

**EVE OF THE NATIVITY**  
**HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II**  
**DECEMBER 24TH AT 9:30 P.M.**



Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here and pray you experience the love of God through our worship and fellowship. For those who are new to our community, restrooms can be found on the other side of the parish hall. Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have. During this global pandemic, we require masks to be worn as we seek to protect the most vulnerable among us. Thank you for helping us love our neighbors and thank you for being here!

## THE WORD OF GOD

### SPECIAL MUSIC BY THE LANCASTER BRASS QUINTET

*Fantasy on an ancient French Carol - arr. Harry Stanton*

*Good Christian men, rejoice - Piae Cantiones, Thomas Helmore, arr. Richard Huggins*

*French Carol - Traditional French, arr. Keith Snell*

*Coventry carol - English melody, arr. Donald E. Matthews*

*God rest ye merry, gentlemen - Traditional English, arr. Ted Blumenthal*

**PRELUDE** *Good Christian men, rejoice* *Richard Huggins*

**OPENING HYMN** *O come, all ye faithful* **HYMN 83**

### CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHTING

Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

*Light the candle of Christ today, the Giver of light is here!  
Welcome the light we grope and sigh for, but only Christ can give.  
Flicker and flame and glow with light, light up the world around you.  
Flicker and flame and glow with light, light up the world around you.*

### OPENING ACCLAMATION *(please remain standing)*

*Celebrant* The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.  
*People* And we beheld his glory. Amen.

### COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          *And also with you.*

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

**THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2-7** (*please be seated for the readings*)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*          *Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM 96** (*read responsively*)

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
    sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \*  
    proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
    and his wonders among all peoples.

- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*  
 he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
 but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
 Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*  
 ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \*  
 bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
 let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! \*  
 he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
 he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
 before the LORD when he comes, \*  
 when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
 and the peoples with his truth.

**THE SECOND LESSON: TITUS 2:1-14**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

*Thanks be to God.*

**GRADUAL HYMN**

*Hark! the herald angels sing*

**HYMN 87**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-20** (*please remain standing*)

*Celebrant*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People*          *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

**SERMON**

THE REV. AMANDA KNOUSE

**THE NICENE CREED** (*Please stand*)

**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** (*The leader and people pray responsively*)

Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus.

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ child; draw us, your church, and all your people to you. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your presence; fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' light, and Kings to the brightness of his rising; draw our nation, our President, and all in authority, to His brightness. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; bring us your peace and bring an end to any terror and strife. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn; be especially present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are sick. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As the Holy Family gathered together in Bethlehem and traveled together to far off lands; bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of life eternal; give to the departed eternal rest and let light perpetual shine on them. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Celebrant*      O Lord our God, may the light and hope of this night, and of your Son's birth, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. *Amen.*

## THE PEACE

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

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

**THE OFFERTORY**                      *Love came down at Christmas*                      *Leo Sowerby*

**THE DOXOLOGY**            *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*                      **OLD 100TH**  
   *praise God, all creatures here below;*  
   *praise God above, ye heavenly host;*  
   *praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: THE ADVENT COMPANION

*Celebrant*      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 our thanks and praise.*

It is good to give you thanks, O God, source of abundant life; through Jesus Christ your eternal Word who creates all things by the working of your spirit. For he is the reflection of your glory, the very imprint of your being. In him you have become one with us that we might become one with you. And so we raise our voices with saints and angels and all creation in joyful praise to you singing,

**SANCTUS**                      *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,*                      **S-125**  
   *heaven and earth are full of you glory.*  
   *Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*  
   *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*  
   *Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

Holy and wondrous God, long ago you spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways. And in these last days you have spoken to us in your Word made flesh, Jesus, who proclaimed your dream of peace.



He gave himself for our weary world, accepting death so that we might live, and held our darkness deep within until through cross and grave and empty tomb he set us free for love.

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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.*

Recalling his death and resurrection, and longing for his coming in glory we offer you these gifts of bread and wine, and our lives in thanks and praise. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Pour out your Spirit upon us that we might be a people of grace and truth, bearing good news of joy in every season.

And bring us at the last with Mary and Joseph and all your Saints to that vision of eternal splendor for which you have created us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, by him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise. **AMEN.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**S-149**

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

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

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

## THE INVITATION

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

## ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

*The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. If you wish to receive, please come forward to the front of the chancel steps when the usher indicates. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are also available.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*Still, still, still*

*Michael Panza*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## HYMN BY CANDLELIGHT

*Silent night, holy night*

**HYMN 111**

## THE BLESSING

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Joy to the world!*

**HYMN 100**

## THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!  
*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

## POSTLUDE

*Westminster Carol*

*Don Gillis*

## A THANK YOU NOTE

A special thank you to all those who work behind the scenes to make our Christmas celebrations joyous. Thank you to the altar guild, servers and acolytes, chancel choir, clergy, staff, the Lancaster Brass Quintet, and YOU! May the peace and joy of this holy night be yours now and in the year to come!

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### THE LANCASTER BRASS QUINTET

*Melanie Miller, trumpet*  
*Scott Ainscough, trumpet*  
*Anne Nye, horn*  
*Stephen Shiffer, trombone*  
*Jerry Heilner, bass trombone*

*“We give thanks for the Amos Martin memorial fund, which provides funding for instrumental music in our worship, to the praise and glory of God.”*

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### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

*Morning Prayer on Zoom*

After the presents have been unwrapped and the coffee enjoyed, join us for a time of prayer and reflection from wherever you are on Christmas morning!

Meeting ID: 813 0062 1479

Passcode: 865233

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 AT 9:00 A.M.

*Celebrating the feast of St. John*

Join us for a joint worship service! Our celebration will include Holy Eucharist, the presentation of the St. John's Award, and the singing of carols.



**THE POINSETTIAS DECORATING THE CHURCH  
ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY:**

*Kluane H. Baier*

*In memory of John C. Baier M.D.*

*The Dorgan Family*

*In memory of Howard & Sally Miller, John & Frances Dorgan*

*Barbara Landis*

*In thanksgiving of Dale Landis*

*The Latshaw Family*

*In memory of Stefan Latshaw, Jr.*

*Rich & Karen Garon*

*In memory of our loving parents, Donn & Annaliese Barclay  
and Richard & Jeane Garon*

*Linda MacDougall*

*In thanksgiving of the clergy and staff*

*John D. Meyer*

*In memory of Charles & Edith Meyer*

*The Moyer Family*

*In memory of Bill Moyer*

*David Pennell Sr.*

*In memory of loved ones of the Pennell Family*

*Marie & Gunnar Sarsten*

*In thanksgiving of their children & grandchildren*

*Joel, Ericka, Emily, and Evan Sipe*

*In memory of George Geltmacher, Nancy Geesey, and Christopher Sipe*

**THE POINSETTIAS DECORATING THE CHURCH  
ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY:**

*Kluane and Philip Snyder*

*In memory of Margaret & Willis Snyder*

*Susan Dodge & Joseph Thompson*

*In memory of Carolyn Thompson*

*Anne Almy-Webber & Benton Webber*

*In memory of Kenneth James Almy, Sally & Edward Kryder,*

*Marjorie & Kenneth Almy*

*In honor of Pat & Joe Webber*

*Jeannie Zeller*

*In memory of Ken Zeller*





## WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church. We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by clicking the QR Code or by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

## 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  
scatigano@gmail.com

## VESTRY

Webb Cook (Senior Warden), Leslie Morgan (Junior Warden),  
Debbie Carter, John Gouveia, Annie Lattanzio-Hale, Tim Huber,  
Molly Moyer, Marylee Sauder, Mary Waskowicz, Joe Way

## STAFF

Gina Keiser, Financial Secretary  
Richard Kuhn Sr., Sexton  
Douglas Beach, Minister of Music

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

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

**GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE**  
**[WWW.STJOHNS-LANCASTER.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNS-LANCASTER.ORG) / 717.299.1188**