

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in the heart of the Historic Stockade District

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS II - 4 JANUARY 2026
SOLEMN HIGH MASS - RITE I, 10AM

The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew, *Rector*
The Reverend Abigail Bee, *Parish Deacon*
Dr. Brian J. Taylor, AAGO, *Director of Music*

MASS SETTING

Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on *Lo, how a rose* (Opus 122, no. 8) *Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)*

THE PREPARATION OF SACRED MINISTERS IN THE LADY CHAPEL

The Sacred Ministers, Servers & Choir offer Preparatory Prayers prior to the Entrance Procession

THE OPENING HYMN, HYMN 98 Unto us a child is born

Puer nobis nascitur

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

(people kneel)

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE INTROIT

Sung by the Cantor & Choir

O give thanks unto the Lord for he is gracious: and his mercy endureth for ever.. Ps. For he hath gathered them out of the lands: from the east and from the west; from the north and from the south. Glory be

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

THE KYRIE ELEISON, HYMNAL S-91

Sung by all

(people kneel)

Lord, have mercy upon us. (3x)

Christ, have mercy upon us. (3x)

Lord, have mercy upon us. (3x)

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS, HYMNAL S-202

Sung by all

(people stand)

Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Al-
mighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the
Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
✠ art most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

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

O GOD, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature; Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSON

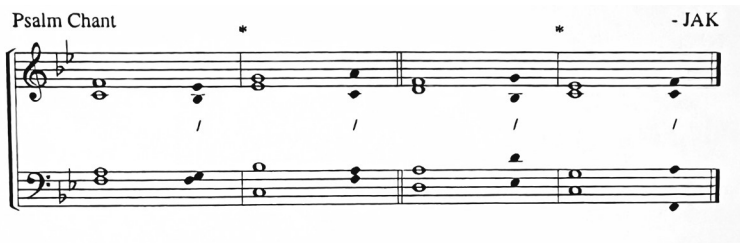
Jeremiah 31.7-14

A READING from the Book of Jeremiah

Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

V. The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God



THE GRADUAL

Sung by all

Psalm 84.1-8

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling O LORD of **hosts!** *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living **God.**
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her **young;** *
by the side of your altars O LORD of hosts, my King and my **God.**
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your **house!** * they will always be **praising you.**
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in **you!** * whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' **way.**
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of **springs,** *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of **water.**
- 6 They will climb from height to **height,** * and the God of gods will reveal himself in **Zion.**
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my **prayer;** * hearken O God of **Jacob.**
- 8 Behold our defender O **God;** * and look upon the face of your A-**nointed.**

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 1.3-6, 15, 19a

A READING from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual

blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,

Cantor

All

AL - LE - LU - IA. Al - le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. **Alleluia.** God is our hope and strength: a very present help in trouble. **Alleluia.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2.1-12

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW
R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rector

THE NICENE CREED

(people stand)

I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to Judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father (and the Son); who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead ✠ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETINGS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form I, The Book of Common Prayer, page 383

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Deacon: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

ALMIGHTY GOD, FATHER of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE PEACE

(people stand)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Sung by the Cantor & Choir

(people sit)

My lips will be glad when I sing unto thee: and so will my soul whom thou hast delivered.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Infant holy, infant lowly

Polish Carol, arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

THE OFFERTORY, HYMN 99

Go tell it on the mountain

(people stand)

Go tell it

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The first staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And with thy spi - rit." The second staff is for the People, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts. We lift them up un - to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "It is meet and right so to do."

The Celebrant sings the Proper Preface

THE SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT, HYMNAL S-114

Sung by All

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

**✠ Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

(people kneel)

ALL GLORY BE TO THEE, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ✠

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." ✠

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy ✠ grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung by All

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE FRACTION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE AGNUS DEI, HYMNAL S-158

Sung by All

(people kneel)

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.**

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Said by All

(people kneel)

WE DO NOT PRESUME to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians may receive communion. If you wish to not receive, you are invited to come forward and cross your arms, indicating that you wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free hosts are available.

THE COMMUNION SENTENCE

Sung by the Cantor & Choir

Take the young Child and his mother; and go into the land of Israel: For they are dead which sought the young Child's life.

THE COMMUNION, HYMN 324

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Picardy

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by All

(people kneel)

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

(people kneel)

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE RETIRING PROCESSION HYMN 107

Good Christian friends, rejoice

In dulci jubilo

CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

In dulci jubilo

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau (1663-1712)

MINISTERS OF TODAY'S LITURGY

Celebrant & Preacher:	The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew, Rector
Deacon:	The Reverend Abigail Bee
Subdeacon:	Chris Henry
Master of Ceremonies:	Kevin Decker
Organist:	Dr. Brian J. Taylor
Cantor:	Jonathan Ewbank
Thurifer:	David Kennison
Boat Boy:	James Smigelski
Crucifer:	Daniel Miess
Acolytes:	Eric Bassant, Paul Smigelski
Greeters:	Carol Gaige, Meg Falco
Lector:	Daniel Miess
Counters:	Jonathan Pearson, Kim Polner
Altar Guild:	Sandee Hughes and Barb Wengrovius
Sacristans:	David & Anne Kennison

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

The Sick and those in need: Jamie, Pat, Gabriella Rose, Katie, Chase, Pedro, Isabella, Dan Bornt, Dinorah Jimenez, Lula Fite, Nancy, Karen Perretta, K. C. Hersey, Sharon A. Wemtle, Lorna, Mike T., Richard, Abigail, Suzanne, Ann, Josh, Den, Sherrie, Ann-Marie, Lynn Paska, Larry, Robbie, Aubrey, Tamara, Sean, Mtr. Lisa Schoonmaker, Anne, Fred, Anna, James, Suzie, Dennis

The prayer list will be reset every 3 months. Did we miss an important date for our birthday and faithful departed intentions? If you would like a name included on the prayer list or on the annual rota of intentions, send an email to rector@stgeorgesschenectady.org

The Departed: William Schultz, Winifred Whitsell (5), Grace Perretta (6), May Moravec (7), Elizabeth Marie (8)

Birthdays: Jim Wingate (5)

Baptismal Anniversaries: Sasha Eckert Hartz (31), Trevor Weakley, Daniel Harkenrider (9)

Wedding Anniversaries:

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 4 — 10:00 a.m. — Solemn High Mass – Christmas II — High Altar

Coffee Hour follows in the Great Hall.

5:00 p.m. — A Feast of Lights for Epiphany — High Altar

Reception follows at St. George's House

Tuesday, January 6 — 8:30 a.m. — Morning Prayer — Lady Chapel

7:00 p.m. — Solemn High Mass – Epiphany Day — High Altar

Wednesday, January 7 — 9:00 a.m. — Low Mass — Lady Chapel

Thursday, January 8 — 6:00 p.m. — The Holy Eucharist, Rite I with Healing — Lady Chapel

Friday, January 9 — 12:00 p.m. — Low Mass — Lady Chapel

Sunday, January 11 — 10:00 a.m. — Solemn High Mass – Epiphany I — High Altar

WELCOME VISITORS!

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors today. Whether you live in our area and decided to worship with us today or if you are visiting from out of town, we offer you a warm Georgian welcome! There are visitor cards in most of the pews and we ask that you fill one out and give it to the Greeters at the door or simply drop it in the offering plate. We'd love to see you again. Our website, www.stgeorgesschenectady.com.

COFFEE HOUR

Please join us for coffee hour after Mass in the Great Hall. Snacks, along with hot and cold drinks are available during this time of fellowship.

Parish Life and Beyond

A FEAST OF LIGHTS FOR THE EPIPHANY — Tonight we will offer a Feast of Lights for Epiphany. This service celebrates in lessons and music the light of Christ come into the world, being made manifest through the appearance of the Wise Men, Jesus' Baptism in the River Jordan, and his first miracle at a wedding in Cana. Much of it is done by candlelight as we prepare to carry the light of Christ into the world. This is a family-friendly service and also one to which we can invite friends and neighbors. Pre-service music begins at 4:45 p.m. The service begins at 5:00 p.m.

SOLEMN HIGH MASS FOR EPIPHANY — This Tuesday, January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany is one of the seven principal feasts of the year. We will mark this feast with a Solemn High Mass this Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH will take place next Sunday after Mass. We will elect new members to the Vestry and hear reports about the activities and state of the parish. Lunch for all will be offered as we do business. Please plan to stay for this important meeting in the life of our parish.

ALL ON THE SAME PAGE BOOK CLUB — All are invited to read *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey. This memorable Pulitzer-nominated novel will give you chills and keep you guessing. A middle-aged couple, barely surviving a frigid Alaskan winter, catch glimpses of a child roaming alone in the forest. Are they losing their minds or witnessing a miracle: Both things may be true! Read it to find out and join in the book club discussion after Mass on March 15th.

Parish Outreach

"LITTLE RED WAGON SUNDAY" — Our next ingathering of non-perishable food for the Sycamore Collaborative .Food Pantry will be two weeks from today, Sunday, January 11th. Please bring your contributions to the back of the church at any time between now and then.

LOAVES AND FISHES is the feeding ministry at St. Francis Mission in Albany. St. George's Church takes its turn serving meals to those in need at St. Francis on the fifth Saturday of the month. The next opportunity to participate in this ministry is Saturday, January 31st. A sign-up sheet is at the back of the church for those who wish to volunteer.

PRAYER LIST — If you have a name that you would like added to the prayer list please email the church office at office@StGeorgesSchenectady.org and we will insure that this person will be remembered in the prayers.

PARISH MINISTRY SCHEDULES POSTED ONLINE — The most recent schedule of greeters, lectors, counters, and altar guild is published online. If you are interested in serving as a lector, greeter, counter, or acolyte, please speak to Fr. Pettigrew or email him at rector@StGeorgesSchenectady.org for more information.

SHAPE NOTE SINGING: All are welcome to experience the joy of singing together the beautiful a cappella harmonies and stirring songs of the Sacred Harp, a tune book and hymnal published in Georgia in 1844 and used in community singing throughout the world. We sing in the Great Hall on Saturday afternoons from 1-3:30pm. For schedule updates or more information, please contact Tarik Wareh or visit www.albanysacredharp.org

ONLINE GIVING — If you would prefer to make a donation or your regular offering electronically, please use the QR code provided. You will also find a link to PayPal on our parish website, www.StGeorgesSchenectady.com. St. George's is currently considering other means for online and electronic giving. We would like to hear your feedback about having this as an additional option for giving to St. George's Church. Please send your thoughts to Rector@StGeorgesSchenectady.org

