

EVE OF THE NATIVITY



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
DECEMBER 24TH AT 9:30 P.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 Christmas service comes from the Book of Common Prayer and is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. With acolytes and processions, communal singing, special music from the chancel choir and brass quintet, 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. Thank you for being here!

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Thank you to those who have submitted their 2024 pledge cards! To date, 94 members have pledged for a total of \$408,009. 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!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC BY THE LANCASTER BRASS QUINTET

Silent Night

Franz Xaver Gruber - arr. Ted Blumenthal

Good King Wenceslas

Traditional - arr. Ted Blumenthal

It came upon the midnight clear

Richard Storrs Willis - arr. Ted Blumenthal

Coventry Carol

Traditional 16th Century English - arr. Donald E. Matthews

God rest ye merry, gentlemen

Traditional 18th Century English - arr. Donald E. Matthews

Il est né le divin Enfant

Traditional French - arr. Keith Snell

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING HYMN

O come, all ye faithful

HYMNAL 83

CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 1: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, “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...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.” (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader 2: Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

People: *We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kin-dom.*

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! *Amen.*

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

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.*

HYMN OF PRAISE *Angels we have heard on high* **HYMNAL 96** (*vs. 1&3*)

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

- 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.

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

GRADUAL HYMN *Good Christian friends, rejoice* **HYMNAL 107**
 Verses 1 & 2 before the Gospel Reading; Verse 3 & 4 after the Gospel Reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-20 (*please remain standing as you are able*)

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

THE REV. AMANDA KNOUSE

THE NICENE CREED (*please rise in body or spirit*)

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 (*adapted from thisischurch.com*)

On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Let us pray for the Church around the world as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Bless all those who are entrusted with Christian ministry that your Word might be proclaimed with truth and courage across our world.

Bestow your wisdom on all who govern, that in honoring the earth and its diverse races, cultures, and religions, we may celebrate the light of this holy night.

Grant reconciliation to those surrounded with conflict and violence, that they may live in the peace of this holy night.

Let us pray for all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night. Embrace with your tender care all who wander alone or have no place to lay their head, that they may experience the hope of this holy night.

Let us pray for all who are anxious, depressed, or ill. Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief, and to all who are suffering or sick, especially those we remember in our own hearts...that they may feel the comfort of this holy night.

Let us pray for parents, families, and newborn infants. Strengthen families in the bonds of love and commitment, that they may delight in the joy of this holy night.

Let us pray for ourselves and for the blessings of Christmas. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by the new birth of this holy night.

Let us give thanks for all the faithful departed who have been bearers of the Word made flesh. Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and commitment, that we may join with the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy night.

Celebrant All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of our savior Jesus Christ, who came and dwelt among us, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

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

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY *The Song of Christmas* Mark Hayes

THE DOXOLOGY *Angels, from the realms of glory* **HYMNAL 93** (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 God 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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.* **HYMNAL S-125**

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMNAL S-149

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

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who
sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 365

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 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 MUSIC

*Christmas Fantasia
On "Antioch"*

Edwin H. Lemare

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

HYMNAL 111

THE BLESSING *(written by Jeanyne Slettom)*

Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Angels from the realms of glory* Henry T. Smart
arr. Eddie Fargason

THANK YOU!

A special thank you to The Lancaster Brass Quintet for joining us this Christmas!

Priscilla King - trumpet
Scott Ainscough - trumpet
Anne Nye - horn
Greg Strohman - trombone
Jerry Heilner - bass trombone

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

After the presents have been unwrapped and the coffee enjoyed, join us for a time of worship on Christmas morning. Our service will take place on zoom, so please join us from wherever you are!

Meeting ID: 813 5064 9317

Passcode: 970627

OFFICE HOURS THE WEEK BETWEEN CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS

The office will be closed on December 26. We look forward to worshipping with you at our Healing Service on Wednesday, December 27, at noon. Please join us next Sunday, December 31, at the 8:00 AM or 10:15 AM service, when we celebrate St. John's Day and announce this year's recipient of the St. John's award!

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

Mary Pennel & Patty Oatman

In memory of Dave & Melissa Pennel, John R. Oatman

Toni Ehrhart

In memory of Edward Ehrhart and Edward Ehrhart, Jr.

Maria Weaver & Brad Hollowniczky

In memory of Bob & Judy Weaver

Ken Brown

In memory Virginia & John Koford

Mary & Bruce Waskowicz

In memory of Frank Waskowicz, John & Dorothy Welsh

Barbara Landis

In thanksgiving for Dale T. Landis

Susan Tobie

In memory of Alan F. Tobie

Kluane H. Baier

In memory of John C. Baier, MD

Kluane & Philip Snyder

In memory of Margaret & Willis Snyder

Leslie & Bruce Tahsler

In memory of Alice Robertson May and Catherine Baker Tahsler

In thanksgiving for Ernest Mountain Morgan

Brother David Rutledge

In memory of Bruce & Flora Rutledge

Robbin & Tom Hobbins

In thanksgiving for Theodora Clemens and Betty Finney

Darlene Bentley

In memory of Lou Bentley and John Nye



Tim & Mary Huber
In thanksgiving for our grandchildren

John Meyer
In memory of Charles & Edith Meyer

The Modene Family
In memory of Robert Modene
In thanksgiving for Judy Modene

Dave & Sue Martin
In thanksgiving for David N. & Florence G. Martin and their legacy

John & Pat Pankey
In memory of Bob, Michelle, Ed, Walter, Imogene, and Betty

Amy Dissinger
In thanksgiving for friendships made at St. John's

Carol Pindar
In memory of William K. Pindar and Fannye Kahl

Kathy Novosel
In thanksgiving for St. John's clergy, musicians, and its people

Carolyn Wheeler Maxey
In memory of George & Johnnie Wheeler, Katherine Heard, Katherine Wheeler,
Susie & Ples Elsberry, and Janie Wheeler

Mary Beth Williams
In thanksgiving for Jay, James, Kelley, and Thomas Williams

The Latshaw Family
In memory of William & Sally Kamp, Ward & Jane Latshaw, Stefan Latshaw, Jr

Rich & Karen Garon
In thanksgiving for many blessings & our beloved family

Molly Moyer & Family
In memory of William Moyer

Jeffery B. Koller
In memory of John Lionetti

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