

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



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
DECEMBER 8, 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, 80 members have pledged for a total of \$369,426. 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 sharing in the mission and ministries of St. John's!

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 *Comfort, Comfort, Now My People* Gerald Near

OPENING HYMN *On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry* **HYMNAL 76**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader Upon hearing the news that his son would be a prophet of the Most High,
Zechariah broke into a song of praise.
And you, child, will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins. (*Light the candle.*)

We light the second Advent candle as an act of praise
that by God's mercy, the Messiah will come
to give light to those in darkness,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Hymn *Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

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.*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

TRISAGION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty

HYMNAL S-100

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: Baruch 5:1-9 (*please be seated*)

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.
Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.
For God will give you evermore the name,
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."
Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.
For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;
but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.
For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.
For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 16



Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE: Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

Prepare the Way, O Zion

HYMNAL 65

Verses 1 & 2 before the Gospel Reading; Verse 3 after the Gospel Reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6 (*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 the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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 St. James, Lancaster and the Province of the Episcopal Church of 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, Stella, Meg and family, Marhsall, Dwayne, 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, especially Jane Way, 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.*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY *Come Home to God This Day* Paul John West

PRESENTATION HYMN *What can I give him, poor as I am?* **HYMNAL 112, vs. 4**
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.

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* **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.

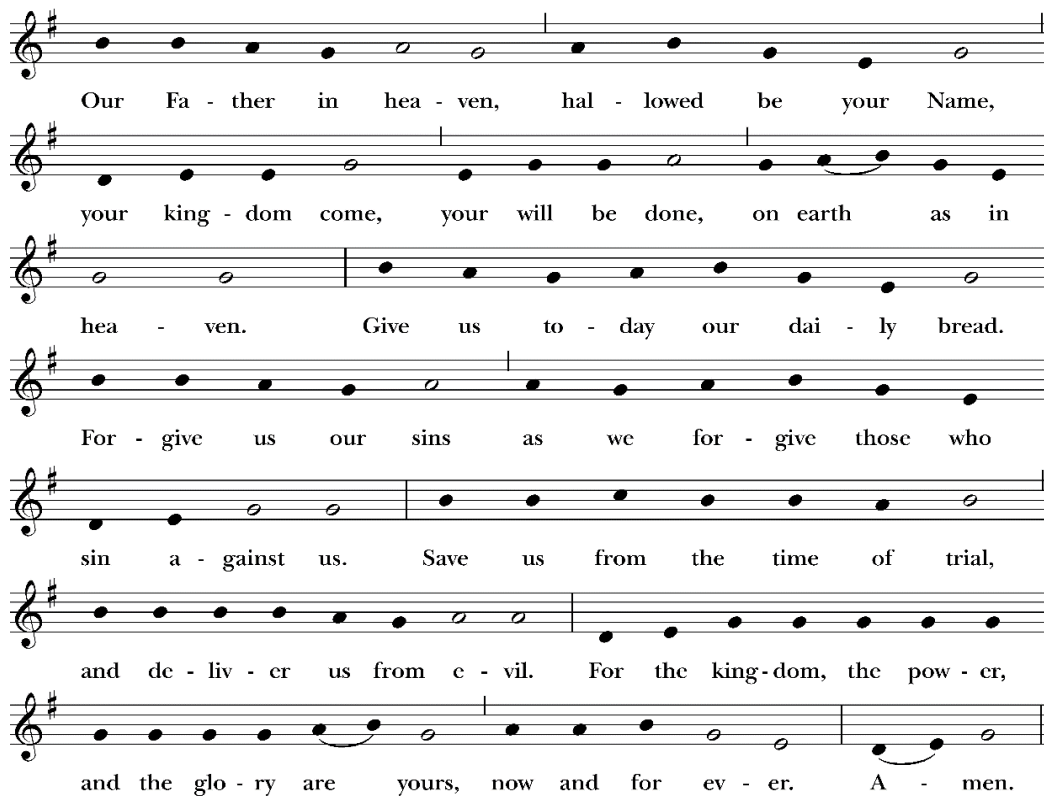
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put 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

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 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

*Holy is His Name
Be Not Afraid*

John Michael Talbot
Bob Dufford

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

Savior of the Nations, Come

HYMNAL 54

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

Veni Redemptor Gentium

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,

This is a difficult letter to write, and I imagine for you to read. While you're praying for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, I'm not there. I'm writing from Adre in Chad, just across the western border of Sudan. Sudan is a war zone, and it's not a safe place to be. War has been raging since April of 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). These are two militaries that were each a part of the former government, and they're now battling each other. The United Nations unanimously imposed an arms embargo on both sides, but neither of them is willing to enter peace talks. They each believe they can only end the conflict by destroying the other. Of course, the people are caught in the middle. One ray of hope is the government has agreed to open the border here at Adre for three months to allow relief supplies in for people in the nearby refugee camp of el-Geneina.

Sudan is predominantly a Muslim country. When South Sudan gained its independence from Sudan in 2011 it provided refuge for many Christians. However there are still about 2 and a half million Christians in Sudan itself, and the government announced its intent to be a strictly Muslim country, operating under Sharia law. When this war began in April of 2013 one of the first attacks was on the Anglican Cathedral in Khartoum. The priests and nuns were forced to leave, and the building was then used as a military base.

I understand this war isn't often talked about in the US media. You'll hear about Gaza and Lebanon and Ukraine. Sudan is sometimes referred to as a land of little concern, although the fighting here is just as brutal. I'm sorry to bring you such hard news in an otherwise joyous season, but I'd like to think your awareness and prayers will send a spirit of hope to the many that are suffering here.

Yours always, in prayer and Spirit.
John Traveler

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:

TODAY

Coffee Hour to follow each service

Makers Market after both services!

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:00 PM Caring Ministry Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

1:30 PM Martha's Ministry

2:30 PM Food Pantry

4:00 PM Finance Committee

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

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 12

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
(Mary's Chapel)

9:30 AM Ministers' Meeting

1:00 PM Clergy Council

2:30 PM Food Pantry

7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

Rector's Day Off

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

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

ADVENT FORUM

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:00 P.M.

Join us every Wednesday evening in Advent as we discuss the book, "Calling all Angels: An Advent Study of Fearlessness and Strength." Books can be found in the Parish Hall!

Morning Prayer with Br. David

Thursdays at 9:00 A.M.

Every Thursday in Advent, the Office of Morning Prayer will be prayed in Saint Mary Chapel. The holy season of Advent is the beginning of a new Church Year and a time of preparation as we look forward to the Incarnation of Jesus at Christmas. Advent gives us the opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to daily prayer. 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 at 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

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE
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