THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II DECEMBER 3RD at 10:15 A.M.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Our Rite II service comes from the Book of Common Prayer and is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. This service is filled with the joyful sound of children rustling in the pews, anthems sung to the glory of God, and the heartfelt prayers of those gathered. With acolytes and processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.

TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING

We are so glad you are here! Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after the service in the courtyard. A nursery is available every Sunday for our littlest members next to the Parish Hall. Thank you for being here!



ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Thank you to those who have submitted their 2024 pledge cards! To date, 85 members have pledged for a total of \$391,853. Our 2024 goal is \$425,000. If you haven't submitted your card yet, please do so as soon as possible so the vestry can move forward with 2024 plans! Thank YOU for sharing your ABUNDANCE!

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement, you would like the clergy to share, please fill out the form on our website or let the office know no later than Thursday.

PRELUDE	Prelude	Vladimer Rebikoff
OPENING HYMN	Hail to the Lord's Anointed	HYMN 616

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- *Reader 1:* In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)
- *Reader 2:* In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come" (Mark 13:35).
- *People:* We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.
- *Reader 1:* We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

OPENING ACCLAMATION (please remain standing as you are able) **BCP 355**

OfficiantBless the Lord who forgives all our sins.PeopleHis mercy endures for ever.

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.*

TRISAGION

HYMNAL S-100

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9 (*please be seated*)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

PeopleThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18 (*chant led by choir*)



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: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

GRADUAL HYMN Sleepers, wake! **HYMN 62** Verses 1 & 2 before the Gospel Reading; Verse 3 after the Gospel Reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37 (please remain standing as you are able)

CelebrantThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake-for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

SERMON

THE REV. AMANDA KNOUSE

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)

In this season of waiting, let us pray together in thanksgiving as we gather in holy patience, saying, "God, be with us."

In the Diocesan and Anglican cycle of prayer, we prayer for Trinity Church, Jersey Shore; and The Church of North India (United). For the church and all its people, the gathering of those called to wait in anticipation of your revelation, that we may be alert so when the time comes for us to behold you among us, we see you and receive you with prayers and praises of gratitude and thanksgiving, we pray: *God, be with us.*

For all the nations of the world and those who bear the authority of leadership, especially Joe, our President; Josh, our Governor; Danene, our Mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces; that the powers of this world may entrust our futures not to their own understanding, but to your ever unfolding wisdom, charity, and generosity, as you are made known to us again and again in new ways that call us to give thanks, we pray: *God, be with us.*

For the whole world, that in this season of hearing proclamations of the power of God, we would begin to see the song of Mary taking on flesh in our world, calling us to give of ourselves out of our spirit of gratitude, we pray: *God, be with us.*

We pray for our friends at home, especially Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Peter Plaxa, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove, Carole Humphrey, Darlene Bentley, and Peggy Zuke. For our neighbors and our communities, that our hearts may be sensitive to the needs of the people in our midst and overcome with gratitude for them, so that we, as one people bound to each other, may wait together for the unfolding kingdom of God, we pray: *God, be with us.*

For those we love and care for, especially Pat Pankey, Jeannie Zeller, Kent Strickler, Nancy Strasburg, Justin & Lisa, Ella & Colleen, Matt Patterson, Michael Yoder, Kevin, Judy Modene, Angie Stamm, Andrew Gilpin, Jesse Rutledge, Ann Marie, Cheryl & Rhoda, Lynn Hayford, Erin Potts, Dave, Colleen Murphy, and Joan Inshetski. For all human suffering of all kinds and conditions, that we may be comforted by the almost here presence of a God who took on flesh to know our suffering, to bear our suffering, and to give us - even in our suffering - a grace that calls us to give thanks, we pray: *God, be with us.* For all who have died, those who have removed the veil and seen you face to face, that we may be inspired by the lives they lived on this earth, as they are now reminders that you will call us into a heavenly home, where our praises and our thanksgivings are brought into your nearer presence, we pray: *God, be with us.*

For the ways in which you are waiting with us, sitting beside us as we celebrate the joys of this life, giving thanks especially for those joys we now name, either aloud or in the silence of our hearts...(silence is kept) In our gratitude, we pray: *God, be with us.*

Celebrant God of wisdom, bring us into awareness of your presence, as we wait to become so close to you that we may touch even the hem of your cloak. Give us a patience only you can give, slow our hurried hearts, give peace to our anxious minds, and draw us into such a heart of gratitude that we may be caught serving one another when you arrive.

CONFESSION OF SIN

- *Celebrant* Assured that God hears out repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth, confessing our sins to God and one another.
- PeopleLord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin,
as though there were not justice. We live in fear, as though there were no
grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us
in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation.
Amen.
- *Celebrant* Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, you are forgiven all your sins. *Amen*.

THE PEACE

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

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

THE OFFERTORY	Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending	Robert Hobby
PRESENTATION HYMN	Come, thou long expected Jesus	HYMNAL 66, vs. 4
THE GREAT THANKSG	IVING: Eucharistic Prayer B	BCP 367

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 God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where 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	HYMNAL S-129
	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.	

It is customary to kneel during Advent.

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 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

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 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 separate 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. When finished, please exit to your right. Gluten free wafers are also available.

COMMUNION HYMNS There's a voice in the wilderness crying Come with us, O blessed Jesus **BCP 364**

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.
 People We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen*.

CLOSING H	YMN O	n Jordan's bank	HYMN 76
THE DISMIS	SSAL		
Celebrant People	Go in peace to love and <i>Thanks be to God</i> .	l serve the Lord.	
POSTLUDE	St	rong in the Faith	Edward Broughton

St. John's Traveler Letter:

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 Amanda,

Today is December 3, the first day of Advent, and instead of the cold, short days in Pennsylvania, I'm greeted by hazy, hot, and humid here in central India. Even though its December, it doesn't seem to cool down much, although I'm not complaining. I'll take this over the snow any day!

The city of Nagpur, where I've spent the last few days, is almost smack dab in the middle of the country. It's well known for its mandarin oranges, which they put in everything here. My favorite dish so far is something called Orange Burfi, a dessert that is sort of like a creamy orange fudge with sugar on top. I can't stop eating it!

When I arrived here, I made a beeline for the closest orange tree, picked one off the branch, and took a large bite, thinking I'd be tasting something sweet. I immediately spit it out, because apparently the oranges that are ripe this time of year are on the more sour side. It turns out you have to wait until late December for the sweet "mrig" variety of oranges.

It made me think of where we are in the church calendar – during this season of Advent, we in the church are also waiting for late December – but for Christians across the world, we are not waiting for oranges, but rather the birth of Jesus Christ. During our service earlier today, I stood alongside Methodists, Presbyterians, and other Protestants to begin this time of waiting. It was a powerful moment.

I'm wishing you all a blessed Advent season and much peace to think through how best you can spend the next weeks preparing for the coming of Jesus. Hopefully with an orange or two!

Blessings aways, John Traveler

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:

TODAY

Coffee Hour to follow each service

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
 9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
 11:30 AM Advent Event
 2:00 PM A Service of Hope for
- Times of Loss (Covenant UMC)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 10:15 AMCap. Campaign Meeting4:30 PMTrans Loving Community5:00 PMExecutive Committee6:00 PMDaughters of the King6:00 PMMinistric Committee
- 6:00 PM Ministries Council

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 12:00 PM Healing Service
- 5:00 PM Beth Shalom Xmas Party
- 6:30 PM Courtyard Service
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Rector's Day	Off
7:00 PM	McCaskey High School
	Choir Concert

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Coffee Hour to follow each service

8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM	Sunday School
10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist: Rite II
3:00 PM	Fulton Elementary School
	Christmas Party

WREATH SALE

Pick up will take place TODAY on Sunday, Dec. 3 in the All Purpose Room.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR FULTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

On Sunday, December 10 from 3-6 p.m., St. John's will be hosting a Christmas party for some Fulton Elementary students! Our celebration will include photos with Santa, a Christmas craft, gifts, and dinner **and we need your help!** If you would like to volunteer to help with the party, please email John Knouse at johnknouse@hotmail.com!

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

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

VESTRY

Mary Waskowicz (Senior Warden), Leslie Morgan (Junior Warden), Nick DiPace, Andy Welaish, John Modene Liz West, Ted Loose, Kathy Kyper

DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Drew Dorgan, Webb Cook, David Rutledge, Heather Trenary, Sue Heilman

STAFF

Douglas Beach, Minister of Music & Communications Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper John Knouse, Property Manager Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian Ellia Osofsky, Nursery Care

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE WWW.STJOHNS-LANCASTER.ORG / 717.299.1188