

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



**HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
DECEMBER 24, 2024 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!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC BY THE LANCASTER BRASS QUINTET

Jacques, come here
Traditional French, arr. Lawrence Hawkins

The first noel
Traditional English, arr. Ted Blumenthal

I saw three ships
Traditional English, arr. Donald Matthews

Once in royal David's city
Henry Gauntlett, arr. Rob Roy MacGregor

God rest ye merry, gentlemen
Traditional English, arr. Rob Roy MacGregor

THE WORD OF GOD

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

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.

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.

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.
- 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.

The Word of the Lord.
People *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 *Lullaby for Christmas Eve* F. Melius Christiansen

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
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.

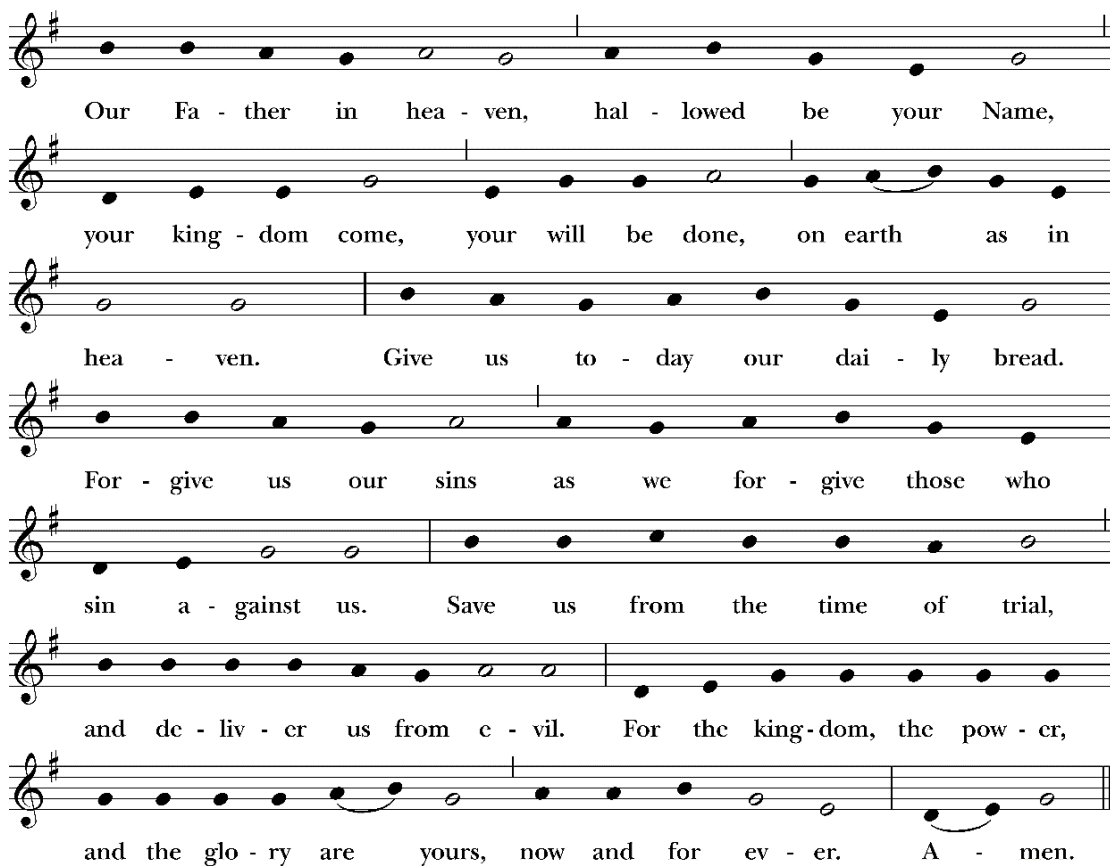
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put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

Chorale Prelude No. 8 "Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen"
Johannes Brahms, arr. Lewis Niven

Chorale - "Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen"
Michael Praetorius, arr. Lewis Niven

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.*

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

Angels we have heard on high
Traditional 18th Century French, arr. Don Gillis

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 choir, clergy, staff, and YOU! May the peace and joy of this holy night be yours now and always! A special thank you to The Lancaster Brass Quintet for joining us this Christmas!

Scott Ainscough - trumpet
Priscilla King - trumpet
Anne Nye - horn
Stephen Shiffer - 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! 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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