

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
DECEMBER 29, 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!

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.

THE PRELUDE *Fanfare on "Adeste Fideles"* Paul Fey

PROCESSIONAL *O come, all ye faithful* **HYMNAL 83**

THE BIDDING

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON *Adam and Eve rebel against God* **GENESIS 3:1-15**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not

die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took -2- of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

SOLO

The People That In Darkness Wandered

George F. Handel

SECOND LESSON

God comforts his people.

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

ANTHEM

This is the Truth Sent from Above

English/arr. Moyer

THIRD LESSON*The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary***LUKE 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

SOLO*Mary, Did You Know*

Lowry and Green

FOURTH LESSON*The birth of Jesus***LUKE 2:1-20**

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.

HYMN

O little town of Bethlehem (vs. 1-3)

HYMNAL 79

FIFTH LESSON

Jesus receives his name

LUKE 2:21-35

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

HYMN

What Child Is This (vs. 1-2)

HYMNAL 115

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

HYMN

Good Christian friends

HYMNAL 107

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

THE PEACE

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

PRESENTATION OF THE ST. JOHN'S AWARD

RESOLUTION IN THANKSGIVING OF KATHY KYPER

WHEREAS, Kathy Kyper has been a faithful member of St. John's who has served as Verger, Vestry Member, Property Committee Member, Historian, Capital Campaign co-chair, and in various other capacities;

WHEREAS, the Vestry and Rector recognize the numerous "behind the scenes" talents of a Verger and the significant impact a Verger has on our worship experience; working with grace and diligence to perform the duties that most are unaware of.

Whereas, Kathy has used her talents as a seamstress, mason, and a painter to adorn and refresh our worship space and has also generously enhanced a beautifully handcrafted altar;

WHEREAS, Kathy successfully co-chaired our most recent Capital Campaign and meticulously compiled valuable, historical information about St. John's stained glass windows;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rector, Assistant Rector, Wardens, and Vestry express their appreciation to Kathy Kyper for her extraordinary gifts and faithful service, and be it further;

RESOLVED that the Wardens and Vestry reserve their greatest measure of gratitude for the peerless leadership of Kathy Kyper, whose many talents and tireless devotion are acknowledged and celebrated through the 2024 St. John's Award.

Resolved this 15th day of December, 2024.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

On This Day

Gustav Holst

PRESENTATION HYMN

*Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

HYMNAL 93

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

BCP 364

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 364

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.

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,

To borrow a line from Dorothy, there's no place like home! It's been wonderful being back in America, and I give thanks that the lectionary brought me here during this Christmas holiday week. As I've written the last few weeks, people around the world have been preparing for and celebrating Christmas in different ways. Their traditions are varied, and often reflect the history of how Christianity came to them. Here in America, too, of course, European explorers and settlers brought their traditions with them, and have passed them on to us. It hasn't always been Hallmark picture perfect, though. Do you know that the Puritans of the 1600's outlawed celebrating Christmas, as they believed it detracted from the worship of God to focus on the birth of Christ. Church tradition gradually changed, however, along with cultural influences such as Washington Irving's stories about St. Nicholas, and Christmas Day on December 25 was declared an American national holiday in 1870.

I imagine you're pleasantly exhausted from the worship services and present wrapping and then unwrapping, and just being present with your family and friends. During these past few weeks of Advent I've been looking at how peoples around the world prepare for Christmas and one common thread amongst all the different cultures is they look forward to being together with family, friends, and community. Even though I'm traveling I know I have a community of family and friends in all of you, and that's the best present of all. I wish you love and peace for the year ahead. I'll write again soon. Next time from Wales!

Blessings always,

John Traveler

PRAYER FOR A NEW YEAR BY LAURA MARIE PIOTROWICZ

Holy God,

We give you thanks for this New Year, together, as your people.

We give you thanks for new beginnings.

As each New Year is like a blank page in our book of life, may we carefully choose how we fill that page.

In every opportunity where we struggle for patience, may we recognize that you are gifting us with the opportunity to learn to be patient.

In every opportunity where we struggle for courage, may we recognize that you are gifting us with the opportunity to learn to be courageous.

In every opportunity where we struggle for control, may we recognize that you are gifting us with the opportunity to share in the ministry of the whole.

In every opportunity where we struggle to feel included, may we recognize that you are giving us with the opportunity to learn new ways to build and sustain community.

In every opportunity where we struggle to be heard, may we recognize that you are gifting us with the opportunity to find new ways to communicate.

In every opportunity where we struggle to be closer, may we recognize that you are gifting us with the opportunity to find new ways to love one another.

We give you thanks, loving God, for this new page in the book of our lives;

We ask for the guidance of Your Spirit to make this page a work of beauty, joy, and faith; of loving service; of commitment to building the unity of Christ's church.

As you have promised that you make all things new, we thank you for the opportunity to start anew this year – in our hearts, our minds, our souls, our strength. May all we say and do live into this new reality, and glorify your holy name. Amen.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:

TODAY

Coffee Hour to follow each service

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 AM Worship Committee
2:30 PM Food Pantry
7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

Rector's Day Off

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

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

MORNING PRAYER WITH BR. DAVID
THURSDAYS AT 9:00 A.M.

We will continue praying the Daily Office through Christmas and the season of Epiphany! We will gather every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. in the Saint Mary Chapel.

Our Thursday Morning Prayer service will be a 30-minute service of prayer, silence, and scripture readings. You are welcome to join us each Thursday in the beautiful Saint Mary Chapel at St John's.

"I WAS A STRANGER AND
YOU WELCOMED ME."

We are looking to revive our greeter ministry at St. John's and are seeking volunteers. If you feel called to serve as a greeter before the Sunday services to welcome newcomers and acclimate them to the service, the church, and coffee hour, please reach out to one of the following people.

Jess Eccles: JessicaLP10@gmail.com
Becky Modene: rcmodene@comcast.net
Annie Lattanzio Hale:
anniela1207@comcast.net

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

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