

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
DECEMBER 1st, 2024 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 2025 pledge cards! To date, 70 members have pledged for a total of \$338,171. Our 2025 goal is \$442,000. If you haven't submitted your card yet, please do so as soon as possible so the vestry can move forward with 2025 plans! Thank YOU for helping us live into our mission and ministries!

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 *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* Johann Sebastian Bach

OPENING HYMN *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* **HYMNAL 56** (vs. 1-4)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader Keep awake! Be watchful!
The Son of Man is coming with power and great glory.
Hold your heads high,
for your salvation is near.
We light the first Advent candle,
reminding us how God's promised Messiah
will break into our time and space
to show us the way of salvation.
May we stay alert for his coming. (*Light the candle.*)

Come, Lord Jesus.

People *Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.*

OPENING ACCLAMATION (*please remain standing as 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.

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: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (*please be seated*)

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

PSALM 25:1-9 (*chant led by choir*)



- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
 let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
 let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
 and teach me your paths.

power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

People The Gospel of the Lord.
 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 (*please kneel as you are able*)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found
without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Audrey our own Bishop, for all bishops and other
ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and
that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the
ends of the earth, for Trinity, Jersey Shore and the Province of the Episcopal Church of
South Sudan, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust especially Joe, our president; Josh, our governor; Danene, our mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, especially Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove, Darlene Bentley, and Peggy Zuke, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors especially Pat Pankey, Nancy Strasburg, Ella, Kevin, Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Richard Anderson, Collin, Liz Kryder Reid, Eileen Waite, Andrew Wright, Debbie Carter, Sandy Patrone, Stella, Marshall, Dwayne, Shirley, Carol, Ann Marie, and Gail; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. John and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Officiant For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

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 the grace of 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

THE OFFERTORY

E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

PRESENTATION HYMN *What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.* **HYMNAL 112, vs. 4**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: 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
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-129**

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

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 c - 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 364

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

*The King Shall Come
O Day of God*

HYMNAL 73
HYMNAL 600

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**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

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 HYMN*Hail to the Lord's Anointed***HYMNAL 616****THE DISMISSAL**

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

Paul Manz

St. John's Traveler Letter:

Did you know St. John's has pilgrims who travel the very places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares about the church and the places he visits:

Dear Pastor Amanda,

After my travels in South America I hopped over the Atlantic and will be in Africa for several weeks. I flew to the capital of South Sudan, Juba, and borrowed a bicycle to ride the one road (a dirt road at that!) to the village of Nzara in the southwestern part of the country. We're just past the rainy season. Everything's in bloom and the crops are growing prior to harvest time. In addition to greens and root vegetables, families here grow small patches of cotton and palm trees for the production of palm oil. Where the forests haven't been cut down there are still teak trees that are prized for making outdoor furniture and boats because of their resistance to rotting in wet weather.

The people of Nzara have experienced, and mostly survived, a lot of political and military turmoil over recent years. You may know that South Sudan is a fairly new country, having been separated from Sudan in 2011. As often happens, that means many people live in poorer conditions than we're used to in America. However, Christmas approaches here just as it does there, and I visited with Sarah Rubino to learn what the holiday is like. Sister Sarah works as a midwife at St. Therese Hospital, and so gets to know the people both in the hospital and in their homes. She tells me we won't see bright colored lights on the houses, and there won't be large inflatable Santas in the front yards. In fact, most homes don't have what we would call "yards." But many homes will have a homemade nativity creche, and people dress up in their Sunday best clothes to attend worship services on Christmas Day. Churches and homes will be filled with music and dancing, and the story of Christ's birth will be told again. Christmas is coming. As the world enters Advent, please continue to hold these good folks, our sisters and brothers in faith, in your prayers. Advent and Christmas will be different here in many ways, but the same in the one way that matters the most. The star is moving into place. Mary has the calming care of Sister Sarah's ancestors. The world will soon welcome the newborn babe. Thanks be to God.

Blessings to you always,
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
6:00 PM World AIDS Day Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

4:30 PM Trans Loving Community
6:00 PM Ministries Council

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

1:30 PM Martha's Ministry
2:30 PM Food Pantry
6:00 PM Advent Event

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

12:00 PM Healing Service
2:00 PM Men's Bible Study
6:00 PM Advent Forum
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Rector's Day Off

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

9:00 AM Makers Market

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Coffee Hour to follow each service

Makers Market after each service

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II



Advent Event

**Tuesday, December 3
at 5:30 p.m.**

*Join us for a Potluck Supper (bring a dish to share if you can!) • Make an Advent Wreath
• Write Christmas Cards to our Friends at Home • Create an Ornament for the Courtyard Tree • Decorate Cookies!*

**RSVP to lalimule@verizon.net or
717-368-7206 with how many are coming!**

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

VESTRY

Drew Dorgan (*Sr. Warden*), John Modene (*Jr. Warden*), Charles Wear (*Treasurer*),
Molly Moyer (*Secretary*), Nick DiPace, Andy Welaish, Liz West, Ted Loose,
Kathy Kyper, Gretchen Walden, Penn Glazier

DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Pam Loose, Webb Cook, Emma Di Pace
Br. David Rutledge, Maggie Knox-Lee

STAFF

Mark Herr, Minister of Music (*music@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper (*finance@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
John Knouse, Property Manager (*property@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE
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