

December 13: Vestry Meeting

December 14: Advent Study Series at the Corner House 5:30-7:00pm

December 18: Love in a Backpack Filling 3pm

December 19: Blue Christmas at St. John's 11am

Would you like to make a donation to St. John's? Please scan this code to donate by credit card, debit card, or with a PayPal account.

Thank you for your generous support!

Acknowledgements

- The Book of Common Prayer, 1979
- Eucharistic Prayer B, Expansive
- The Book of Occasional Services 2022
- The Holy Bible, The New Revised Standard Version
- Venite App

Contact Us

Mailing address: PO Box 253, Ashfield, MA 01330-0253 | **Telephone:** 413-628-4402
Email: stjohnsashfield@gmail.com | **On the web:** stjohnsashfield.org |
Facebook: @stjohnsashfield

Lay Leaders & Clergy

Vicar: Rev. Harvey Hill, 706-676-1078 revharveyhill@gmail.com
Co-Senior Wardens: Sue Craft, 413-628-0289 and Andy Wickline, 413-628-1220
Junior Warden: Maddy Roberts
Treasurer: Raven Harris **Assistant Treasurer:** Jody Skinger Hall **Clerk:** Darlene Monds
Vestry: Lynnette Leidy Sievert, Jane Wagener
Licensed Preachers: Raven Harris, Andrew Wickline
Lay Eucharistic Visitors: Sue Craft, Andrew Wickline, Kristen Wickline, Jane Wagener
Licensed Worship Leaders: Andrew Wickline, Kristen Wickline, Sue Craft, Maddy Roberts

Staff

Director, Madrigal Singers: Julie Meservey
Organist: Emmet Chilton-Sugerman
Parish Administrator: Lis Henry **email:** stjohnsashfield@gmail.com
Financial Administrator: Amy Murray **Sexton:** John Wickline

Ministries

Pastoral Care Team: Sue Craft
Digital Ministry: Ted and Kara Toothaker, Andy Wickline, Jane Kaufman
Buildings & Grounds Team: Maddy Roberts **Green Team:** Kristen Wickline
Prayer Shawl Ministry: Kristen Wickline **LOVE in a Backpack:** Jenny Burke
Bicentennial Celebrations: Addison Hall

Would you like to support our Love in a Backpack program? Purchase items directly from our wish list by scanning this code:

Thank you!