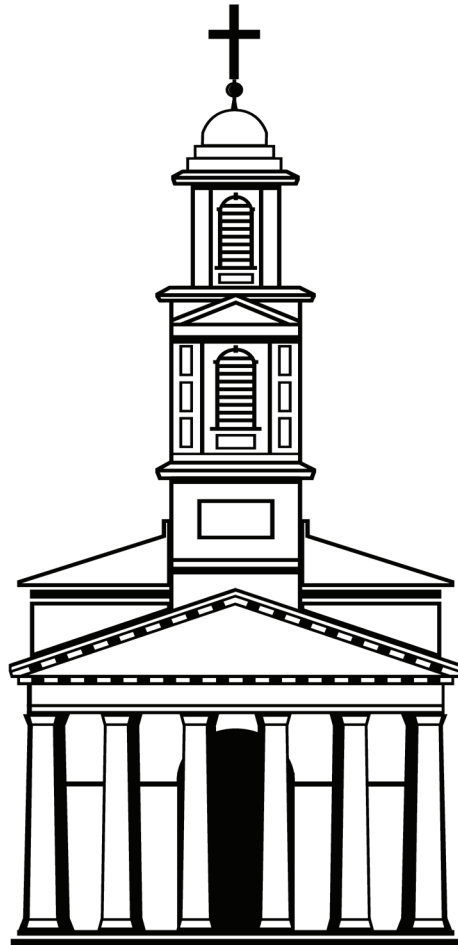


THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
December 31, 2023 ♦ Holy Eucharist at 9 and 11 a.m.



SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

*St. John's is a church for people of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,
and viewpoints grounded in love. Whoever you are, we welcome you.*

Welcome to St. John's Church, Lafayette Square.

All are invited to participate in the service as able. Congregational responses appear in **bold**.

Prayer cards are provided at the entrance of the church. You are invited to write your prayers and place them in the collection plate. Your prayers will be blessed and will be prayed for by a priest during the week.

VOLUNTARY Canonic Variation IV on *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her* J.S. Bach (1685–1750)
(From heaven above, to earth I come) BWV 769

HYMN 93

Angels, from the realms of glory

Sung by all. Please stand as you are able as the procession enters.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal star:
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

THE WORD OF GOD

Please remain standing as you are able.

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

GLORIA (S-280) *Sung by all.*

Robert Powell (b. 1932)

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

Please be seated.

9 a.m. Read by Jack Reiffer.

11 a.m. Read by Elizabeth Morrison.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 147:13-21

*9 a.m. Led by Alex Stolar, said responsively by half verse.
11 a.m. Sung by the choir; setting by George Thalben-Ball (1896–1987).*

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
 praise your God, O Zion;
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
 he has blessed your children within you.
He has established peace on your borders; *
 he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
He sends out his command to the earth, *
 and his word runs very swiftly.
He gives snow like wool; *
 he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
 who can stand against his cold?
He sends forth his word and melts them; *
 he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
He declares his word to Jacob, *
 his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
He has not done so to any other nation; *
 to them he has not revealed his judgments.
 Hallelujah!

(11 a.m. only) Children's Chapel in the Parish House: All who wish may gather in front of the pulpit during the hymn and will return at the Peace. Parents are encouraged to accompany children younger than three.

GRADUAL HYMN 435

At the Name of Jesus

Sung by all, standing as you are able. Stanzas 1 & 2 will be sung before the Gospel, stanzas 3 & 4 after.



1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
 2 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name
 3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
 4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,
 3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
 4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord
 2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;
 4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
 3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
 4 ev - er to be wor - shiped, trust - ed, and a - dored.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877), alt. Music: *King's Weston*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

Please remain standing as you are able.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Following the Gospel, all sing stanzas 3 & 4 of the gradual hymn.

THE SERMON

The Rev. William Morris

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand as you are able.

Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

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. 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

9 a.m. Led by Riley Temple.

Please remain standing as you are able.

11 a.m. Led by Powell Hutton.

Intercessor With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

Silence.

Intercessor For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor For the communities of St. John's and our companion relationships with the Anglican Church of Southern Africa* and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for Church of the Epiphany, DC; Welcome Table and Street Church, Church of the Epiphany, DC; and Epiphany Church, Forestville. For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Mariann, our Bishop; and for all clergy and other ministers, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor For Joseph, our President, for the leaders of Congress and the nations, for the Supreme Court, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor For this city of Washington, for every city and community, and for those who live in them. For those in our parish celebrating a birthday this week . . . ; and for those in our parish celebrating an anniversary this week . . . , let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering. For those who are in assisted living . . . , let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, for refugees and migrants throughout the world, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, especially . . . , let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor In the communion of St. John and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

People **To thee, O Lord our God.**

Priest Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

All 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.**

Priest Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Please stand as you are able.

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

You may make an offering by placing your donation in the plate, or use this QR code to pay electronically. A donation via this code can go only to offerings and not to pledges or any other specific funds.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Balulalow

Elizabeth Poston (1905–1987)

Sung by the choir.

O my deir heart, young Jesu sweet,
prepare thy cradle in my spreit;
and I sall rock thee in my heart,
and never more from thee depart.

But I sall praise thee ever moir
with songes sweet unto thy gloir;
the knees of my heart sall I bow,
and sing that richt Balulalow!

—James, John, and Robert Wedderburn

HYMN 250

Now greet the swiftly changing year

Standing as you are able.



Now greet the swift - ly chang - ing year with
For Je - sus came to wage sin's war; this
His love a - bud - dant far ex - ceeds the
With such a Lord to lead our way in
"All glo - ry be to God on high and



joy and pen - i - tence sin - ere; re - joice, re - joice, with
Name of names for us he bore; re - joice, re - joice, with
vol - ume of a whole year's needs; re - joice, re - joice, with
haz - ard and pr - per - i - ty, what need we fear in
peace on earth," the an - gels cry; re - joice, re - joice, with



thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
earth or space in this new year of grace?
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.

Words: Slovak, 17th cent.; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919–2008), alt. Music: *Sixth Night*, Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953).

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing as you are able.

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The priest continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

SANCTUS (S-129) *Sung by all.*

Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

Please stand or kneel as you are able. The priest continues

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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People **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 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

Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM (S-163) *Sung by all.*

Robert Powell

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest 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.

All persons, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Wait for an usher to call your pew to come forward. You will first be handed a wafer by a priest (gluten-free wafers are available by request) and then offered wine by a lay server. You may either sip the wine or dip your wafer into the wine. Receiving the bread alone is a valid way to share in the Eucharist. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. All may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

Sung by the choir.

Here we bring new water from the well so clear
for to worship God with, this happy new year.

*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

Sing reign of fair maid, with gold upon her toe,
open you the west door, and turn the old year go.

Sing reign of fair maid, with gold upon her chin,
open you the east door, and let the new year in.

—Anonymous

HYMN 84

Love came down at Christmas

Sung by all, seated.

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt. Music: *Gartan*, melody from *Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies, Part II*, 1902; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Priest Let us pray.

All Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

When scheduled, the Priest offers a communion kit to any Lay Eucharistic Minister doing a home visit, saying

On behalf of God and St. John's Church, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you will visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Priest Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

HYMN 114

'Twas in the moon of wintertime

Sung by all, standing as you are able.



1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time, when all the birds had
2 With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was
3 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and
4 O chil - dren of the for - est free, the an - gel song is



fled, that God the Lord of all the earth sent
found, a rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en -
fair as was the ring of glo - ry on the
true; the ho - ly child of earth and heaven is



an - gel - choirs in - stead; be - fore their light the
wrapped his beau - ty round; but as the hunt - er
help - less in - fant there. The chiefs from far be -
born to - day for you. Come kneel be - fore the



stars grew dim, and won - dering hunt - ers heard the hymn:
braves drew nigh, the an - gel - song rang loud and high:
fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver - pelt.
ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is



born, in ex - cel-sis glo-ri - a.

Words: Jesse Edgar Middleton (1872–1960), alt. Music: *Une jeune pucelle*, French folk melody, 16th cent.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Canonic Variation V on *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her*
(From heaven above, to earth I come)

J.S. Bach
BWV 769

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

ASSISTING AT THE 9 A.M. SERVICE TODAY

The Rev. Eva Cavaleri, *Assisting Clergy*
Rachel Pepper, *Crucifer* ♦ Carl Ward and Hilary West, *Chalice Bearers*
Jill Dowell, *Assistant Head Usher* ♦ Martha Ellison and Kenny Kraft, *Ushers*
Laura Ballman and Sara McGanity, *Greeters*

ASSISTING AT THE 11 A.M. SERVICE TODAY

The Rev. Eva Cavaleri, *Assisting Clergy*
Greg Morrison, *Crucifer*
Laurie Adams and Sylvia Martin Estes, *Chalice Bearers*
Matt Bode, *Assistant Head Usher*
Doug Estes, John Herzog, Michele Mullins, and Bill Wright, *Ushers*
Deborah Jennings and John Lucio, *Greeters*
Jeremy Skog, *Livestream Technician*

Please help us be good stewards of the environment.

**If you do not wish to take this bulletin home after the service,
you may leave it at the end of the pew as you depart or place it in a blue recycling bin.**

ARE YOU NEW TO ST. JOHN'S?

Please let us know who you are and how we can best serve you by filling out a "Welcome" card and leaving it in the offering plate or with an usher or greeter. ♦ Free valet parking is available on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Look for the valet sign at the corner of Black Lives Matter Plaza (16th Street) and H Street, NW. ♦ Follow us on Instagram at @stjohnschurchlafayettesquare. See photos from St. John's musical performances, special events, meetings, Sunday services, and more. Relive the moment or experience it for the first time through the touch of a button on your smartphone.
