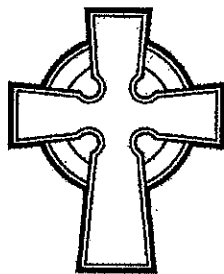


The Celebration of New Ministry  
and Institution of  
THE REVEREND ANN LOVEJOY JOHNSON  
as Rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Tuesday, December 5, 2017  
The Eve of the Feast of Nicholas of Myra  
seven o'clock in the evening



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Manchester, Connecticut

**Nicholas, Bishop of Myra**

Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (southern Turkey). A ninth-century author of his hagiography enhanced his reputation as a worker of wonders. Nicholas is now best known through these stories. Many of them concern his love and care for children, how he fed the hungry, healed the sick and cared for the oppressed. He saved three girls from a life of destitute by providing them with dowries and so developed the tradition of bearing gifts to children on his feast day, a practice appropriated by the Christmas celebrations. St. Nicholas was brought to America by the Dutch colonists in New York, from whom he is popularly known as Santa Claus.

**Order of Procession**

Holy Spirit Dove  
Crucifer  
Torches  
St. Mary's Choir

§§§

Crucifer  
Visiting Dignitaries  
Ecumenical & Visiting Clergy  
Clergy of the Episcopal Church in CT  
The Wardens of St. Mary's  
The Rector-elect

§§§

Crucifer  
Ministers of Communion  
Gospel Book Acolyte  
Preacher  
Bishop's Chaplain  
Bishop Suffragan  
of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut

**A Note About the Liturgy**

The Liturgy today is a Celebration of New Ministry for St. Mary's Church as we present ourselves to the Bishop and gathered church to receive God's blessing as we begin a new ministry together. This covenant of mutual ministry begins with our merging our lives and work as we participate in God's mission of reconciliation and renewal in the Name of Christ.

Ann wishes to express her deep appreciation to the Bishops and staff of the Episcopal Church in CT, the people of Trinity Church, Torrington, and to the people of St. Mary's Church.

Please turn off your cell phones and pagers, and refrain from taking flash photographs during worship

## Gathering of the Community

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Prelude

Choral-Improvisation for Organ, Op. 65

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Word of Welcome to St. Mary's

*All stand as the procession enters*

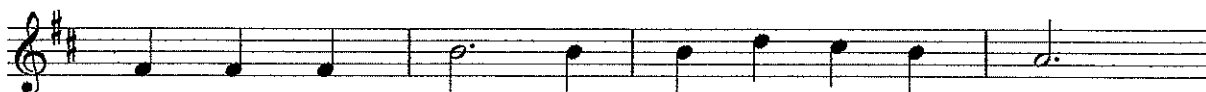
Hymn 438



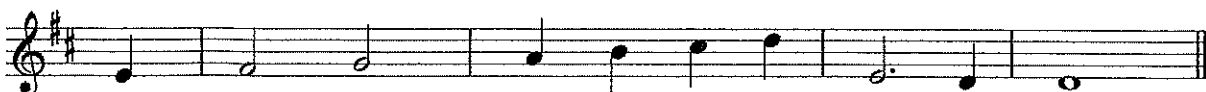
1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!  
2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!  
3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!  
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of his word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;  
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord



in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.  
his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.  
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on The Song of Mary; Music: Woodlands, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949), alt.; Copyright: Words: Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: By permission of Oxford University Press.

*The people standing, the Bishop says*

*Bishop* Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
*People* You come to your people and set them free.

*The Bishop continues*

There is one Body and one Spirit;  
*People* There is one hope in God's call to us;

*Bishop* One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
*People* One God, Creator of all.

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

*The Bishop says the appointed Collect.*

Almighty Father, lover of souls, who chose your servant Nicholas to be a bishop in the Church, that he might give freely out of the treasures of your grace: make us mindful of the needs of others and, as we have received, so teach us also to give; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Celebration of A New Ministry

### **A Covenant of Shared Ministry**

*The congregation is seated. The Rector-elect and Wardens, standing before the bishop, say*

Bishop Ahrens, on behalf of the people of St. Mary's Church, we present ourselves to you and the gathered church to receive God's blessing as we begin a new ministry together.

*The Wardens are seated. The Rector-elect remains standing as the Bishop then reads a charge to the new Rector*

*The Bishop reads from the Letter of Institution,*

**Ann Lovejoy Johnson**, Presbyter of the Church of God, you have been called to work together with your Bishop and fellow-Presbyters as a pastor, priest, and teacher, and to take your share in the councils of the Church. Now, in accordance with the Canons, you have been selected to serve God as Rector at **St. Mary's Church, Manchester**

This letter is a sign that you are fully empowered and authorized to exercise this ministry, accepting its privileges and responsibilities as a priest of this Diocese, in communion with your Bishop.

Having committed yourself to this work, do not forget the trust of those who have chosen you. Care alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. By your words, and in your life, proclaim the Gospel. Love and serve Christ's people. Nourish them, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.

May the Lord, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace and power to perform them.

Given under my hand and seal, in the city of Meriden, Connecticut, on the fifth day of December in the year two thousand and seventeen, and in the eleventh year of my consecration,

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

Ann, do you, in the presence of this congregation, commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility with the people of St. Mary's?

*Rector* I do.

*The Bishop invites all the Members of St. Mary's stand as the Rector and Wardens come forward facing the Bishop, who reads a charge to the members of the parish*

Good people of St. Mary's Church, through Holy Baptism you have been adopted into the community of faith, God's holy fellowship, the Body of Christ, the Church. Together with your rector, you are called to share in God's mission to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Having covenanted in Baptism to share this work, remember that each of you has resources and gifts for ministry. Join your rector, in prayer, in discerning God's vision and mission for this parish, and in calling forth the leadership, resources, and talents to carry out that mission.

People of St. Mary's Church, do you commit yourselves to minister in Christ's name, with mutual affection and respect, within this parish, in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, and in the wider community?

*The Rector, Wardens and members of the parish respond saying,*

We do.

*The Bishop invites visitors, members of neighboring congregations, and members of the local community stand and says*

Will you, the members of the local community and the wider church, who witness this new beginning, support and uphold the priest and people of this congregation in their ministry together?

*The People respond saying*

We will.

*The Bishop then presents the new minister to the congregation, saying*

Greet your new Rector.

*The congregation expresses its approval. Applause is appropriate*

## The Ministry of the Word

*All are seated.*

*Representatives of the congregation present the lectern Bible, saying*

Ann, with this Bible we proclaim and hear God's living Word. Join us in the ministry of telling the Good News to the world. *Amen.*

*The rector presents curriculum materials, saying*

Receive this Godly Play story of Saint Nicholas of Myra as a sign of our embracing all of God's children. *Amen*

*Representatives of the congregation present a children's coloring book, saying*

Ann, receive this coloring book as a sign that we delight in the imagination and creativity of children and youth. *Amen.*

*The rector presents a gift, saying,*

Receive this painting, a part of the Puerto Rico relief efforts by the Manchester High School Women's Leadership. May it be a sign of our commitment to God's people beyond our doors.  
*Amen.*

*The rector says*

Let us now hear again the Good News of salvation.

*The Reader first says*

**A Reading from the prophet Isaiah**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion -- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
*Isaiah 61. 1-3*

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.  
*People*            Thanks be to God

*Silence may follow.*

Youth Choir Anthem

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King            *Andrae Crouch*

**A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy**

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness.            *1 Timothy 6. 6-11*

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.  
*People*            Thanks be to God

*Silence may follow*

Hymn 65



- 1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999); Music: Bereden väg för Herran, melody from Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697; harm. Koralkbok för Svenska Kyrkan, 1939, alt.; Copyright: Words: © 1982, Charles P. Price.

*Then, all standing, the Gospeller reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People*            Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, '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.'  
*Mark 13:32-37*

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.



## **The Sermon**

*Silence may follow.*

## **The Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

*The Bishop presents the new rector with a vessel of water, saying*

Ann, take this water and help me baptize into the beloved community of Christ. *Amen.*

*The rector presents a candle to the Bishop, saying*

Bishop, accept this candle as a sign of our commitment to work in spreading the light of Christ to all people. *Amen.*

*Representatives of the congregation present a gift, saying*

Ann, receive this Pride Rainbow Flag as a sign of inclusion, and live among us with integrity and hopefulness. *Amen.*

*The rector presents an icon, saying*

People of St. Mary's, receive this Ethiopian Icon of Jesus and Mary, as a sign of the rich diversity of God's people. *Amen.*

*Representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) present gifts, saying*

Ann, receive this Book of Concord, our confessional documents, as a sign of the Call to Common Mission. *Amen.*

Ann, receive this Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book, as a sign of our full communion in the Body of Christ. *Amen.*

*The rector presents a sign of collaboration, saying*

Douglas and Maria, receive these Silk City Coffee mugs and gift cards as a sign of our new friendship and the long-standing relationship between the Lutheran and Episcopal Churches. *Amen.*

*The Bishop continues*

Ann, people of St. Mary's: in Holy Baptism we received full adoption through God's grace and full empowerment for ministry through the Holy Spirit. Will you work together as partners in the mission of the Church, to reconcile all people to God through Christ?

*People* We will, with God's help.

*Bishop*

The water of baptism signifies our eternal covenant with God. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore in joyful obedience to Christ, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Rector*

Let us renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we renounce Satan and all his works, and promise to serve God faithfully in God's holy Catholic Church.

*As you are able, please stand*

*The Bishop or the Rector leads the renewal of baptismal vows.*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*People* I do.

*Bishop or Rector*

Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

*Bishop or Rector*

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

*Bishop or Rector*

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* 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.

*Bishop or Rector*

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Bishop or Rector*

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Bishop or Rector*

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Bishop or Rector*

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Bishop or Rector*

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Bishop or Rector*

May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, and called us to ministry in Jesus Christ, keep us in eternal life by his grace; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Prayers

*Representatives of the congregation present oil of healing, saying*

Ann, hold before us the anointing of the Holy Spirit for wholeness of life and be among us as a healer and reconciler. *Amen.*

*The Bishop then blesses the oil of healing, saying*

O Lord, holy Father, giver of health and salvation: Send your Holy Spirit to sanctify this oil; that, as your holy apostles anointed many that were sick and healed them, so may those who in faith and repentance receive this holy unction be made whole; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Representatives of the congregation present a prayer book, saying*

Ann, receive this prayer book and be among us as a person of prayer and leader of worship. *Amen.*

*The rector says*

Let us now offer our prayers for people everywhere.

*As you are able, please stand*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*The Leader says*

Let us lift up our prayer to God for the needs of all people throughout the world, saying:

*Come, Lord Jesus*

*The Leader says*

For the peace of the world, that the darkness of war, violence and injustice may be replaced by the light of peace and love, *Come, Lord Jesus*

For the Church of Jesus Christ, that we may become more and more a means of justice, tenderness, and hope in the world, *Come, Lord Jesus*

For this day of celebration, that we, with our Bishops, Ian and Laura, and our Rector, Ann, may awaken to the joy and new life you call us into, *Come, Lord Jesus*

For all the people of God, made in your image, that we may come to celebrate the richness of your diversity, *Come, Lord Jesus*

For this community, for our neighbors and friends, for those with whom we study and work, that our common bonds may be strengthened, *Come, Lord Jesus*

For those who are gathered here today, that with thankful hearts may be made ready for the coming of Christ and attentive to Christ's nearness, *Come, Lord Jesus*

For all who seek to cast off the works of darkness, that we may learn to listen with faith and speak with boldness, *Come, Lord Jesus*

For those who worship God by any other name, that we may have openness and willingness to discover the concerns we share, *Come, Lord Jesus*

For all who are vulnerable and in need, for all who have asked for our prayers, that we may be alert to the presence of Christ in them and ready to reach out in love, *Come, Lord Jesus*

For the gift of creation, that our eyes may be open to the beauty around us and we may be faithful stewards of all our resources, *Come, Lord Jesus*

For all those who have died, that they may rest in Christ's peace and that we may wait in hope for the promise of resurrection with them, *Come, Lord Jesus*

For Mary, the God bearer, Nicholas, Bishop of Myrna, and all the saints, that their witness to Christ in the world may inspire us in our time, *Come, Lord Jesus*

For our own needs and those of others

*People may add their own petitions silently or aloud*

A Prayer for St. Mary's *said together*

Ever-present God, we thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit as it moves and guides us here at St. Mary's. We pray that you will reveal and help us to understand your mission. Inspire us in our love for each other and direct our actions as we move into relationships within our community. In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen.

*The congregation may be seated*

*Representatives of the congregation present a stole, saying*

Ann, hold before us the loving compassion of God and be among us as pastor and priest. *Amen.*

*Representatives of the congregation present bread and wine, saying*

Ann, receive this bread and wine, our spiritual nourishment. Let us break bread together and share the cup of salvation. *Amen.*

*Ann's children, Azalech and Muse, come forward and join their Mother*

*Representatives of the congregation present gifts, saying*

Ann, receive this rainbow hat as a symbol of your personhood. May it remind you that God loves you just as you are. *Amen.*

Azalech and Muse, receive these hand-knit hats and scarves made in the colors of the Ethiopian flag. They are a sign, Ann, of your sustaining role as a Mother. *Amen.*

Ann, receive this hand-knit hat and scarf made in liturgical colors. They represent your role as a Priest. *Amen.*

*Representatives of the congregation present gifts, saying*

Ann, Azalech and Muse, receive these rainbow sneakers as a sign of your prophetic witness walking with Christ in the world. *Amen.*

*The Bishop then says*

People of God, we have exchanged gifts to remind us that Christ's ministry is entrusted to a community of faith. Let these be signs of God's mission that we share in this place, in Manchester and throughout the world.

## **The Peace**

*All stand. The new Rector says to the people*

*Rector* The Peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

Words of Thank you & Welcome

*The Bishop say a sentence of scripture*

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

*Hebrews 13:15, 16*

## **The Holy Communion**

*Tonight's offering, given in thanksgiving to God and in honor of Ann, goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Every year on the Feast of St. Nicholas AFEDJ raises awareness of the needs of God's people in Jerusalem and the surrounding region, including Ethiopia.*

Offertory Bell Anthem

Blessed Assurance

*Phoebe P. Knapp*

Offertory Choir Anthem

A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester

*L. J. White*

Presentation Hymn

*All stand as the gifts of bread and wine, money and other offerings are presented at the Altar*

Hymn 607

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery, race and land,  
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,  
 3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that we may find re - lease  
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;  
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc-tion through the night,  
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;  
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,  
 from pride of race and na - tion and blind-ness to your way,  
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;  
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.  
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray!  
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.  
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

Words: William Watkies Reid, Jr. (b. 1923), alt.; Music: Llanglofan, melody from Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, 1865; harm. The English Hymnal, 1906; Copyright: Words: Copyright © 1958 by The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.) All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Eucharistic Prayer B

*The people remain standing. The bishop faces them and says*

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.

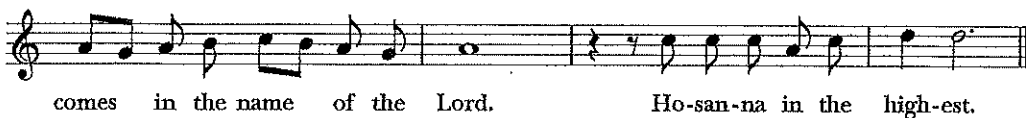
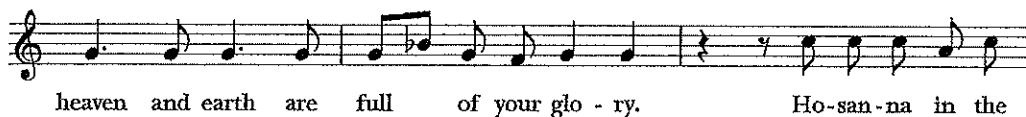
*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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

For the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all your saints, who have been the chosen vessels of your grace, and the lights of the world in their generations.

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:

*Celebrant and People sing*



Music: William Mathias (1934-1992); Copyright: Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.



*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 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 Lord 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 he 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,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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. *AMEN.*

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, the power, and the glory,  
     are yours, for ever and ever. Amen.

### The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Then all sing together*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

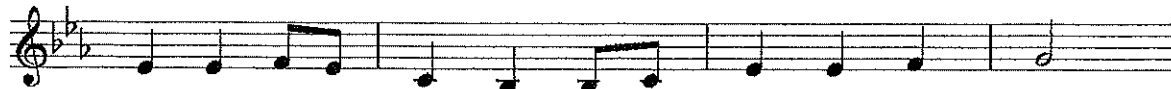
Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

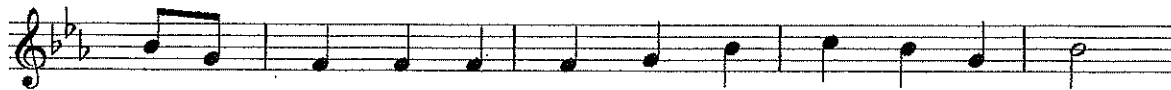
give us your peace, give us your peace.

Communion Hymn

Hymn 482



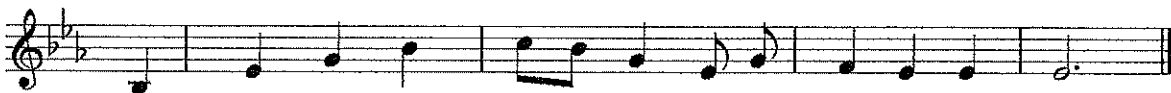
1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,  
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our lab - ors, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953); Music: Slane, Irish ballad melody; adapt. The Church Hymnary, 1927; harm. Hymnal 1982; Copyright: Words: By permission of Oxford University Press.

Treble Choir Anthem

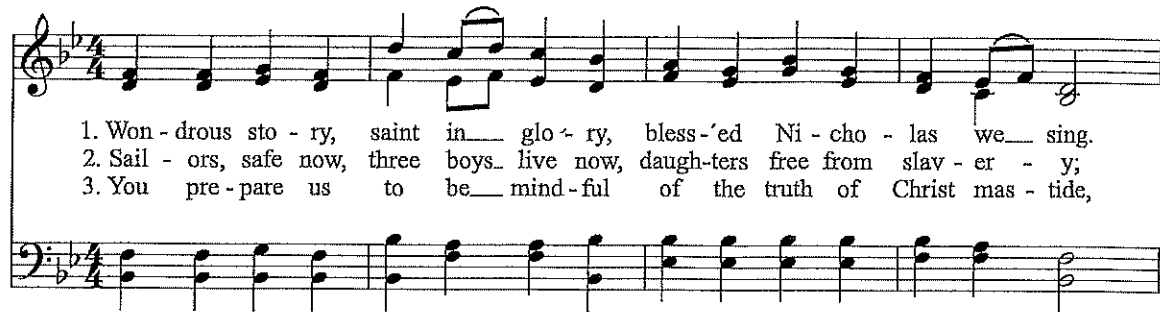
So the day dawn for me

*David Ashley White*


Postcommunion Hymn

*After the ministers distribute Communion, all stand and sing together*

# Wondrous Story, Saint in Glory



1. Won - drous sto - ry, saint in glo - ry, bless - 'ed Ni - cho - las we sing.  
2. Sail - ors, safe now, three boys live now, daugh - ters free from slav - er - y;  
3. You pre - pare us to be mind - ful of the truth of Christ mas - tide,



Of your migh - ty deeds and won - ders, to us all your les - sons bring;  
calm the sea, and seal our faith now, that we faith - ful ev - er be;  
that our works and faith sur - ren - der at the man - ger, to a - bid;



Ways of lov - ing, ways of car - ing, let us shout with songs of joy:  
Son re - turned home; pa - gan gods gone; ho - ly myrrh your life re - veals:  
There with Mar - y and Saint Jo - seph all our hopes and dreams com - bine:



Bless - éd Nich' - las, bless - éd Nich' - las, pat - ron saint of girls and boys.

## **Postcommunion Prayer**

*All pray together*

God, shepherd of your people,  
whose servant Nicholas revealed the loving service of Christ  
in his ministry as a pastor of your people:  
by this Eucharist in which we share  
awaken within us the love of Christ  
and keep us faithful to our Christian calling;  
through him who laid down his life for us,  
and is alive and reigns with you,  
now and for ever. Amen.

*Bishop*

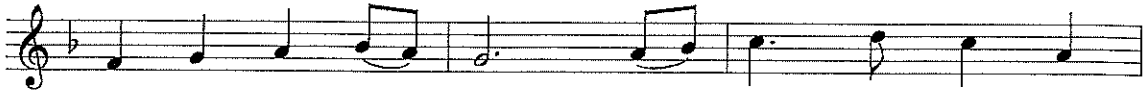
We have celebrated this new pastoral relationship in the great prayer of the Church. Ann,  
I commend to your love and care the people of St. Mary's. My brothers and sisters in Christ,  
I commend to your love and care your new Rector, colleague and companion, Ann.

*The bishop, or the priest, may bless the assembly.*

# All Are Welcome



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And  
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And  
 3. Let us build a house where love is found In  
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -  
 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and  
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren  
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on  
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,  
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -  
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -  
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice  
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've  
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,  
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness  
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,  
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger  
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the  
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as  
 Is re - vealed in time and space; As we  
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us  
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
 house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

## **The Dismissal**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* Thanks be to God.

Postlude March *M. Glinka*

§§§

The celebration continues in Anderson Hall with a Reception

Hosted by Dotti Cannon of Brown Sugar Catering, and Manchester Area Council of Churches

§§§

*The flowers are given to the glory of God by the Rector  
in thanksgiving for her family and  
in loving memory of Burdette A. Johnson, Jr., her father,  
and (The Reverend) Bradford Lovejoy, her uncle.*

## Liturgical Leaders

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Presider	The Right Reverend Laura Ahrens <i>Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut</i>
Preacher	The Reverend Douglas Barclay <i>Pastor, Concordia Lutheran Church</i>
Bishop's Chaplain	Eva Hart
Liturgical Coordinators	The Reverend Karen Fedorchak, Deacon Emeritus Nate Carlson, Member of the Vestry
Gospeller	The Reverend Douglas Barclay <i>Pastor, Concordia Lutheran Church</i>
Readers	Joy Dorin, Odis Coleman
Prayers of the People	Leah Terry, Logan Tomic
Acolytes	Grace Carlson, Dove-bearer Lee Eaton, First Crucifer Jana Hart, Torch-bearer Luke Terry, Torch-bearer Logan Tomic, Second Crucifer Harry Perry, Third Crucifer Anna Carlson, Gospel Book
Communion Ministers	Beth Bickley, Bob Ballsieper
Oblationers	Azalech Johnson & Muse Johnson
Senior Choir	Valerie Huestis, Sandy Braman, Mary Covello, Ruth McElraevy, Karen Armogida, Peter Reinke
Treble Choir	Valerie Huestis, Sandy Braman, Mary Covello, Ruth McElraevy
Youth Choir	Ann Carlson, Claire Carlson, Eva Hart, Jana Hart, Azalech Johnson, Muse Johnson, Leah Terry
Youth Choir Director	Robin Martocci
Bell Choir	Jennifer Carlson, Nancy Eaton, Lee Eaton, Valerie Huestis, Robin Martocci, Gail Meyers
Organist	Richard Hicks
Director of Music Ministries	Alex Nahkimovsky
Bread Baker	Margaret Martin
Altar Guild	Jean Kelsey, Director Sharron Ring, Team Leader
Greeter	Lynne Kumnick
Ushers	David Adams, Gene Marinelli, Ellise Sullivan, Ralph Sullivan



## Presenters

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Lectern Bible	Laura Hart, Mechelle Olortegui, Sarah Raymond
Godly Play Story	The Reverend Ann Lovejoy Johnson
Children's Coloring Book	Nancy Eaton, Jo-Ann Swanson, Maria Talcott
Puerto Rico Painting	The Reverend Ann Lovejoy Johnson
Vessel of Water	The Right Reverend Laura Ahrens
Handmade Candle	The Reverend Ann Lovejoy Johnson
Price Rainbow Flag	Eva Hart, Janet Platz, Sharron Ring
Ethiopian Icon	The Reverend Ann Lovejoy Johnson
Book of Concord	The Reverend Douglas Barclay
Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book	The Reverend Maria Hammons
Silk City Coffee Mugs	The Reverend Ann Lovejoy Johnson
Oil of Healing	Eileen Christensen, Susan Monroe, Patricia Georgeady
Prayer Book	Jeffrey Baldasare, Joan Douglas, Megan Sargent
Stole	Rita Brown, Edith Bushell, Jen Carlson
Bread and Wine	Jean Kelsey, Beth Lavalette, Gavin Tomic
Hats & Hand Knits Items	Donna Indomenico, Pat Hancock, Ruth McElrevey
Rainbow Sneakers	Betty Balkan, Jeff Hart, Barbara Welchman

## **ADDITIONAL REFLECTIONS**

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This liturgy, “The Celebration of Ministry” incarnates mutuality among the ministers of the Church people — lay and ordained. Baptism is the sacrament that begins our walk with Christ and empowers us for ministry. Bishop Laura’s presence brings together the elements of mutuality and continuity. Tonight Ann is instituted and inducted as the Rector of St. Mary’s. Primary symbols of ministry are presented within this liturgical context — The Holy Scriptures, water for Holy Baptism, The Book of Common Prayer, the oil of healing, a priest’s stole, the bread and wine. Other gifts reflect the diversity of our lives. Each of our vocations contribute to the ministry of Christ, God’s mission of reconciliation and restoration. In this exchange of gifts, we express our gratitude for God’s gifts and we honor the prophetic witness to which God calls each of us.

## **MERGING OUR LIVES**

The Ethiopian Icon I am presenting to St. Mary’s is a reproduction of a mural at Narga Selassie Church, on the western shores of Dek Island, the largest Island of Lake Tana in northern Ethiopia. The names signifies “Trinity of the Rest” (the place and the shade thereabouts). Empress Metewab constructed the church in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, using a gigantic Sycamore tree for its doors and roof. She built Narga Selassie in the classic round architecture tradition of the churches in the Lake Tana. The local style with murals surrounding the walls decorates the church. The icon of The Blessed Virgin Mary with the Holy Child Jesus includes Empress Metewab prostrated at the feet of Mary and Jesus.

My children, Azalech and Muse, are Ethiopian American. Their birth country is an ancient land of beautiful people and traditions. When my brother, Peter, and I traveled in Ethiopia in 2008 on the “northern historic circuit,” we visited this magnificent church and saw this very mural. With this gift, I joyfully express the merging of my life and family with the parish community of St. Mary’s.

## **THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

The candle I am presenting to Bishop Laura tonight was handmade by Azalech, Muse and me. As part of our farewell when leaving Trinity Church Torrington, we made small candles from their blessed Paschal and Altar candles to give to everyone. This candle represents the continuity of our Christian faith across parishes and regions. The light of Christ we experience in one place and time remains with us when we move and begin a new journey. This candle, like the Bishop’s presence, unifies us and celebrates our common bonds.

## **EXPRESSING PRIDE**

The rainbow flag has long been a symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) pride and LGBT social movements. It is a symbol of pride, hope and diversity. Pride in being who we are, and in standing up for what we believe in. While there has been extraordinary progress made in establishing equal rights, the rainbow affirms our hope for an even better future. As a symbol of diversity, the rainbow flag reminds us that stereotypes and myths are limiting, that our strength is in the diversity of our community. Gay Pride was not born of a need to celebrate being gay, but our right to live without persecution. As such, it reminds us that the work of human and equal rights continues.

You may be wondering why we are talking about this in church. Here is why: When I entered discernment for ordination, my Bishop expected those of us who are lesbian or gay to be “out” in the ordination process. This was a forward-thinking approach for a Bishop in mid-1990. Removing secrecy or assumptions allowed us to live with honesty and integrity. While this has been a process for the church, it has been for me also. In recent years, my new young family was the center of my world, and as mothers everywhere know, other things often have to wait. In my discernment with St. Mary’s I was attracted to the diversity of Manchester. I feel God calling me to dive deeper into the work of racial reconciliation – to this holy and life-giving work – and to live fully and settled. This call invites me to return to the prophetic witness of living “out” with integrity. The sneakers we are being given represent my taking this step, in rainbow colors, out into the community here in Manchester, our soon-to-be new home.

## **WEARING MANY HATS**

The hand-knit hats and scarves presented this evening represent the “whole person” you have called to serve with you as your Rector. As I commit myself to this holy work with you, I also am committed to my family, and responsible for both them and myself. A person, a parent, and a priest – all wrapped into one! Many thanks to the knitters and all who graciously participated in this special exchange of gifts.

*Tonight I am thankful and honored by your embrace. - Ann*

# Saint Nicholas

