

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
EVE OF THE NATIVITY**



**HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II  
DECEMBER 24, 2024 AT 3:30 P.M.**

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## **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. 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. Thank you for being here!

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## THE WORD OF GOD

**PRELUDE**

*Appalachian Christmas*

The Bell Choir

**OPENING HYMN**

*O come, all ye faithful*

**HYMNAL 83**

### CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHTING

*Reader:* Good news, you who are weary and heavy burdened!  
Sing for great joy, you who are tired and shackled with pain!  
For the Lord, our Redeemer, has come!

*Light the Christ Candle.*

We light the Christ candle as a sign to the world  
that today, in the City of David, a Savior is born,  
who is Christ the Lord.  
We no longer have to fear the darkness  
for our Light has come.  
That light that enlightens all people  
has broken into our world.  
And the world will never be the same again.

### 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.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day 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 for ever. *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.

*People*             The Word of the Lord.  
                       *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.



O little town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Away in a manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Go tell it on the mountain!

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)

**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 the prayers written by The Rev. Rick Morley*)

Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus.

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ child; draw us, your church, and all your people to you. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your presence; fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' light, and Kings to the brightness of his rising; draw our nation, our President, and all in authority, to His brightness. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; bring us your peace, and bring an end to any terror and strife. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn; be especially present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are sick. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As the Holy Family gathered together in Bethlehem and traveled together to far off lands; bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of life eternal; give to the departed eternal rest and let light perpetual shine on them. Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Celebrant* O Lord our God, may the light and hope of this night, and of your Son's birth, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. *Amen.*

## **THE PEACE**

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

## **THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

**THE OFFERTORY** *See, Amid the Winter's Snow* arranged Dan Forest

**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

*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*     **HYMNAL S-125**  
                          *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.*

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 children; 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**

*Flute: A Little Shepherd Music*  
*Trumpet: Silent Night*  
*Trumpet: Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Harold Rohlig  
 arr. Gary Lanier  
 arr. Gary Lanier

## 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*

**HYMNAL 111**

## THE BLESSING

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Joy to the World*

**HYMNAL 100**

## THE DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

arr. Gary Lanier

## **THANK YOU!**

A special thank you to all those who work behind the scenes to make our Christmas celebrations joyous. Thank you to the altar guild, servers, acolytes, the bell choir, clergy, staff, and YOU! May the peace and joy of this holy night be yours now and always!

## **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M. ON ZOOM**

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! Zoom Meeting ID: 857 7781 7152 & Passcode: 426297

## **OFFICE HOURS THE WEEK OF CHRISTMAS**

The office will be closed on December 25, 26, & 27. We look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday, December 29, at the 8:00 AM or 10:15 AM service, when we celebrate Lessons & Carols, St. John's Day, & announce this year's recipient of the St. John's award!



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

*Toni Ehrhart*

*In memory of Edward Ehrhart and Edward Ehrhart, Jr.*

*Barbara Landis*

*In thanksgiving for Dale T. Landis*

*Kluane & Philip Snyder*

*In memory of John C. Baier, MD, Margaret & Willis Snyder*

*Robbin & Tom Hobbins*

*In memory of Teddy Clemens and Dr. Betty Finney*

*Tim & Mary Huber*

*In thanksgiving for our grandchildren*

*The Modene Family*

*In memory of Robert Modene*

*In thanksgiving for Judy Modene*

*Dave & Sue Martin*

*In thanksgiving for David N. & Florence G. Martin*

*The Latshaw Family*

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

*Molly Moyer & Family*

*In memory of William Moyer*

*In thanksgiving for Debbie Carter*

*Barbara Graeter*

*In memory of John and Chris Graeter*

*Karen Ramella*

*In memory of Walter & Barbara Ramella, Ruth Hess*

*Meg Argo*

*In memory of Peter Greenfield*

*In thanksgiving for Carol Greenfield*

*Michael Stank & Claire Phillips*

*In memory of Jim Phillips and Bob Stannick*

*Ericka Sipe*

*In memory of Nancy Geesey, George Geltmacher, Christopher Sipe*

*Amanda & John Knouse*

*In thanksgiving for Ruth, Caleb, and June*

*Kendall & Tom Stonerook*

*In memory of La Donna & Tom Stonerook, Carol & Dan Kincaid*

*Karen & Nick Di Pace*

*In memory of Rosaria Rocca Di Pace*



## 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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