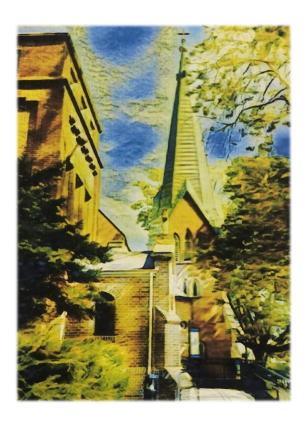
# THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:15 A.M.



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

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** Listen to the Angels Mark Hayes

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 Sleepers, wake! HYMNAL 62

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Because of war, because of violence in our communities, because there is still so much unrest in our hearts, we light a candle of peace...Because hatred is still strong, because so many swords have not yet been remade into ploughshares, we light a candle of peace. (*The second candle is lit*)

May the light from this candle overwhelm the world. May the light from this candle say to all that God's peace is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven. Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!

**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.* 

TRISAGION Holy God HYMNAL S-102

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

#### LITURGY EXPLAINED

The Lessons tell our story. Our tradition follows the Revised Common Lectionary. The three-year cycle of readings is a helpful tool for two reasons. First, it is laid out so that in a three-year cycle, most of the bible will be heard. Second, it makes sure nothing is left out by the preacher. We can't dodge difficult issues; we must confront them. The Old Testament readings tell the story of the Hebrew people and their journey with God.

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-10 (please be seated)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

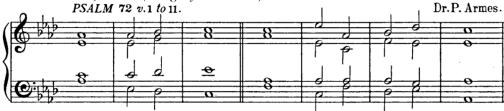
People Thanks be to God.

#### LITURGY EXPLAINED

The Psalm is usually linked to the Old Testament Lesson.

The Psalter was the hymnal of ancient Israel, which is why we sing them during Advent.

**PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19** (sung by the choir)



- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \* and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \* and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \* and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \* he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \* from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \* like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \* there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, \* who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \* and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

#### LITURGY EXPLAINED

The Epistle Reading tells the story of Jesus at work in the world and in the lives of the disciples. They are often letters written to early Christian communities.

**THE EPISTLE:** Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another,

in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

GRADUAL HYMN

People

Savior of the nations, come!

HYMNAL 54

#### LITURGY EXPLAINED

The Gospel is the highlight of the Liturgy of the Word and symbolizes Christ presence with us. At the proclamation of the Gospel, you will notice some people cross themselves on the forehead, their lips, and their heart to pray: Lord be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart – may God be in my understanding, in my speaking, and in my feeling.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL:** Matthew 3:1-12 (please remain standing if you are able)

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and

thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

#### LITURGY EXPLAINED

The Sermon is the chance to comment and expand upon the readings.

To preach means to publicly proclaim or to share the good news. Sermons are not a piece of performance talk, a pep talk, or a lecture. Instead, the sermon is the wonderful intersection of pastoral care, Biblical study, academic research, prophetic witness, prayerful contemplation, and homiletical craft.

SERMON

People

THE REV. JEN TRENARY

#### LITURGY EXPLAINED

The Nicene Creed dates to the Council of Nicea in 325. In the early church, there were struggles to define what was orthodox. Disagreements about the nature and relationships of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were causing division amongst believers. The Nicene Creed was formed as a result and is an expression of faith. It's been said that we believe what we pray. One important thing to note is that in the Creed, we say "we believe," not "I believe." Maybe one Sunday doubt is overshadowing your faith, so we say the Creed on your behalf, just as you say it for others at other times.

**THE NICENE CREED** (please stand if 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*)

We pause and hear the Sanctus bell to signify the significance and power of this moment.

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.

## LITURGY EXPLAINED

The Prayers of the People follow, and they are one of the most ancient parts of the liturgy, dating back to at least the 2nd century. There are numerous options for the prayers; however, each form includes the following:

The Universal Church, its members, and missions; The Nation and all in authority;
The welfare of the world; The concerns of the local community;
Those who suffer and those in any trouble; The departed.

In periods of silence, you are invited and encouraged to remember aloud and in your minds those for whom you would like to offer prayer.

# **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 Trinity Episcopal Church, Jersey Shore; and The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and The Middle East. 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, Kenneth Robert, Charlie Rahe, Kate, Liam Lynch, Nancy Strasburg, Benjamin and Joanne Heckman, Peter Plaxa, Lily, Khadija, Carolyn Swavely, Chase, Debbie Carter; 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.

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

**BCP 830** 

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts, may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

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

THE OFFERTORY Stir Up Our Hearts David Cherwien

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.PeopleWe 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 Lord, God of power and might heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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,

Celebrant and People

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.** 

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMNAL S-150

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

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

**BCP 365** 

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

#### 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.

<b>COMMUNION SONGS</b>	O come, O come, Emmanuel	HYMNAL 56
	There's a voice in the wilderness	HYMNAL 75

### SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant	In the name of God	and on behalf of this	s parish, I send you forth b	earing
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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.

#### 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.

## 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*.

## THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Angel Tidings Carole Simons

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.



"The Earth is the Lord's and all it contains. The world, and those who dwell in it."

# 2023 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of November 28, we have received 87 pledges totaling \$356,649! 53 pledges increased their 2023 pledge, 5 were decreases, 20 stayed the same, and 9 were new.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all those who have committed to the mission and ministry of St. John's in the coming year. We have not yet met our goal of \$460,000, so please consider joining us with a pledge. Information about our 2023 Annual Giving Campaign can be found in the back of the church and on our website at <a href="https://stjohns-lancaster.org/stewardship/">https://stjohns-lancaster.org/stewardship/</a>

#### 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,

Several months ago, I wrote to you from the Great Rift Valley in Uganda and the headwaters of the White Nile River. Today I'm writing from the lands to the north of there, where the river passes through Badingilo National Park here in South Sudan. The land here is mostly grassland or forested with trees, and the areas around the White Nile are often swampy with seasonal flooding over the river's banks. This is a lush land for wildlife, and the Badingilo sees one of the largest annual migrations anywhere on Earth with more than a million white eared kob antelopes moving between grazing lands. There truly are more animals than people here.

South Sudan is a new country, having gained its independence by popular vote just in 2011. It's still developing its systems of governing. Can you imagine if we, in America, were starting over and doing things like drawing up our state boundaries. Lancaster and York might not be in the same state anymore! One other thing that makes this interesting is that of the 8 million or so people living here, half of them are under the age of 18! This is literally a young country. Many people are growing up and live their whole lives in indigenous villages. Where folks in the larger communities have come in contact with people from foreign lands, they have learned the lessons of Jesus and of Muhammad, and worship in Christian churches and Muslim mosques. While this is a conservative nation that has outlawed same sex relationships, the people are accepting of different faiths. I pray that this is a sign of greater diversity acceptance to come as this country develops.

Blessings to you at home this season of Advent. I won't be home for Christmas, but will look forward to being among friends of faith in the weeks ahead. I'll write next week while visiting our friends in Kenya.

God's peace, John Traveler

P.S. Fun fact: One of the tallest men to ever play in the NBA is Manute Bol (7 feet 6 inches tall!), who is from Turalei in South Sudan. And his great grandfather was even taller than him!

## **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

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

6:00 PM Daughters of the King 6:00 PM Ministries Council

# TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

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

# WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

12:00 PM Healing Service 3:00 PM Eagle's Nest

**6:00PM** Evening Prayer at the Tree 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

# THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

9:00 AM Ministers' Meeting

2:30 PM Food Pantry

**6:00 PM** Gingerbread Event

(at St. Paul's!)

7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

# FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Rector's Day Off

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Coffee Hour to follow each service 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

11:30 AM Advent Adult Forum

# **WEEKLY SUPPORT MINISTRIES**

AA: Tuesdays at 6:00 PM

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

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

THE FEEDING MINISTRY: The Feeding Ministry at St. John's is hoping you'll join us in a new way to celebrate Advent by filling an Advent Calendar Giving Box. By adding one item per day for each day of Advent, the boxes will help alleviate food insecurity in our community and will hopefully give us a more spiritually oriented way to "count down" the days until Christmas. Boxes with a message, a prayer, a calendar containing suggested food contributions, and some colorful stickers will be available in the Atrium this Sunday.

#### WELCOME



Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by scanning 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. 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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