

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I

DECEMBER 20, 2020 AT 10:00AM



First Free Church of Pennsylvania  
Est. 1853

During this time when we aren't able to be together physically, we invite you to join us in other ways. Please check our [Website](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#) pages regularly for new information and video messages. If you are in need of groceries, medicine, or any other essentials please let us know by calling (717) 299-1188 or emailing [equilla@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:equilla@stjohns-lancaster.org). We have a number of volunteers and staff members willing and able to run errands as needed.

## THE WORD OF GOD

**INTROIT**     *Entrance Antiphons for the Advent Season*                      arr. James J. Chepponis

### **ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING LITURGY: LOVE**

*Reader 1*     Friends, we come to this circular wreath as a symbolic reminder that God's love has no beginning or end. When we talk about Christmas, we talk about a love song of God kneeling down like a mother to her child saying, "Oh how I love you," to each and every one of us.

*Reader 2*     Thus, I invite you to take a deep breath in and let it out slowly. For in that breath, the Holy Spirit speaks love. Now, I invite you to place your hand on the inside of your wrist or on your neck just under your chin. Feel your pulse, notice your heart beating inside you. For in that beat, the love of the Creator sings.

*Reader 1*     Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy as touchstones of the Christian faith. From those lights, we also light the candle of love, which in one word tells the Christian story. Friends, you are loved. God is love. And Christmas is God's love song for us all.

*(The fourth candle is lit.)*

*Readers*             Thanks be to God.

**OPENING HYMN**             *Come, thou long expected Jesus*    **PAGE 12**

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**    **BCP 323**

*Celebrant*             Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;  
*People*                 *His mercy endureth for ever.*

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**    **BCP 323**

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 KYRIE****BCP 356**

Lord, have mercy.  
*Christ, have mercy.*  
Lord, have mercy.

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY****BCP 160**

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

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son Jesus Christ cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**FIRST LESSON: 2 SAMUEL 7:1-11,16**

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* *Thanks be to God.*

## PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26

- <sup>1</sup> Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- <sup>2</sup> For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- <sup>3</sup> "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- <sup>4</sup> "I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations."  
<sup>19</sup> You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*  
"I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- <sup>20</sup> I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- <sup>21</sup> My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.
- <sup>22</sup> No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- <sup>23</sup> I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.
- <sup>24</sup> My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- <sup>25</sup> I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.
- <sup>26</sup> He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

## SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.  
*People*     Thanks be to God.

**THE SEQUENCE HYMN**     *Savior of the nations, come!*

**PAGE 13 (VS. 1)**

## GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 1:26-28

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SERMON

THE REV. AMANDA R. KNOUSE

## THE NICENE CREED

**BCP 358**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
    he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
    he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
    and was made man. *(pause)*  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
    he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
    in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
    and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
    and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
    who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
    and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: ADVENT IV**

You astounded Mary with her invitation to bear your Son. Surprise us with your delight in us, with your invitation to do your will, with the light of Christ growing with in us. Surprise us, Lord, again and again.

*Silence*

We are your children. Increase the faith in us, day by day, season by season. Empower us to seek and do your will. Cause us to surprise ourselves by opening up our hearts to find that you are always there.  
*Surprise us, Lord.*

We pray that the leaders of all the nations demonstrate wisdom and a heart for the good of their people and peace between neighbors.  
*Surprise us, Lord.*

We prayer that the peoples of all the nations realize freedom and an end to hunger and poverty. Enable a spirit of generosity to flow throughout the world.  
*Surprise us, Lord.*

We pray for our neighbors with whom we work and live. Surprise us with what can be accomplished when we work together for the common good. Open our eyes to see you in each person we meet. Open our hearts and hands to each need we encounter.  
*Surprise us, Lord.*

We pray for healing for those with troubled spirits, who suffer from addiction, loneliness, and despair. We ask for healing for those who struggle with illness; especially Emily Lavender, Marita Houston, Christiane Zust, Diane Skilling, Kerry Cater, Max, Mary, Don and Jackie, Tom and Diane, and Tom Raifsnider. Reveal to us how to join in your saving and healing work through the power of your Spirit.  
*Surprise us, Lord.*

We pray for those who have died and now rest in your eternal embrace. May the light of your love surround them and comfort those who grieve. Surprise them with the sure hope of the Resurrection.  
*Surprise us, Lord.*

We are your people. Increase the faith in us day by day. Surprise us with your loving, liberating, and life-giving presence.  
*Surprise us, Lord, again and again.*

*Celebrant* Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

**THE PEACE** *(take a moment to send someone a text, an email, or post on social media!)* **BCP 332**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* And with thy spirit.

**THE OFFERTORY**

**THE HANDBELLS**

*During this unprecedented time, giving is crucial to our health and viability. Please consider this a time of reflection and an opportunity to contribute to the ongoing ministries of St. John's. Contributions can be mailed to the church office or given online. Thank you!*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B**

**BCP 340**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And with thy spirit.  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them up unto the Lord.  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
*People* It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

*Celebrant and People*

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

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

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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.

*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.*

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.



And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BCP 336**

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast.

### **THE FRACTION ANTHEM**

**BCP 337**

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

*Celebrant and People*

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

*Celebrant* 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.

## A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

*Officiant and People*

Beloved Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you in this life or in the life to come. Amen.

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**BCP 339**

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.*

## ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.  
Amen.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. Amen.

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

**THE CLOSING HYMN**    *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

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## GOOD NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISMISSAL

**BCP 102**

*Officiant*    Let us bless the Lord.

*People*        *Thanks be to God.*

## POSTLUDE

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## UPCOMING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:

### TODAY

9:00 a.m.            Children's Church (Zoom)  
10:00 a.m.            Holy Eucharist Rite I  
11:00 a.m.            Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:00 a.m.            Staff Meeting  
2:00 p.m.            Martha's Ministry (Zoom)  
2:30 p.m.            Food Pantry

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

#### MESSENGER DEADLINE

12:00 p.m.            Noon Day Prayer (Facebook)  
7:00 p.m.            Worship @ the Community Christmas Tree

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

2:30 p.m.            Food Pantry  
7:00 p.m.            Christmas Eve Service (Online)

## Weekly Support Ministries

AA: Tuesday - 6:00-7:00 p.m. (All Purpose Room)

NA: Monday and Wednesday - 12:00 Noon (All Purpose Room)

**FOOD PANTRY**— Thank you for your continual support of our food pantry ministry. Your donations allow us to feed so many neighbors struggling to make ends meet during this difficult time. Thank you for being good news to those in need. We are currently in need of toiletries, cereal, pasta, and canned goods. (Please leave items on the back porch of Becker House).

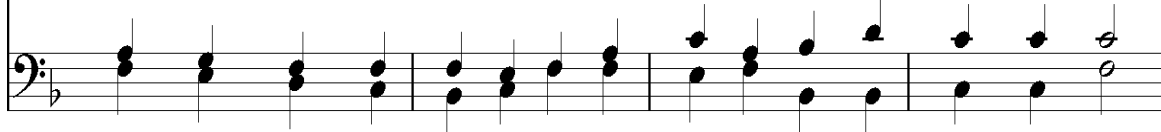
**ANGEL TREE MINISTRY**— Please join us as we spread some Christmas Cheer through our Angel Tree. Check out the sign up sheet links here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C48A9A72BA02-2020> and/or <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C48A9A72BA02-20201>. Thank you for helping us ensure our neighbors are provided for during these difficult days!

### *COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS*

*HYMN 66*



1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

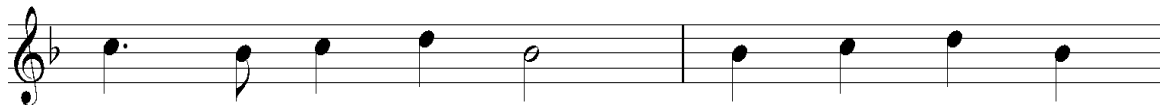


*SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME!*

*HYMN 54 (vs.1)*



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's  
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the  
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing  
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both  
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and  
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and  
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.  
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

HYMN 56 (vs. 1-3)



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!



# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S

## Sundays at 10:00 AM in Advent

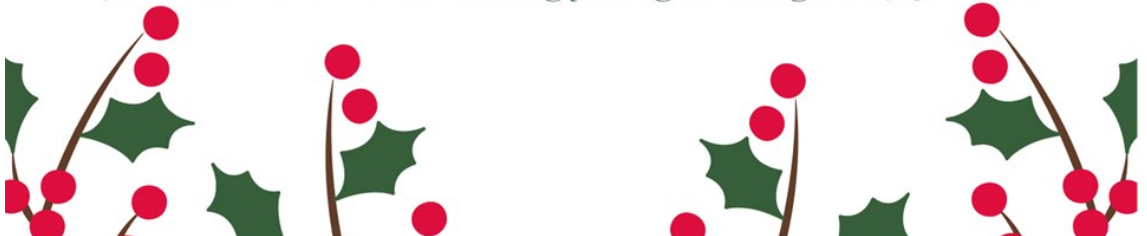
Each week in Advent we will gather for worship. Join us as we light the advent wreath, hear the beloved advent hymns, and wait with anticipation for the birth of our savior!

## Wednesdays at 7:00PM in Advent

This year, St. John's will have it's very own outdoor Christmas Tree. Every Wednesday in December, we will gather around the tree for evening prayer and fellowship.

## Christmas Eve at 7:00PM

On Christmas Eve we invite you to join us online for a festive celebration! Covid-19 has interrupted many of our traditions, yet we will still worship! Our service will include breathtaking scripture, special music, and the Good News that Christ has been born! Special music begins at 7:00PM with the liturgy beginning at 7:30PM.



## **OUR MINISTERS**

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector  
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Matt MacDougall, Associate Rector  
matt@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Stacey Catigano, Deacon  
stacey@stjohns-lancaster.org

## **VESTRY**

Debbie Carter (Senior Warden), Webb Cook (Junior Warden), Sue Heilman,  
Tim Huber, Molly Moyer, Nicole Pham, Heather Trenary,  
John Gouveia, Joe Way, Annie Lattanzio Hale

## **STAFF**

Equilla Curry, Parish Administrator  
Gina Keiser, Financial Secretary  
Richard Kuhn, Sexton

Maria Weaver-Hollowniczky, Nursery and Security

## **PRIESTS AND CANONS ASSOCIATED WITH ST. JOHN'S**

Canon William F. Honaman, DHL  
The Rev. William Archer  
The Rev. Faith D'Urbano  
The Rev. Elizabeth Mollard

## **SERVING AT THE LITURGY**

*Celebrant*

*The Rev. Matt MacDougall*

*Preacher*

*The Rev. Amanda R. Knouse*

*Lector*

*Heather Trenary*

*Altar Guild*

*Team 3*

*Web Streaming*

*Joe Way*