

BULLETINS: Worshipping remote? You can follow along our Sunday services by downloading our Bulletins from our website, stjohnsouthampton.org. The Bulletins are uploaded every Saturday afternoon for your convenience.

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER: In order to keep our church family abreast of our latest updates and church reminders, we send out a weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to be included on our email list, contact secretary@stjohnsouthampton.org.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK: Stay connected with the church and your friends by following us on our Facebook page: [StJohnSouthampton](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnSouthampton). You can also worship online LIVE on Sundays.

ONLINE GIVING: Links are available on St John's Homepage at www.stjohnsouthampton.org. You may also make an online gift by texting the keyword [StJohnSouthampton](https://www.stjohnsouthampton.org) to 73256 on your cell phone.

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Help us to maintain our prayer intercession list.

The personal and collective intercessions we make asking our Lord to intercede in our lives and on behalf of others are a central aspect of our private and common worship. At St. John's we have always made an aural reading of our prayer list a part of our regular services. However, there comes with this an important responsibility to maintain it as current and accurate. To accomplish this we are asking our community to take that personal responsibility to heart in the following way:

We ask everyone to please let us know when someone should be added, removed, or otherwise amended on our prayer list. This is accomplished best by either dropping a note in the collection plate or by emailing or calling the parish secretary at (631) 283-0549 or secretary@stjohnsouthampton.org.

To avoid a name being orphaned on the prayer list names will be removed after 60 days of being added, unless the parish secretary is contacted to extend that time for another 60 days. Of course, there is no limit to the number of persons we will faithfully include on our prayer list, nor a limit to the duration we will intercede on their behalf. This policy is to take special care in maintaining the names we bring before the Throne of Grace in prayer each time we gather together.

For Pastoral Emergencies, please contact Fr. Patrick at 404-660-3592.

St. John's Episcopal Church
 100 South Main Street | P. O. Box 5068
 Southampton, New York 11969-5068
 (631) 283-0549



John the Baptist in the wilderness by El Greco

**Services are available online through
 Facebook Live: [Facebook.com/StJohnSouthampton](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnSouthampton)**

<u>Sunday Services</u>	<u>Weekday Services</u>
8:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite I	Monday – Friday
9:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II	7:30 A.M. – Morning Prayer, Rite I
11:00 A.M. - Morning Prayer, Rite I	6:00 P.M. – Evening Prayer, Rite I
Holy Eucharist, Rite I	Wednesday
(1st Sundays each month)	10:00 A.M. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023 • 11:00 AM

Processional Hymn 65

Prepare the way, O Zion



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.



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

Watch ye, for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

Mark 13:35, 36

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf



Appeal for Humanitarian Aid

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The people of the Holy Land and the Diocese of Jerusalem desperately need our help! The peace of Christ remains so elusive in Israel and Palestine as we struggle to understand the complexity of the conflict and appropriately respond as disciples of Christ.

We have been in direct contact with Archbishop Hosam Naoum and are now able to invite your tangible support. I am writing to request that you join me in providing critical humanitarian aid through the *American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem*. I am asking that every congregation encourage members and worshippers to support this direct relief program via the weblink below.

<https://afedj.org/give/give-online/>

In the interest of providing immediate assistance where most needed, online financial support is best. I also invite you to make use of the rich worship and prayer resources available on their website as we seek to join in both spiritual and material support.

Please direct all inquiries to the Rev. Canon Suzanne M. Coles at scoles@dioceseli.org. Thank you for answering the call to relieve human suffering in Christ's name. Pray without ceasing for peace and an end to this senseless violence. We will publish updates as received.

Faithfully,

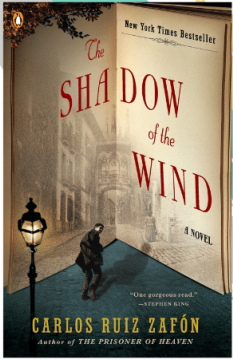
The Rt. Rev. Lawrence C. Provenzano
Bishop of Long Island

O God of all justice and peace we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children for, to all of us, you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Archbishop Hosam Naoum, The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem)

Book Club Meeting

Thursday, January 11 at 6:30 PM



St. John's Episcopal Church
Southampton

Please message us or contact
Deborah Edwards or Sandra J. Klemuk
for more information.

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Maureen's Haven has returned to the Presbyterian Church in Southampton. They will be there one Saturday night per month.

Below is our schedule to provide lunch or pre-packaged snacks, drinks and desserts for our friends of Maureen's Haven:

- Saturday 1/13/23: pre-packaged snacks and dessert
 - Saturday 3/9/23: pre-packaged beverages, pre-packaged dessert and lunches
- We can meet at St. John's to pack everything up and then drop off at Presbyterian Church.

Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreational Center will also be hosting Maureen's Haven once a week for the remainder of the year. Please let Florence Rolston know if you're interested in serving dinner there too.

We thank you for your generosity and willingness to spread God's love to our neighbors in need.

of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Priest alone stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

Invitatory and Psalter

All stand

Officiant

O Lord, open thou our lips.

People:

And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

People

Our King and Savior draweth nigh: O come, let us adore him.

Officiant

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

People

O come, let us adore him.

Venite Psalm 95:1-7; 96:9, 13

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; *
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, *
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are all the corners of the earth, *
and the strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his and he made it, *
and his hands prepared the dry land.
O come, let us worship and fall down *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is the Lord our God, *
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, *
and with righteousness to judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Benedixisti, Domine

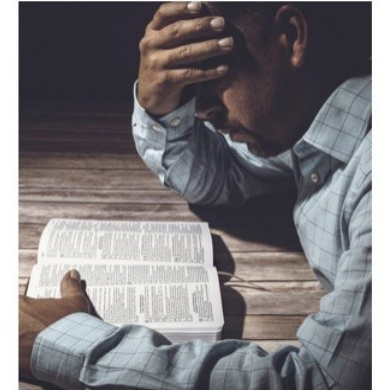
1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.

How should we read the Bible - The Genesis Story: Reading Old Testament Narratives



Join us at the 10:00 "Adult Formation Hour" on Sundays beginning 3 December 2023.

Reading the Bible is not merely something we "ought" to do, but is required of us as able and faithful Christians. St Paul himself called the Bible "the Sword of the Spirit" in his letter to the Ephesians, and the catechism of the Episcopal Church states, "We call the Bible the Word of God because God inspired its human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible."

But HOW should we read the Bible?

In an ongoing series in this academic year, Fr Patrick will be addressing this very question, beginning with the first book of the Bible, Genesis, and by extension the important genre of Old Testament Narratives.

As a vehicle for this first topic we will use a teaching video series conducted by Professor of English Justin A. Jackson and Professor of Politics and History Larry P. Arnn, both of Hillsdale College in Michigan.

Genesis is a book of fundamental importance for the Jewish and Christian faiths and has exerted a profound influence on Western Civilization. In addition to being a great religious text, it is also a literary masterpiece.

These lectures explore some of the work's major narrative themes, including the complex relationship between God and man, the consequences of a rupture in that relationship, and the path towards reconciliation.

We hope to see you there!

Announcements

Christmas Pageant

December 24, 2023 · 3 PM

St. Andrew's Dune Church



Calling All Children: Join Our Christmas Pageant!

Children of all ages are invited to participate.

Parents: For more information, please contact Lisa Gillespie.

Lisag0057@aol.com or 516-375-2290

10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

A Lesson from the Book of Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Here endeth the Lesson



Verse of the Week

**“Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

**Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.”**

Psalm 85:9-10

“Quote of the Week”



**“Humility is not thinking less of
ourselves, but thinking of ourselves less.”**

William Laud

Archbishop of Canterbury and theologian

He was martyred by the puritan Parliamentarians for his support of
God’s anointed king, Charles I, and for his loyal defense of
the historic episcopacy
M. 10 January 1645

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Officiant: Blessed, hallowed, worshiped, and adored be our Lord Jesus Christ on His throne in Heaven, on the altars of His churches, and in the hearts of His faithful people. And may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercies of God rest in peace.

Officiant and People: And may Light Perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

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The flowers at the Altar this week were given by Ben and Pat Griffith in the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for their Children and Grandchildren.

Benedictus es, Domine

Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers; *
 praised and exalted above all for ever.
 Blessed art thou for the Name of thy Majesty; *
 praised and exalted above all for ever.
 Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; *
 praised and exalted above all for ever.
 Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths,
 and dwellest between the Cherubim; *
 praised and exalted above all for ever.
 Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; *
 praised and exalted above all for ever.
 Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; *
 praised and exalted above all for ever.
 Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; *
 praised and exalted above all for ever.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A Lesson from the Second Letter of Saint Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Here endeth the Lesson

Jubilate Deo Psalm 100

O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God;
it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; *
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving
and into his courts with praise; *
be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name.
For the Lord is gracious;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

make his paths straight,”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sermon

The Rev'd W. Patrick Edward

The Offertory

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Closing Hymn 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Gospel

A Lesson from the Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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.**

Suffrages A

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

R. **And grant us thy salvation.**

V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

R. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. **For only in thee can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let thy way be known upon earth;

R. **Thy saving health among all nations.**

∇. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

∇. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. **And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.**

Intercessions

Collect of the Day

Merciful God, who sent thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

O God, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord: Grant us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy favor; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, who didst stretch out thine arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of thy saving embrace: So clothe us in thy Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know thee to the knowledge and love of thee; for the honor of thy Name. **Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People:

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.**

**We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Officiant

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Celebrant

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Officiant

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20, 21

Announcements

Sermon Hymn 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,