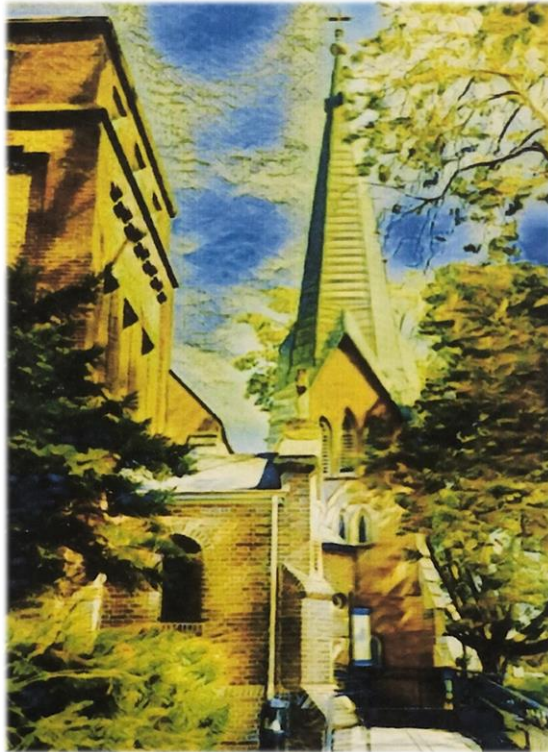


THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
DECEMBER 18TH AT 10:15 A.M.



Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We 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. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after each service. A nursery is available every Sunday for our littlest members next to the Parish Hall. Thank you for being here!

Throughout the season of Advent, look for text boxes with "Liturgy Explained" for more detailed information on why we do what we do.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Auld Lang Syne, Ding Dong merrily on High, Do you Hear what I hear, Here we Come
A-Wassailing, Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Glory Be To God

Ludwig Ernst, 1787-1862

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward all. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

HYMNAL 54

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Because too many people are wandering in the wilderness, because too many people are sitting in the valley of the shadow of death, because too many of our conversations are laced with conflict and bitterness, we light candles...Because people all over the world are suffering, and we're too often distracted to notice, we light candles...One for hope, one for peace, one for joy, and one for love...

May the light from these candles overwhelm the world. May the light from these candles illuminate the valley of the shadow of death. And may the fire from these candles burn away whatever would prevent God's love from being born among us. Friends, be not afraid, even now God's love is overwhelming the world, on earth as it already is in heaven!

OPENING ACCLAMATION (*please remain standing if you are able*)

BCP 355

Officiant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
People *His mercy endures for ever.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-16 (*please be seated*)

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80 (*sung by the choir*)

PSALM 80.

JOHN ROSTER.



- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
 how long will you be angered
 despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
 the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
 give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE EPISTLE: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

Savior, like a shepherd lead us

HYMNAL 708

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25 (*please remain standing if you are able*)

*Celebrant
 People*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

THE NICENE CREED *(please stand as you are able)*

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 (*please kneel as you are able*)

People of God, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Let us pray to the Lord saying,
“Teach us your ways, O God, that we may walk in your paths.”

Wake from sleep, O God, your Church. In the Diocesan and Anglican cycle of prayer, we
pray for St. John’s, Lancaster, and The Anglican Church of Korea. We pray for Justin,
Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Audrey, our Diocesan Bishop;
and Amanda, Jen, and Stacey, our clergy. Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put
on the armor of light. Let us live honorably as salvation draws ever nearer.
Teach us your ways, O God,
That we may walk in your paths.

Wake from sleep, O God, this nation. May we beat our swords into plowshares, and our
spears into pruning hooks. May we learn war no more. We pray for Joe, our President;
Tom, our Governor; Danene, our Mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces.
Teach us your ways, O God,
That we may walk in your paths.

Wake from sleep, O God, your creation. May the mountains rise to meet you and the
crops of the fields burst forth in praise. Teach us your ways, O God,
That we may walk in your paths.

Wake from sleep, O God, this city. May there be peace and prosperity within our walls.
Make clear our paths that we may walk in your light. Teach us your ways, O God,
That we may walk in your paths.

Wake from sleep, O God, those in pain and sadness, especially Claire Phillips, Charlie Rahe, Kate, Liam Lynch, Nancy Strasburg, Benjamin and Joanne Heckman, Carolyn Swavely, Chase, Debbie Carter, Clyde, Larisa Strawbridge, Bryna Paillard, Shirley Morgan, and Peter; deliver them from their darkness that they may rejoice in your light. May all those waiting for healing find your salvation is near. Teach us your ways, O God,
That we may walk in your paths.

Wake all your people from sleep, O God. Prepare your saints for that day when the Son of Man will return, with the saints at rest, to reign with us forever and ever. Teach us your ways, O God,
That we may walk in your paths.

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

People Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

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

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

(Please remain standing as the bread and wine are brought to the altar)

THE OFFERTORY

Magnificat

John Bacchus Dykes

PRESENTATION HYMN

On Jordan's Bank

HYMNAL 76, vs. 4

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B

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 him thanks and praise.*

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

THE SANCTUS

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

HYMNAL S-124

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

(Please kneel if you are able)

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.

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,

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

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 St. John and 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.**

LITURGY EXPLAINED

When asked to teach his disciples to pray, Jesus taught the prayer that has become beloved throughout the world and across the centuries. **The Lord's Prayer** is profound in its directness and simplicity. Jesus first blesses the name of God and prays for God's heavenly kingdom to be realized in this world, then prays for our basic needs for daily sustenance to be filled as they arise, asks for forgiveness as we ourselves forgive, and strength to face trials and to be carried by God from the evil that befalls us.

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

LITURGY EXPLAINED

The Fraction, where we break the bread, symbolizes that Christ's body was broken for us. The language of the Passover is important here. We celebrate the Passover of the Exodus and Christ's victory over the grave in our acclamation. The breaking of the bread makes it possible for all to share in that life. If the fraction symbolizes the life of Christ laid down for us, and we ourselves are the Body of Christ, then the fraction becomes a symbol of the shape of our own behavior. We, too, like our crucified and risen Lord, give ourselves to be broken for the life of the world, and find new life in offering ourselves for that breaking.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 365

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

LITURGY EXPLAINED

The Invitation to partake in communion follows. There are numerous ways to receive Communion. You may drink from the chalice, or dip your wafer, which is known as intinction. You may also receive just the bread. When I distribute communion and say, "The body of Christ, the bread of heaven," I use those words to pray for you; I trust that you, too, are prayerfully and thankfully receiving the gift of the Eucharist.

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 altar rail when the usher indicates. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. For the wine, you can receive by guiding the chalice to your lips or by dipping your wafer into the intinction cup. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest when the wine passes. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest.

LITURGY EXPLAINED

After communion, we often commission Lay Eucharistic Visitors to take the sacrament from this celebration to our friends at home who are unable to be here. They receive communion, being reminded of the community's and God's care and love for them.

SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant In the name of God and on behalf of this parish, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body.

People *Because we all share one bread, one cup.*

LITURGY EXPLAINED

In the early church, you left after communion. But as the church got bigger and more formal, it needed a real ending. In the **Post Communion Prayer**, we summarize what has happened in the service and pray for God's continual guidance and grace in our lives. Empowered by Christ's presence, united to him most intimately at the table, we prepare to return to a world in which the kingdom is coming but not yet present in abundance. There is work to be done.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER**BCP 365**

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.

LITURGY EXPLAINED

The Blessing began in Egypt around the 4th century. The priest is asking God to bless you so you can be a blessing to others who you will encounter in the world.

THE BLESSING

Go forth now into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone. Love and serve the Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. *Amen.*

LITURGY EXPLAINED

As we began with one voice, we end with one voice and process out into the world, having glorified God and being nourished by and filled with God's spirit for doing the work of the Gospel in our world.

CLOSING HYMN

Prepare the way, O Zion

HYMNAL 65

LITURGY EXPLAINED

The Dismissal is a commissioning to go out into the world; to take the peace, presence of God, and grace received throughout worship with you wherever you may go. As Martin Luther once said, "Our worship has ended, now our service begins."

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

LITURGY EXPLAINED

Just as the Prelude is meant to quiet our hearts and prepare us for worship, the **Postlude** is meant to ignite our spirits in reflection of the service and prepare us to go out into the world and share what we have experienced.

POSTLUDE

A Tribute to Vince Gauraldi
(Including tunes O Tanenbaum, What child is this, and Skating)

St. John's Traveler Letter:

Connecting to our siblings in Christ across the world

Did you know St. John's has a team of pilgrims who travel every week to the very places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares a little bit about the church and the places he visits:

Dear Pastor Amanda,

This past week I travelled from Kenya to Korea, on the eastern edge of Asia. I think you know that Korea was divided into North Korea and South Korea following the end of World War II, and I am in South Korea visiting the capital, Seoul, and also Daejeon city. I have been looking forward to coming here to say Kamsahamnida, "Thank You," in person. There was a turn of the usual events a couple of years ago. As the covid pandemic broke out in America, the Anglican Province of Korea sent aid packages to the Diocese of New York to assist with turning the Cathedral of St. John the Divine into a field hospital. At the time the primate of the Province of Korea, Bishop Moses Nag Jun Yoo said "The living Jesus Christ keeps telling us to love each other regardless of size, or race or any differences among us. This is the moment that the Word works out through the two connected Churches in Korea and the United States. Warmest hearts and lots of prayers go together with the hope of resurrected life of Jesus Christ to overcome Covid-19 for all in the package of aid." He continued that, "it's amazing that our smallest of diocese sends aid to the largest diocese in New York, but this is like Saint Paul, the smallest of the apostles, working with God's favor. Today God uses Daejeon Diocese as a tool of grace to give the same role as the apostle Paul."

We often hear of Mother Teresa saying, "we cannot all do great things, but we can all do small things with great love." The people of Korea sent what they could to help the people in America, and they sent it with great love. I've wanted to return and say a small "thank you," kamsahamnida, with great love. Please join me in thanking our wonderful Korean friends, and hold them up in your prayers today.

Blessings to you always,

John Traveler

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN'S:

TODAY

Coffee Hour to follow each service

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:30 AM Sunday School & Youth Group
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
11:30 AM Advent Adult Forum
12:00 PM Vestry Meeting

**PLEASE CHECK THE MESSENGER
FOR INFORMATION ON EVENTS
HAPPENING THIS MONTH!**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 6:00 PM Daughters of the King

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 1:30 PM Martha's Ministry
2:30 PM Food Pantry

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 12:00 PM Healing Service
3:00 PM Eagle's Nest
6:30 PM Courtyard Evening Prayer
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 9:00 AM Ministers' Meeting
2:30 PM Food Pantry
6:00 PM Christmas Caroling
7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Rector's Day Off

CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY, DEC. 24

- 3:30 PM Festive Holy Eucharist
with handbells
9:30 PM Candlelight Service
with brass

CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY, DEC. 25

- 9:00 AM Christmas Morning
worship with carols
and Holy Eucharist

WEEKLY SUPPORT MINISTRIES

- AA: Tuesdays at 6:00 PM
NA: Mon., Weds. & Fri. at 12:00 PM
NA: Thursdays & Saturdays at 6:30 PM

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Help us spread some Christmas cheer on Thursday, December 22, at 6:00 PM as we carol around our community! We will meet in the courtyard and leave from there. Afterwards, warm up with a nice cup of hot cocoa and treats in the parish hall!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: Thank you, thank you, thank you! We are making great progress in our annual giving campaign thanks to your generosity and commitment to the mission and ministries of St. John's. As of December 13, our current total is: \$364, 188 which includes 94 pledges. If you have not pledged yet, please consider joining us this year – no matter the size of your pledge – it matters!

*A special thank you to Jim Dedrick and Edward VanLandeghem
for sharing their musical gifts with us this Sunday!*

JIM DEDRICK

Double Bass Player, Composer, Band Leader, and Sideman Jim Dedrick started his professional career at 17 in Central MD. While attending Towson University he received his BA in Applied Music while studying with Drew Gress. Since then, he has been creating and performing Improvised Music/Jazz in the Washington DC, Baltimore, Wilmington, Lancaster, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and Southern NJ regions. Presenting Modern Jazz with roots in the styles of Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Bill Evans, and Chick Corea. His compositions highlight the modern jazz idiom, with forms influenced by standards, modified, and mixed with free jazz developmental sections.

EDWARD VANLANDEGHEM

Edward started playing drums at age 11 and hasn't looked back since. He has always loved how music made him feel and how it brought enjoyment to others as well. After graduating from college with a bachelor's degree in music he continued to play casually while working in the recording industry as an audio engineer. In 2005, his whole world turned upside down after a severe accident with a traumatic brain injury. He needed to relearn everything, including the motor skills for playing his instrument. The hard work and perseverance of learning the drums again helped his recovery. Now, every chance he has to play is a testament to how blessed he is to be alive and to bring joy to others.



Christmas Eve Services



3:30 P.M.

A family celebration of Holy Eucharist with Christmas Hymns and music by the Hand Bell Choir

9:30 P.M.

Prelude of Carols with Brass

A festive candlelight Holy Eucharist with Christmas carols led by the Chancel Choir



Christmas Day Service

9:00 A.M.

Our service will include Christmas carols, Holy Eucharist, and warm friendship



WELCOME

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

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

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

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

The Rev. Stacey Catigano, Deacon
scatigano@gmail.com

The Rev. Jen Trenary, Assistant Rector
jen@stjohns-lancaster.org

VESTRY

Mary Waskowicz (Senior Warden), Leslie Morgan (Junior Warden),
John Gouveia, Joe Way, Marylee Sauder,
Paula Wolf, Nick DiPace, Andy Welaish

STAFF

Douglas Beach, Minister of Music & Communications
Martie & Brandy Walus, Bookkeepers
John Knouse, Property Manager
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Ellia Osofsky, Nursery Care

PRIESTS AND CANONS ASSOCIATED WITH ST. JOHN'S

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

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